

TDMHDD Update

VOLUME 11, NO. 3

MAY/JUNE 2006

Bredesen Hosts Groundbreaking Ceremony at Site of New Memphis Mental Health Institute

Governor Phil Bredesen, along with Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner (TDMHDD) Virginia Trotter Betts and Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, Jr., hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Memphis Mental Health Institute (MMHI) facility on Thursday, April 27, 2006.

A project spearheaded by the state, the new Memphis Mental Health Institute is the result of collaboration between the State of Tennessee and the Memphis medical community, both public and private, in an effort to improve the overall quality of health, pediatric and mental health services in Shelby County. Included in the collaboration were the State of Tennessee/Memphis Mental Health Institute, Methodist Healthcare System, the Regional Medical Center at Memphis (The MED), UT Health Science Center, and Shelby County government.

"Memphis and Shelby County are blessed with a wide range of institutions dedicated to serving the



Governor Phil Bredesen and Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts (second and third from the right) join institute and core staff of TDMHDD in breaking ground for Tennessee's newest mental health regional facility.

health needs of the people of West Tennessee," said Bredesen. "Thanks to the creative thinking and collaborative approach of the folks at Methodist LeBonheur, the MED, the University of Tennessee, and at the local and state level, West Tennessee will soon benefit from a new, state-of-the-art mental health institute."

The new Memphis Mental Health Institute facility is part of an overall expansion of health care services in the Medical District and Biotech Center of Memphis. The new MMHI, with its location adjacent to the MED, will allow easy access to critical medical care for mental health patients who need services. It will

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Legislative Update

TDMHDD Legislation Passes and Is Law

When the 104th Tennessee General Assembly closed on Saturday, May 27, 2006, two pieces of proposed legislation from TDMHDD, Public Chapters 619 and 674, have passed and are signed into law.

The Supportive Living Facilities (SLF) legislation (Public Chapter 619) substitutes the federal SSI payment standard for the previous \$600

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Mental Health Month Event**Art for Awareness Reception****Tennesseans in Recovery Meet the Governor and Legislators**

On May 1, in celebration of National Mental Health Month, more than 50 mental health consumers were honored at the state Capitol with a reception hosted by TDMHDD and the Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition. Following greetings by Commissioner Betts and others, consumers shared and discussed their works, met Governor Phil Bredesen, and delivered their pieces of art to legislators to display in their offices for the month of May. Governor Bredesen's office received the work of Allen Beech, and Commissioner Betts' office received the works of Anne Ambrose and Jeff Barker for display. Refreshments

were served, and the group was invited to attend the evening session of the General Assembly as honored guests. For many of the artists, it was their first time to visit the Capitol and the first time their work was publicly recognized outside their families or communities.

The "Art for Awareness" project focuses attention on the talents of Tennesseans living with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. For participating consumers, art becomes a rewarding part of their road to recovery. A few are professional artists, but many are not, and art becomes a new outlet of self-expression.

Several consumers reported they are planning to enter regional and national competitions and discuss their recovery with members of the news media as a way of helping others. Consumers also reported that several art magazines have contacted them for feature articles, and some will have work in the "Path to Mental Wellness" exhibition at the Parthenon in Centennial Park, Nashville, slated for April 17-July 8, 2007. For more information about the "Art for Awareness" project contact Lorene.Lambert@state.tn.us or call (615) 253-4812.



Art for Awareness participants stand on the state Capitol steps with Governor Phil Bredesen for a group photo to commemorate their works displayed during the month of May in the Legislative offices.

RECORD BREAKING ATTENDANCE FOR FORENSIC RENEWAL TRAINING

A record-breaking 175 people signed up for the annual Forensic Evaluator Renewal Training. Of that number, approximately 100 renewed their certification and received education credits.

“We also had many who were up-to-date on their certification and came to hear this nationally renowned speaker to learn more about insanity defense as well as malingering,” said Joy Patterson, director of TDMHDD’s Forensics and Juvenile Court Services. “Dr. Phillip Resnick proved to be exceptionally entertaining and knowledgeable, making the day special for our staff and attendees.”

Resnick is one of the nation’s leading forensic experts and is the author of *The Insanity Defense and The Mental Health Professional and the Legal System*. Dr. Resnick currently practices at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.



Dr. Lefton from FHC Chattanooga and Charlynnne Parsons from Moccasin Bend MHI talk with featured presenter Dr. Phillip Resnick during a break in the Forensic Evaluator sessions.

TDMHDD Forensic Services staff in the Division of Policy and Legislation hosted the seminar. Delegates included mental health professionals from regional mental health facilities, hospitals and

contract/licensed centers. To learn more about future forensic evaluator renewal training programs, contact Joy.Patterson@state.tn.us or call (615) 532-6747.

Groundbreaking...cont.

also allow the MED to upgrade its emergency department and trauma center facilities, and allow for triage and seamless referral for mental health services. The new facility also allows UT the opportunity for increased training, research and educational opportunities in a state-of-the-art psychiatric inpatient hospital.

“We are extremely excited about the new building that will not only improve acute mental health services in Memphis and Shelby County, but also health care and health professions’ education,” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “This effort is the result of hard work and partnerships among many dedicated individuals. A special thank you to Deputy Commissioner Joe

Carobene who facilitated this project. I am grateful to be a part of such a successful collaboration.”

Also part of the project is the expansion of LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center which will see an increase in the number of operating rooms, an expanded emergency department, and increased research space.

The new MMHI facility will be located on Court Street in the Memphis Medical District and Biotech Center on the site of the former UT Bowld and Dobbs buildings. The new acute-care facility will contain 75

beds and is anticipated to be complete in the fall of 2007.

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2006 Yes2Kids Conference Well Attended

More than 500 educators, youth workers, counselors, school resource officers, and others working to improve the lives of young Tennesseans attended the 7th Annual Yes2Kids Conference held May 8-9, 2006, at the Franklin Marriott. This year's conference was sponsored by the Tennessee Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities, the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and the Commission on Children and Youth with corporate sponsorship by HCA. The conference provides outstanding training and network opportunities for those who share a common belief in the potential of all youth.

Workshops featured keynote speakers John Seita, the assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Michigan State

University and the author of *Kids Who Outwit Adults*; and Ed DeJesus, President and Founder of the Youth Development and Research Fund and author of *Makin' It: The Hip-Hop Guide to True Survival and Countering the Urban Influence*. The featured presenter was Derek Peterson, an international authority on Positive Youth Development (PYD).

Workshops and conference experts included "Depression in Children," Gladys Bush, M.D., Meharry Medical College, Department of Psychiatry; "The Struggles of Youth with Bipolar Disorder," D. Catherine Fuchs, M.D., Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry;

and "Saving Lives through Gatekeepers Training (suicide prevention)," Lygia Williams, TDMHDD.

Next year's eighth annual conference will take place at the Franklin Marriott and Cool Springs Conference Center on February 26-27, 2007. Call 615-279-0058, e-mail yes2kidstn@aol.com or visit www.yes2kidstn.org for more information.



The Yes2Kids sponsor marketplace at the Franklin Marriott.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Governor Bredesen Calls on Commissioner Betts to Help Spread the Word on Cover Tennessee

Commissioner Betts recently traveled to Rogersville and Covington on behalf of Governor Bredesen to address rotary clubs on Cover Tennessee. Unveiled in March in the Governor's statewide address, Cover Tennessee is a strategy to provide affordable and portable health insurance to more than 600,000 Tennesseans.

The Governor has put forward a coverage package with a total cost, on average, of about \$150 a month. Of that, the state will pay \$50, willing employers will pay \$50, and the employee will pay \$50. Because this is not an entitlement like Medicaid and is not tied to TennCare consent decrees, Tennessee will have the ability to exert tighter control of the program and to make meaningful changes to the program as needed. For more on Cover Tennessee see Legislative Update, page 5.

Legislative Update...cont.

monthly income limit for a resident so that a supportive living facility for the mentally ill may receive support payments for that resident. It is now unnecessary to increase a fixed income limit in the future because Social Security cost of living adjustments are tied to this legislation.

The Indigent Person definition (Public Chapter 674) modifies the definition of an "indigent person" in Title 33 by expanding the base from which to determine indigence beyond a person's property and estate to include assets and income. This also allows the state to assess costs to people who have an income but do not have property or an estate, including people who avoid liability because they do not own anything. This updated definition allows

— HAPPENINGS —

• **Epidemiology Expert Joins TDMHDD**

Pramod Dwivedi, MSW, MS, joined the Office of Managed Care as director of Research and Evaluation in May. Dwivedi has a keen interest in using epidemiologic tools to study public health issues. He has been invited by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to speak on developing epidemiologic capacity at local levels. Dwivedi will develop a statewide tracking system for the department to monitor mental health conditions. He worked previously for the Nashville/Davidson County Department of Health and for the Tennessee Department of Health where he directed the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Evaluation program. Contact Dwivedi at Pramod.Dwivedi@state.tn.us or 615-532-6679.

• **Special Populations/ Minority Services Program Director Added**

Richard Edgar, MS, joined the Division of Special Populations and Minority Services as director of Children and Youth Services. Edgar will provide leadership and will continue the work developing the vision and program that reflects the system of care principles and the transformation of mental health services for children, youth, and their families. Edgar graduated from Ohio State University with a B.S. in Arts and Sciences and from the University of Dayton with a M.S. Ed. in Counseling. Edgar previously worked in Ohio in mental health administration, child welfare, adolescent residential treatment, and counseling. Contact Edgar at Richard.Edgar@state.tn.us or 615-253-4800.

• **Mental Health Safety Net Director on Board**

Melissa Da Silva, MS, is the new Mental Health Safety Net director. She oversees and coordinates the contracts between TDMHDD and twenty mental health safety net providers across the state of Tennessee, as well as an outreach contract with NAMI Tennessee. Da Silva received her Master of Science in Education in 2005 from Georgia State University and is a Registered Nurse. Da Silva previously coordinated the Centers of Excellence in the Department of Health's Ryan White Program and was director of the Housing Opportunities for People with Aids (HOPWA) program while serving as a member of the Fiscal Team in the HIV/AIDS/STD Section. Contact Da Silva at Melissa.dasilva@state.tn.us or 615-253-6748.

• **TDMHDD Celebrated Nurses Week May 6-12, 2006**

Strength, commitment, and compassion are qualities that all nurses share, and these qualities served as the theme for National Nurses Week 2006. Commissioner Betts, Dr. Freida Outlaw, TDMHDD's Chief Nurse, and other department staff traveled to each RMHI in honor of Nurses Week.

"Psychiatric nurses are called on to integrate the biological, psychological, spiritual, social, and environmental realms of the human experience," stated Commissioner Betts. "They are called on to partner with patients and to advocate for them to ensure they are receiving appropriate clinical care that takes into account their individual needs. TDMHDD is so grateful to each and every nurse on our staff."

• **NAMI Nashville Awards TDMHDD**

On April 25, 2006, NAMI Nashville awarded TDMHDD for their successful implementation of the Mental Health Safety Net. The Ambassador of Hope Award was presented to Commissioner Betts and 10 attending TDMHDD staff at the annual NAMI Nashville dinner.



