

## Prescription Safety Act Takes Effect

Controlled Substance Monitoring Database rules begin to be implemented; more to follow

In May 2012, Governor Bill Haslam signed the Tennessee Prescription Safety Act into law. The bill requires all medical professionals to register with the state's Controlled Substance Monitoring Database and to check a patient's history of opiate and benzodiazepine use before prescribing pain medications.

Before 2012, state law required prescribers to report data but left checking the database up to each person's discretion. Beginning in January 2013, the database must be updated once a week by pharmacists and dispensers, instead of once a month. The law also allows the Tennessee Department of Health to share information across state lines so that patients will not be able to use multiple pharmacies and doctors in more than one state to obtain these medicines.

These measures are expected to prevent "doctor shopping," a term used to describe the unauthorized procurement of multiple

prescriptions by one person through several doctors. The database will allow doctors and pharmacists to verify that a patient is not getting the same or similar medicine from different sources. The law involves multiple agencies, including TDMHSAS, TDOH, and the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, to improve public safety by monitoring use of Schedule II & III medications.

Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, dentists, oral surgeons, and pharmacists will be required to use the database by April 2013, with pharmacies coming on board by January 2014. Some pharmacists have already begun to use the database to track prescription information.

One of the reasons for the change in the law is the alarming increase in abuse of prescription medications and the equally alarming statistic that an average of two

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## Lunch and Learn to Focus on Prescription Drug Abuse

On Feb. 28, the Department's Central Office Staff will have an opportunity to learn about some new programs and changes in Tennessee law about prescription drugs as part of our ongoing "Lunch and Learn" series.

The program will focus on the "epidemic" of prescription drug abuse in Tennessee and the changes in state law for medical professionals such as doctors, assistants, nurse practitioners, dentists, oral surgeons, and pharmacists. The new laws will affect Schedule II and III medications, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, Xanax and Valium.

Presenters for the session will be Rodney Bragg, MA, M.Div., Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Substance Abuse Services, and Dr. David Reagan, Medical Director for the Tennessee Department of Health.

The Lunch and Learn concept was developed by Marthagem Whitlock, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Planning, Research & Forensics. Karen Edwards, Research Coordinator for DPRF, and Gwen Hamer, Director of Education for the Division of Clinical Leadership, are implementing each session for the coming year. The first Lunch and Learn highlighted the Shield of Care Train the Trainer Program. ■

## West Tennessee Licensure Employees Assist in Solving Crime

The U.S. Department of Justice is crediting TDMHSAS employees in the West Tennessee Office of Licensure with helping solve a crime.

In December 2011, members of the Licensure Office were investigating to determine whether a facility was providing services without a license when they found something amiss: An individual was fraudulently taking social security checks from service recipients.

According to reports, Benjamin Rhodes, the head basketball coach and athletic director at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, stole social security benefits by using rental property to provide lodging to disabled tenants and cashing the tenants' checks, even after they died.

In October 2012, Rhodes pleaded guilty in federal court to two counts of theft of more than \$12,000. He faces up to 10 years in prison and criminal fines.

An investigator with the Department of Justice in Memphis said "they could not have done this without the excellent investigative work done by the West Tennessee Office of Licensure." ■

## MTMHI's Dana Taylor Named Department's 2012 Employee of the Year *Social Worker Does Whatever it Takes to Help Patients Return to the Community*

**D**ana Taylor, a Psychiatric Social Worker in the Extended Treatment Program at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute (MTMHI), was recently named Employee of the Year for the entire Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for 2012.

A ceremony was held at MTMHI on Friday, February 8, where she received her honorary plaque from TDMHSAS Commissioner Doug Varney and MTMHI CEO Bob Micinski, along with her award as MTMHI's 2012 Employee of the Year.



*MTMHI CEO Bob Micinski (left) and Commissioner Doug Varney honored Dana Taylor with the department-wide award in a ceremony at the facility.*

mentally ill in the community who needed emergency hospitalization, as well as a tremendous cost savings to the state.

Dana's immediate supervisor, Social Work Director Debbie Wynn, cited Dana's attitude of never giving up, likening her to "The Little Engine That Could" who refuses to take no for an answer.

Dana has been working at MTMHI since 2008. Prior to that, she worked at East State Mississippi Hospital for seven years before coming to Tennessee in 2007 to be closer to her now-

husband, Brandon, who serves on the police force in Murfreesboro. Brandon joined his wife at the Employee of the Year celebration, along with their son, Brady, Dana's parents, Brandon's parents, and Brandon's sister.

Commissioner Varney commended her entire family for their support of Dana's work at MTMHI, noting that they often had to take the "brunt" of her sacrifices when she would work holidays and weekends to help the patients at MTMHI. ■



*MTMHI CEO Bob Micinski also presented Dana Taylor with the hospital's 2012 Employee of the Year award during the ceremony.*



In nominating her for the award, Mr. Micinski cited Dana's diligent work toward providing discharge opportunities to multiple long-term patients, many of whom other social workers had attempted to discharge and were unable to do so "because of their very complicated and complex life situations or their lack of resources to pay for aftercare services."

Dana often volunteered to work on holidays and weekends to develop discharge plans for patients who are eligible to discharge on the weekends, thereby opening up much-needed beds for other patients quickly, rather than forcing these patients to wait until after the weekend. Because of her hard work, the hospital was frequently able to avoid going to diversion (due to the limitations of Available Suitable Accommodations) on numerous occasions, which was a tremendous service to the



*Dana Taylor thanks all her colleagues and family members for their support as she accepts the Department's 2012 Employee of the Year award. Celebrating with her at the event were (from right) her husband, Brandon; her parents; her husband's parents; and her son, Brady.*

## Memphis Mental Health Institute Starts Pilot Program to Provide Tele-health Dietitian Services

*Registered Dietitian Offers Medical Nutrition Therapy via Webcam to Key Clients*

On Nov. 15 at Memphis Mental Health Institute (MMHI), the TDMHSAS began a three-month pilot program to test the efficacy of utilizing tele-video equipment to provide registered dietitian (RD) services to at-nutritional-risk clients.

Our expectations for embarking on this project are to utilize existing resources, control labor costs, and test new technologies while meeting the facility's nutrition policy guidelines. The test period will run through February 15 and involves the daily services of the facility's nursing department staff and Gale White MS, RD, LDN, the central office RD.

For the TDMHSAS, pilot testing of this type of service delivery allows us to identify and determine process efficiencies and to establish a framework for the possibility of

expanding tele-health services in other areas. For the project to be successful, it has involved the cooperation and support from the following departmental staffs: the Central Office's division of administrative and hospital services; Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute's (MBMHI's) administration and information management; and MMHI's administration, food service operator, information management, medical, and nursing services.

This isn't the first time this type of nutrition service delivery has been provided. At the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities in Memphis, tele-health nutrition services have been provided to patients who live in remote areas of the state. ■

## MMHI Receives Accreditation from the Joint Commission

On Nov. 21, 2012, the Joint Commission — an independent, not-for-profit organization that certifies more than 19,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States — notified Memphis Mental Health Institute (MMHI) that it had been assessed and was in compliance with the Medicare conditions for hospitals as well as the special conditions for psychiatric hospitals, based on the surveys taken that year.

In particular, the hospital was congratulated on effective resolutions in the conditions of patient's rights, medical staff and physical environment, and as of Nov. 15, 2012, no requirements for improvement were identified.

Accreditation by the Joint Commission is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards. ■

## Children's Cabinet Brings Dozens Together to Coordinate Services

*Representatives of Six State Agencies Meet for 'Systems Alignment Symposium'*

*By Susan "Sukey" Steckel, LMSW Director, Office of Children and Youth, DMHSAS*

On Dec. 12, the Children's Cabinet sponsored an all-day event titled "Systems Alignment Symposium: Coordinating Services for Tennessee's Children."

The event — co-sponsored by TDMHSAS Commissioner Doug Varney and Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner Raquel Hatter — was held to obtain input from youth, families, state departmental staff, and providers who work directly with children and families at the community level.

Each member of the Children's Cabinet (representing six child-serving departments: Children's Services, Education, Health, and Health Care Finance and Administration/TennCare, along with DHS and DMHSAS) was asked to bring a team of 10-12 individuals that represented front-line and middle-management staff, local community providers, and consumers from across the state — both urban and rural areas. More than 80 people attended this historic and innovative event.

The agenda for the event included:

- A presentation titled "The 7 C's of Collaboration"
- A presentation titled "Aligning System of Care Values and Principles Across Systems"
- A panel discussion for consumers
- A panel discussion for providers



Attending the Children's Cabinet Symposium in December 2012 are (from left) Tennessee Department of Human Services Commissioner Raquel Hatter; Dr. Altha Stewart, Project Director; JustCare Family Network (Shelby County government); TDMHSAS Commissioner Doug Varney; and Sukey Steckel, LMSW Director, Office of Children and Youth, TDMHSAS.

- A panel discussion for front-line staff
- Table talks, where groups engaged in 45-minute discussions about three different topics:

## Program to Shape Future Leaders in State Government



According to statistics from the Tennessee Department of Human Resources (DOHR), state government currently employs 44,000 people and is the largest single employer in the state. In addition, a sweeping change in leadership through the retirement of thousands of “baby boomers” with 30-plus years of service will create a knowledge and leadership vacuum in the coming years.

To offset this, the state is taking a proactive and assertive approach towards creating a talented pool of leaders for the next generation, hoping to have 440 trained employees across multiple agencies by January 2014. These employees will have a shared language and mindset about great leadership, demonstrate eight leadership core competencies, provide agency bench strength, and display the motivation and preparation to lead in whatever circumstances arise.

The “LEAD Tennessee” training program, being administered by DOHR, is a 12-month development initiative that includes six one-day summits of intense, personally tailored, high-impact learning opportunities with a focus on customer-focused attitudes, innovation, mission-driven clarity, accountability, employee talents, and trustworthiness.

Participants learn a combination of behaviors, knowledge, and skills that drive effective job performance. This shared leadership language enables employees across agency lines to increase networking efficiency, directly impacting the state’s workforce and contributing to greater opportunities for resource sharing and problem solving. The state will benefit directly through higher productivity, efficiency, and an overall improved organizational performance through better trained leaders. In time, “LEAD Tennessee” will produce a continuing pipeline of

leaders from the preferred service and executive service employees who will not only lead but also motivate their staffs to become a better equipped workforce, serving the citizens of Tennessee.

According to Trish Pulley, Chief Learning Office for the program, “Lead Tennessee won the 2010 International Public Management HR Excellence Award. It was so amazing to compete on the international stage and receive this type of exposure.”

Currently, TDMHSAS has 13 LEAD graduates. They are:

- Tammy Denise Ali-Carr
- Lisa Daniel
- Charles Dickens
- Donna Finto-Burks
- Zack Griffith
- Bruce Gilmore
- Bob Micinski
- Mike Murley
- Lisa Roy
- Taryn Sloss
- Susan Steckel
- Cynthia Tyler
- Amanda Wilson

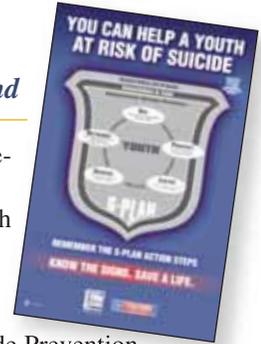
“The LEAD experience has better prepared me to serve in a leadership position within state government,” said Susan Steckel, Director of Children and Youth Services and a recent LEAD Tennessee participant. “The material we covered was relevant, challenging and immediately applicable to my current job responsibilities. I highly recommend LEAD to anyone who is interested in professional development and gaining confidence and improving your abilities in a variety of leadership competencies.”

The 2012-13 “LEAD Tennessee” classes are under way now with about 110 participants from multiple state agencies. The “LEAD On” graduation celebration is set for Dec. 9, 2013. “LEAD Tennessee” is facilitated by the Division of Strategic Learning Solutions within the DOHR.

For more information about this program, visit [www.tn.gov/dohr/learning/learning.html](http://www.tn.gov/dohr/learning/learning.html) and click on the “LEAD Tennessee” logo. ■

## Shield of Care Program Accepted to Best Practice Registry

*Suicide Prevention Resource Center Honors Department Program that is First of its Kind*



The Shield of Care – a juvenile-justice suicide-prevention gatekeeper program developed with funds from a Garrett-Lee Smith/SAMHSA grant that is copywritten by the TDMHSAS – was recently accepted to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center’s (SPRC’s) Best Practice Registry (BPR), which is a collaborative effort with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and SAMHSA.

A BPR is a source of information about evidenced-based programs, expert consensus and containing content that meet stringent criteria. The Shield of Care’s submission to the BPR had to include evaluation of the curriculum that demonstrated efficacy and utility as an instrument that increases knowledge and skills in order to intervene and save a life from suicide. The Shield of Care, a groundbreaking curriculum that is first of its kind nationally, has demonstrated its ability to produce positive outcomes related to suicide prevention in juvenile justice facilities. It will be used in all of the state’s Youth Development Centers.

“Being on a BPR gives additional credence to this groundbreaking curriculum,” said Lygia Williams, Mental Health Planner for the Division of Mental Health Services. “It is our intent to partner with Centerstone Research Institute (CRI) and complete requisite research in order to pursue the curriculum meeting evidence-based criteria.”

The Shield of Care Train the Trainer (T4T) curriculum was provided to the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (DCS) Office of Juvenile Justice’s trainers and counselors working in the state’s Youth Development Centers (YDC). T4T was also provided to six county/city detention center staffs from across the state. Lygia and Dr. Jeff Feix, Director of Forensic Services for the TDMHSAS, provided this daylong program. Participating were two individuals with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) who will assist YDCs and detention facilities with providing this training and or supporting their efforts.

Also, TDMHSAS and the Tennessee Lives Count evaluation partners have had two papers/presentations accepted for the 46th Annual American Association of Suicidology’s Conference, which will be April 24-27 in Austin, Texas, one about its development and content and the other about the protocol for evaluation. ■

## C O N S U M E R C O R N E R

*This column is usually reserved for success stories about consumers. This month, we want to share a story with you about one of our employees who spends her days answering phone calls from consumers, their families, and friends when they reach out to TDMHSAS. Pam Townsend works in the Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Support Services. Her story about her original service dog, Astro, appeared in the September 2012 Annual Arts Issue of Breaking Ground for the Tennessee Council of Developmental Disabilities. You can read that story by [Clicking Here](#) to discover how Pam and Astro worked to improve the quality of life for those they came in contact with every day.*



*Pam Townsend and Astro*

For Pam Townsend, Astro was an amazing service dog. She found him to be guard dog, babysitter, politician, patriot, celebrity, and excellent companion. Not long after she brought Astro home, he was featured in a full-page article in the Sunday newspaper. A star was born, and as winter arrived, Pam found good reason to be glad she had a dog at her side on the way to work.

Out of the dark in downtown Nashville one morning, she did not realize a man was coming up behind her rapidly in an apparent attempt to rob her. Astro quickly went into guard dog mode and started barking and growling as if he would attack the man. Quickly, the fellow ran away. Pam knew she would be able to go to work without fear as long as Astro was at her side.

When the terrorist attacks of 9/11 occurred, people in her office often gathered to say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing a patriotic song. Astro was always excited to go to the gatherings and left Pam to man the phones. Eventually, she discovered it was not just patriotism that prompted Astro to attend these gatherings but also his ability to pick up some dog treats from her coworkers as he visited their offices along the way.

At speaking engagements and at the Tennessee General Assembly, Astro shook paws with influential senators, representatives and councilmen, “acting like a regular politician,” Pam remarked. He became known as the “Cordell Hull Dog” to those who encountered him daily in the state office building. And like a good politician, Astro loved babies and puppies, always rolling around on the floor with both. When Pam’s twin granddaughters came to visit, Astro stood guard over them when they slept, and he gave her new puppy a spot in his bed, becoming a live-in babysitter for all. Sadly, Astro passed away at age 11. He had lived a long, fulfilling

life, and his legacy has not been forgotten.

For Pam, life without Astro has not dampened her enthusiasm for her job, nor limited her ability to live a full life as she deals with a rare form of muscular dystrophy. Pam’s daily job at TDMHSAS includes answering phone calls from those who wonder how to help themselves, a relative, or a neighbor in need of mental health care. Many times, those calling simply do not know where to turn or how to find the help they need in their county. Along with three other employees, Pam answers

those phone calls to the toll-free hotline (800-560-5767) as well as the email inquiries that come in.

Pam did not start her state career of 32-plus years in mental health, but in air pollution control for the Tennessee Department of Environment. When she came to TDMHSAS, she entered a field with a learning curve about issues, such as overcoming stigma and learning the appropriate service providers for various mental illnesses and substance abuse. As time went on, those challenges proved conquerable, and it would not be an exaggeration today to say that Pam Townsend is an encyclopedia of mental health information after 10 years on the job.

For Pam, the most rewarding part of the job is “when I know I have helped someone.” And the most frustrating part comes when Tennessee does not have a particular service provider for someone. “For example, there are people who have a mental illness and also need nursing home care,” she added. “Most Tennessee nursing homes are not equipped to accept these individuals, and some do not qualify for nursing home care.”

Her care and concern for others is mirrored in her status as an associate minister for the Bethesda Original Church of God in Nashville. Pam has served the congregation of more than 200 in this capacity for a decade, along with nine other associates.

“Our pastor has been ill recently, so he has relied on all of us to pitch in and fill in where necessary,” she explained.

Pam also serves her community as an advocate for charity and government. She is a public speaker for the MD Foundation and has served Metro-Davidson County through the Partners in Policy Making, the Mayors Advisory Committee, and on various boards.

As an expression of her creativity, Pam enjoys writing poetry. Some of her work was published in a textbook for students with developmental disabilities. For her, every day is an accomplishment on many levels in service to others. ■

## Art for Awareness will coincide with Mental Health Day on Capitol Hill in March

Registration Deadline is February 26

Tuesday, March 5, 2013, will be an exciting day for mental health agencies and consumers as they attend the annual “Mental Health Day on Capitol Hill” at the War Memorial Plaza and environs. In the afternoon, the annual statewide Art for Awareness Conference, co-sponsored by TDMHSAS and the Healing Arts Project, Inc. (HAPI), gets under way as consumer artists from across Tennessee come together to share their works and their experiences. This year’s theme is “Art—One Path to Wellness.”

Art for Awareness begins at 1 p.m., with registration opening at 11 a.m. in The Nashville Room of the Tennessee/Snodgrass Tower, across 7th Avenue from the War Memorial Building. Handicapped access is through the 8th Avenue Rosa Parks entrance. This location will allow consumers, family and friends to quickly move from the Mental Health Day on Capitol Hill events to this annual celebration of consumer art.

Registration forms and additional information about Art for Awareness went out in advance to peer support centers and are available online at [www.tn.gov/mental](http://www.tn.gov/mental). Pre-registration is important to allow quick entry into the building and to provide participating consumer artists with appropriate conference materials and I.D. badges. The registration deadline is Tuesday, February 26.

New this year will be exhibitor booths by industry and government agencies with a focus on wellness through multi-dimensional experiences in recovery. Registered consumer artists should bring one piece of artwork, framed for display in the Legislative Hall. Registration materials provide information on correct, inexpensive methods for framing. The artwork submitted will showcase a variety of themes and media, and some consumers have sold their works to admirers in the past.

Art for Awareness has grown every year for the past seven years, moving from a regional to a statewide conference in 2010.

### 12th Annual Mental Health Day on Capitol Hill

Presented by the Tennessee Coalition for Mental Health And Substance Abuse Services

War Memorial Auditorium  
301 Sixth Avenue North • Nashville, TN  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker:

Veteran, CPT Luis Montalvan, Ret.,  
Author of *A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him*

To register:

[www.dayoncapitolhill.eventbrite.com](http://www.dayoncapitolhill.eventbrite.com)

For more information email Anne Fox at [aross88@bellsouth.net](mailto:aross88@bellsouth.net)

Since that time, more than 1,000 consumers in recovery from mental illness and substance abuse issues have participated in the art-based stigma reduction program through HAPI-sponsored art classes at peer support centers. A few have entered individual instruction programs and are continuing to study art on their own.

In peer support art classes, consumers do not have to display great artistic talent to participate and often express emotions of calmness, pride, and joy while creating art. A peer support counselor once reported that “students transition from being afraid to make a mark on paper to listening to directions, freely adding their own creative touches, and expressing more self-confidence and pride in their works.”

Marilyn Beasley of Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute (MTMHI) reported in 2011 that patients taking art classes came in withdrawn and, as time went on, became highly cooperative with her and with each other, eventually requesting more time in studio.

For more information on Art for Awareness, contact Lorene Lambert at [Lorene.Lambert@tn.gov](mailto:Lorene.Lambert@tn.gov) or call (615) 253-4812. For more information on HAPI, contact Jane Baxter at [janebaxter@comcast.net](mailto:janebaxter@comcast.net) or visit <http://healingartsprojectinc.org/>. ■

### Prescription Drug...cont.

Tennesseans die every day of accidental drug overdoses. Currently, there are more deaths due to substance abuse than auto accidents in Tennessee. Tennessee is the second leading state in the U.S. in per capita use of prescription drugs, and although there are valid reasons for use, too many incidents do not fall under that category. “Doctor shopping” is a felony, and painkillers such as oxycodone and hydrocodone, along with tranquilizers such as Xanax and Valium, routinely rank among some of the most abused prescription drugs in Tennessee.

Unfortunately, the system will not be able to prevent prescription drug abuse by people who do not visit a doctor and obtain pills by illegal means, but it is expected to put a dent in the excessive amount of prescription drugs available that some people have illegally sold to others. ■

### Children’s Cabinet...cont.

- adopting or adapting System of Care values and principles across departments
- recommendations for how to better integrate services at the local level
- recommendations for what state departments can do to improve how citizens access services

Governor Bill Haslam also spoke to the group in the afternoon and addressed his commitment to reducing departmental overlaps and improving efficiencies of service delivery to children, youth, and families by focusing on interaction of systems at the local level.

The event was deemed a big success, and a final report with recommendations for the Children’s Cabinet strategic plan is expected in early February 2013. ■

## Rare Artwork Transferred to State Museum

### “Myrllen’s Tapestry” Joins Her Coat Along with Dorothea Dix Mural from Lakeshore Mental Health Institute

In November 2012, representatives from the Tennessee State Museum received a Gift of Deed from Commissioner Doug Varney to transfer “Myrllen’s Tapestry” to the museum collection for protection and preservation. It joins “Myrllen’s Coat” that former Commissioner Gina Betts deeded in 2003.

Commissioner Varney also signed a Gift of Deed for a large wall mural representing the plight of institutionalized patients and Dorothea Dix, a 19th century humanitarian for mental health care, who was instrumental in changing conditions for mental health patients in Tennessee. Candace Adelson, Senior Curator of Fashion & Textiles, and Rob DeHart, Curatorial Assistant, accepted the deed on behalf of the museum.

According to TDMHSAS Publication Editor Lorene Lambert, who oversaw the transfer, “Giving this treasure to the museum represents the best possible way to preserve rare artifacts from the early days of Tennessee’s mental health institutional history. The tapestry, a work that ‘Myrllen’ created as a patient, is not only beautiful, it is a story about the type of care that once was and is no more in state institutions. Once ‘Myrllen’ was treated with powerful psychotropic drugs and procedures typical for the time, she lost the ability to craft her beautiful textiles. Her story is one we can all take to heart as we realize the great strides Tennessee has made in patient care.”

“Myrllen,” or “Marilyn” as she is sometimes called, is not her real name. That is protected and lost to history. She was committed on a July morning in the late 1940s at Eastern State Hospital for the Insane, bound in handcuffs. Her story, as conveyed to the staff, was that she terrorized her neighborhood and tried to kill her sleeping husband with a kitchen knife. The diagnosis was schizophrenia. Eventually, her contact with the outside world diminished, and as it did, her inner world soared, and she spent many days feverishly embroidering with thread and rags taken from the institution’s laundry.

Myrllen’s journey into creativity began when she helped save a suicidal patient, so her nurse lent her a needle and pair of scissors. The scenes that Myrllen recorded in thousands of stitches are interspersed with words and non-words,



*Candace Adelson, Senior Curator of Fashion & Textiles, and Rob DeHart, Curatorial Assistant, accept “Myrllen’s Tapestry” on behalf of the Tennessee State Museum with the Gift of Deed from Commissioner Douglas Varney.*

representing what psychiatrists call “glossolalia,” an incomprehensible imagery that appears to have random patterns.

By the 1950s, drugs brought her frenzy under control, and Myrllen paid for her upkeep through hospital chores for a small salary. Once heavily medicated, she disclaimed all knowledge and ownership of the textiles she had created.

Twenty-six years after her admission, she died in her sleep. She had evolved from the delicate, red-haired young beauty to a slow

moving, 300-pound lethargic patient. Her body was unclaimed for burial, and her work might have been discarded but for the admiration and appreciation of the staff of the hospital who had grown to love her. The coat was sent to Central State and eventually transferred to Commissioner Betts, and from the department to the museum with the help of Cynthia Tyler, legal counsel. The tapestry remained with Lakeshore Mental Health Institute (LMHI), the heir of Eastern State. When LMHI closed in June 2012, the tapestry, along with many other Eastern State Hospital records, photographs, and artifacts, were transferred to the Communications Office on behalf of the commissioner.

In addition to the tapestry, “Hope”, a 10-foot by 20-foot wall mural of acrylic on canvas by Knoxville artist Rand Bradford (executed in the Italian Renaissance tradition), was also transferred to the museum by a Gift of Deed. The mural was created in 1971 and hung for many years at the Village Hall Auditorium at Eastern State Psychiatric Hospital (originally Eastern State Hospital for the Insane). The central figure in the mural represents Dorothea Dix, a humanitarian who brought focus on the conditions patients were forced to live in the 19th century, advocating sweeping changes in how those with mental illnesses were treated and solicited through state-funded care.

Some patients posed for the work and some helped with the drawing. The figures surrounding Dix represent the terrible conditions of the incarcerated. The artist sought to depict the evolution of facilities and medical care at state mental institutes. Bradford, a self-taught artist, received no commission for his work, and the materials, costing about \$200, were donated by the Advancement of the Arts at Eastern State. ■

## COMMUNITY NEWS &amp; INDUSTRY AWARDS

## Supporters of Children's Mental Health Honored by Tennessee Voices for Children

Tennessee Voices for Children (TVC), a nonprofit organization, honored those who have made a tremendous positive impact on Children's Mental Health Initiatives on Sept. 20, 2012.

TDMHSAS Commissioner Doug Varney was honored for his support of the System of Care in Tennessee. Commissioner Varney has been a consistent support for the needs of children in Tennessee, and TVC has collaborated with TDMHSAS on various projects to sustain funding for vital programs for children.



*Dick Blackburn, TVC board member, honors TDMHSAS Commissioner Doug Varney during an event in September.*

Other honorees included: WATE Knoxville, Lisa Cobb, Edith Kidd, Danielle Frazier, Patti van Eys, Mary Beth Franklyn, Charlotte Wood, Amerigroup, Madison County Court, Senator Doug Overbey, Alpha Sigma Tau at Belmont University, Kim Tribble, Memorial Foundation, Pat Wade and the CPORT Team, and the Tennessee Justice Center.

TVC was organized in 1990 by Tipper Gore as a statewide coalition of individuals, agencies, and organizations working together as a Steering Council to promote children's health and education services. TVC has progressed to become a statewide and national source of referral, support, and advocacy for families and the systems that serve them. TVC has taken the lead in promoting the use of a coordinated system of care in Tennessee that includes family support and community engagement as key components.

TVC works with parents, professionals, state and federal officials, policy makers, and members of the departments of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Education, and Children's Services to ensure that services provided to children and families in Tennessee are family-driven, community-based, and culturally and linguistically competent.

For more information on TVC, go online to <http://tnvoices.org/> or call (615) 269-7751.

## Licensure Review Panel Recognized for Service



*Staff of the Office of Licensure honored panel members who will rotate off this year. Picture with their certificates are Scott Finney and Don Redden. Carol Westlake was not available for the photo session.*

The Licensure Review Panel plays an integral part in reviewing the Office of Licensure's decision to deny licenses and grant waivers. The panel was designated by Tennessee statute 33-2-403(d) and is designed to review issues relative to obtaining and maintaining a TDMHSAS-licensed facility. The panel is very important in that it brings the agency and facility's perspective to the table and ensures solid review of Licensure's decisions.

Panel members review cases and make a recommendation for action to the commissioner, who has the final disposition authority. The members are dedicated to protecting service recipients, and their tireless dedication and service to our department ensures Licensure makes the most informed and sound judgments in regard to issuing waivers and licenses. The panel members bring a certain level of expertise and experience to the table that is so important to protecting and fulfilling our department's mission.

TDMHSAS and the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) will be splitting their licensure review panel this year. Three members of the TDMHSAS panel were recognized recently for their service as they rotate off and were given certificates of appreciation signed by Commissioner Varney. They are Scott Finney, Don Redden and Carol Westlake.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

Have something interesting that you want to include in an upcoming issue of this newsletter? Send your information and/or photos (in jpeg format) to Lorene Lambert at [Lorene.Lambert@tn.gov](mailto:Lorene.Lambert@tn.gov), and call (615) 253-4812 if you have questions.

## COMMUNITY NEWS &amp; INDUSTRY AWARDS

## TAMHO Honors Commissioner Varney with Highest Award



*Commissioner Varney receives the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations President's Award from Gene Lawrence, TAMHO President and Executive Director of the Southeast Mental Health Center in Memphis.*

In December 2012, the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) honored TDMHSAS Commissioner Doug Varney with the President's Award, its highest honor given at the discretion of the outgoing TAMHO board president to recognize extraordinary contributions to the field of mental health.

Gene Lawrence, TAMHO president and executive director of Southeast Mental Health Center in Memphis, presented the award to Commissioner Varney during the TAMHO 2012 Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony. Having known and worked beside Commissioner Varney for more than 20 years, Lawrence said in his comments that he views the commissioner "as a true visionary whose career has been based on doing what is right and ... his view of the world has always been one in which everyone has the chance to develop their full potential. Commissioner Varney is someone who naturally sees opportunities and ways to remove obstacles, and he has a long and distinguished history of advocating at the local, state, and national level to improve services, obtain funding, reduce the stigma of mental illness, and improve the lives of others."

Prior to his appointment in January 2011, Commissioner Varney provided many years of service as a member of the TAMHO Board of Directors, including service as president and chairman of the Legislative Committee. He had previously been awarded the TAMHO 2005 Dorothea Dix Professional Service award.

TAMHO is a statewide trade association celebrating over 50 years of service and representing Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) and other not-for-profit corporations that

provide behavioral health services. These organizations continue to meet the needs of Tennesseans, from all age groups and socioeconomic levels, with a mental illness or substance abuse diagnosis. The TAMHO member organizations have been the virtual cornerstone of the community-based behavioral health system throughout the state since the 1950s and today serve as the primary provider network for the TennCare Partners Program. To learn more, visit [www.tamho.org](http://www.tamho.org).

## Peer Support Specialist Conference Focuses on How 'Recovery Works'

*By Lisa Ragan, Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs & Peer Support Services, Division of Mental Health Services*

The TDMHSAS Consumer Advisory Board joined with the Tennessee Certified Peer Specialist (TCPS) Advisory Board to host the second annual Peer Specialist Conference on October 8, 2012, in Murfreesboro. This year's theme was "Recovery Works for Personal and Community Integration," and keynote speaker Alyce Knowlton-Jablonski, executive director of the Wisconsin Association of Peer Specialists, spoke to the 160 participants about how to integrate self and systems to effect transformation.

Conference participants included Certified Peer Specialists, people interesting in becoming certified, and supervisors of Certified Peer Specialists, with sessions designed for each distinct group. Some sessions covered ethics and boundaries, documentation, transitioning into the workforce, and supervising Peer Specialists, among others.



*Front row: Joy Patterson, Sheryl McCormick, Mary Nelle Osborne, Loretta Walker, and Kelley Chartier.  
Back row: Marjorie Diefenbach, Mark Potts, Paul Rom, and Anthony Fox, TMHCA award presenter.*

### Awards were a highlight of the conference:

- TCPS of the Year was awarded to Lori Rash of the Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association (TMHCA).

## COMMUNITY NEWS & INDUSTRY AWARDS

- The Community Service Award was given to Sheryl McCormick of Peninsula, a Division of Parkwest Medical Center.
- The Advocate of Peer Services, Individual, Award was given to Robin Visnick of TMHCA.
- The Advocate of Peer Services, Group/Agency, Award was given to Peninsula, a division of Parkwest Medical Center.
- The TCPS Mentor of the Year Award was awarded posthumously to Patsy Cronk of Volunteer Behavioral Health. The TCPS Mentor of the Year Award will be named the Patsy Cronk Mentor of the Year Award going forward to honor Patsy's many years of services to peers across the state.

### NAMI Tennessee Honors HAPI with its Model Project Award

Tennessee's chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Tennessee) gave out its 2012 Annual Awards on Sept. 29, 2012, in recognition of compassion, dedication, and inspiration by individuals and organizations in the quest to overcome stigma and assist people recovering from mental illnesses and substance abuse.

The Healing Arts Project, Inc. (HAPI), co-sponsor with TDMHSAS for the annual "Arts for Awareness" program, received the Model Project Award. HAPI provides opportunities year round through classes at peer support centers and public exhibitions of artwork by people in recovery. NAMI Tennessee cited HAPI's "exceptional efforts in decreasing stigma while raising public awareness and hope for those living with the effects of mental illness...especially those who have low income and few opportunities for creative expression and public recognition." Through HAPI, approximately 1,000 people in mental health and addiction recovery in Tennessee have participated in art classes, exhibits and special events...and submitted poems and personal essays published annually in the Faith, Hope and Recovery in Letters booklets. The 2012 booklet is available by contacting HAPI online at <http://healingartsprojectinc.org/> or sending an email to [janebaxter@comcast.net](mailto:janebaxter@comcast.net).

NAMI is the nation's largest grass-roots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. NAMI has more than 1,100 affiliates in communities across the country who engage in advocacy, research, support, and education. Members of NAMI are families, friends, and people living with mental illnesses such as major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and



borderline personality disorder. Contact the Tennessee chapter by going online to <http://www.namitn.org/> or by calling (615) 361-6608.

### Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Honored with Patriotic Employer Award



*Left to Right: Col. Joe Thomas, retired, chairman emeritus of the ESGR; Delilah Massarotti, ESGR Outreach Volunteer; Deputy Commissioner Marie Williams; Commissioner Doug Varney; and General Counsel Zack Griffith.*

In December 2012, Commissioner Doug Varney and Deputy Commissioner Marie Williams were honored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for their continued support of former Guard and Reserve personnel in the workplace. The award recognizes their contribution "to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve forces."

Varney and Williams were nominated by Zack Griffith, TDMHSAS's General Counsel. Zack originally enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard after high school and, during his first tour, was in active duty assignments supporting the first Gulf War. He also served in active duty on the military drug team. In 2012, Griffith rejoined the Guard as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps. In presenting this award, Griffith said he would not have been comfortable returning to service without the "complete and unwavering support" he received from Varney and Williams. He also noted their dedication to other soldier focused concerns such as suicide, mental health and substance abuse issues.

ESGR, part of the U.S. Department of Defense, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers. The organization is supported by a network of more than 4,800 volunteers across all 50 states and outlying U.S. districts. To learn more, visit [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil). ■

# COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

## Braber-Grove Adds Director of Contracts to Responsibilities

Assistant General Counsel Sandra Braber-Grove took on the additional role of Director of Contracts on October 1. She will continue to serve as the department's privacy officer and records compliance attorney. Her new title will be the Director of the Office of Contracts and Privacy Compliance, within the Division of General Counsel.



*Sandra Braber-Grove*

She was awarded a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa, received a Masters of Library Science from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and a bachelor's degree, Cum Laude, from Loyola University in Chicago. She was licensed to practice law by the state of Tennessee in 2003 and admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2009. She worked for Vanderbilt University School of Law in information technology prior to becoming an attorney.

Sandy joined the department in 2007. Contact her at (615) 532-6520 or [Sandra.Barber-Grove@tn.gov](mailto:Sandra.Barber-Grove@tn.gov).

## Social Worker Joins Office of Crisis Services



*Laura Martin*

Laura Martin, a social worker who has spent the past 11 years working at the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute (MTMHI) in Nashville, joined the Office of Crisis Services, Division of Mental Health Services, on October 8 as a Mental Health Program Specialist. While at MTMHI, Laura provided direct patient care. She has a reputation as a real advocate for those served, and her clinical background and

experience will be an asset to the team.

She brings 24 years of total inpatient experience, and she will assist the Office of Crisis Services in ensuring adequate gatekeeping services for the regional mental health institutes, while also considering the best interest of the client's served by the department. She will be an integral part of all crisis services initiatives, and one of her primary responsibilities will be monitoring contract compliance and identifying/implementing quality improvement opportunities.

You can reach her at [Laura.B.Martin@tn.gov](mailto:Laura.B.Martin@tn.gov) or by calling (615) 532-6509.

## Consumer Affairs/Peer Support Adds Certification Coordinator

Vik Moore joined the Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Support Services, Division of Mental Health Services, on October 15, as the new Certification Coordinator for the state's Peer Specialist Certification Program.

Vik has 14 years of experience as a Peer Specialist, working throughout Tennessee, and most recently for the Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association. Before that, he worked for Peninsula, a Division of Parkwest Medical Center. Vik is an experienced trainer in addition to his background in direct services and all things technical. He is a significant asset to the certification program and to the department overall.

You can reach him at [Vik.Moore@tn.gov](mailto:Vik.Moore@tn.gov) or by calling (615) 741-7693.



*Vik Moore*

## Laura Young Named Psychiatric Nurse Consultant for RMHIs



*Laura Young*

Laura Young has joined the department as the Psychiatric Nurse Consultant for the Division of Hospital Services and will serve all of the TDMHSAS regional mental health institutes (RMHIs). Laura provides consultation to RMHI Nurse Executives, assists RMHIs in maintaining Joint Commission accreditation and CMS certification, and acts as a resource person on problems regarding patient care and treatment using best practice guidelines.

Laura is certified as a Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse practitioner through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, where she is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Nursing Practice, and was elected to the Sigma Theta Tau International, Iota Chapter of The Honor Society of Nursing. Laura has worked most recently for Mending Hearts, Generations Mental Health Center and Centerstone as an Advanced Practice Nurse. She has served as an adjunct clinical instructor at Motlow State Community College and as a research nurse at Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital.

You can reach her at [Laura.Young@tn.gov](mailto:Laura.Young@tn.gov) or by calling (615) 741-7694.

## Commissioner's Corner...cont.

### Bob Micinski Named CEO of MTMHI



Bob Micinski

**B**ob Micinski has been named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute (MTMHI). Prior to his appointment on Feb. 4, 2013, Bob served as interim CEO since October 2012.

Prior to this appointment, Bob worked as the Assistant Superintendent of Quality Management for Lakeshore Mental Health Institute (LMHI), where he

oversaw all medical records, patients' rights, and quality services for the hospital, devoting much of his energy to ensuring the hospital's compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local health care regulations as well as standards and certification requirements of monitoring bodies.

Most recently, Bob served as Director of the East Tennessee Behavioral Health Transformation Project (ETBHTP), where he worked with community outpatient providers and private inpatient psychiatric providers to ensure a continuity of quality health care in the area formerly served by LMHI and all around East Tennessee.

You can contact him at [Bob.Micinski@tn.gov](mailto:Bob.Micinski@tn.gov) or by calling (615) 902-7400.

### Ledbetter Returns to TDMHSAS to Oversee Drug Courts

**L**iz Ledbetter, formerly the Mental Health Program Specialist for the department, has returned to TDMHSAS to the Office of Criminal Justice Services as Drug Court administrator and will oversee the Drug Courts across the state.

Her long history of working in state government is concentrated in the field of mental health/substance abuse services and criminal justice. Most recently, she worked in the Department of Finance & Administration in the Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) as a Program Manager, where she was responsible for providing primary programmatic support for grants under Byrne/JAG programs.

Liz's primary focus in the OCJP was working with community and criminal justice agencies to develop re-entry programs for offenders in jails or prisons who were returning to the community. In her previous position with TDMHSAS, Liz had responsibility for the development, implementation, and oversight of the criminal justice/mental health liaison projects and the Tennessee Mental Health and Criminal Justice Training Program.

To reach Liz, call (615) 532-3411 or email [Liz.Ledbetter@tn.gov](mailto:Liz.Ledbetter@tn.gov).

## Remembering Charles Battenslag

**C**harles D. Battenslag came to work for TDMHSAS on Dec. 17, 2007, as an Accountant III from the Office of the Secretary of State. His primary responsibility as a new hire was to process invoices submitted from sub-recipient agencies contracting to provide services to Tennessee consumers.

In 2010, these responsibilities changed to monitoring grant sub-recipient agencies in Middle and West Tennessee, in accordance with the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration's Policy 22.

Charles worked with many mental health and health related organizations in this capacity, including Meharry Medical Center, Nurses for Newborns, Tennessee Voices for Children, Centerstone, the Healing Word Counseling Center, Synergy Treatment Center, and the Dickson Police Department.

Charles, with a combined state service of 16 years, was a quiet, unassuming man who was well-known to many, having also worked for various state departments, including Education, Revenue, Corrections, Commerce and Insurance and F&A. He retired in 2012 and passed away Jan. 13, 2013, after a brief illness. His memorial service was held Jan. 19 at the Woodbine Hickory Chapel in Nashville. There are no immediate family members. ■



Charles Battenslag (center) celebrated 15 years of service in December 2011 with Commissioner Doug Varney and Deputy Commissioner Marie Williams.

## TDMHSAS Central Office Temporarily Moves to Metro Center

The Department's Central Office moved Dec. 17, 2012, to temporary quarters in Metro Center, north of downtown Nashville, as part of an ongoing project to renovate state buildings. Our current mailing address is 601 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243. The UPS and FedEx ZIP code for this address is 37228. All phone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses remain the same. ■

### SHARE YOUR NEWS

Have something interesting that you want to include in an upcoming issue of this newsletter? Send your information and/or photos (in jpeg format) to Lorene Lambert at [Lorene.Lambert@tn.gov](mailto:Lorene.Lambert@tn.gov), and call (615) 253-4812 if you have questions.



## Update

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Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at 615-532-5680, the Title VI Coordinator or the ADA Coordinator at 615-532-6700 or 1-800-560-5767 for inquiries, complaints or further information.



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