



### *A Message from Commissioner Williams*

Dear Friends and Partners,

It is with great joy and excitement that we share with you the details of our departmental budget increases totaling more than **\$42.6 million** as passed by the Tennessee General Assembly for State Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Add on top of that total funding for a new Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute and **\$41 million** in projects funded with ARPA dollars, and it's truly a landmark investment in Tennessee's public behavioral health system.

The Provider Rate Increase of nearly \$18 million is a testament to the dedication, skill, and heart that you bring to the work every day. The investments of \$6 million for substance use disorder clinical treatment and \$1 million for recovery supports provide an exciting opportunity to close our gap on meeting the need of uninsured Tennesseans living with SUD who need treatment. And the General Assembly added another \$5.6 million to make a landmark investment in creating mental health courts across our state.

There are so many things to be excited about in the FY23 budget, and we know

none of it would be possible without each of you. While we know the challenges our state faces in behavioral health are great, our resources and support are also substantial, and our amazing team stands ready to meet the call, make a difference, and continue to change lives.

Many blessings,

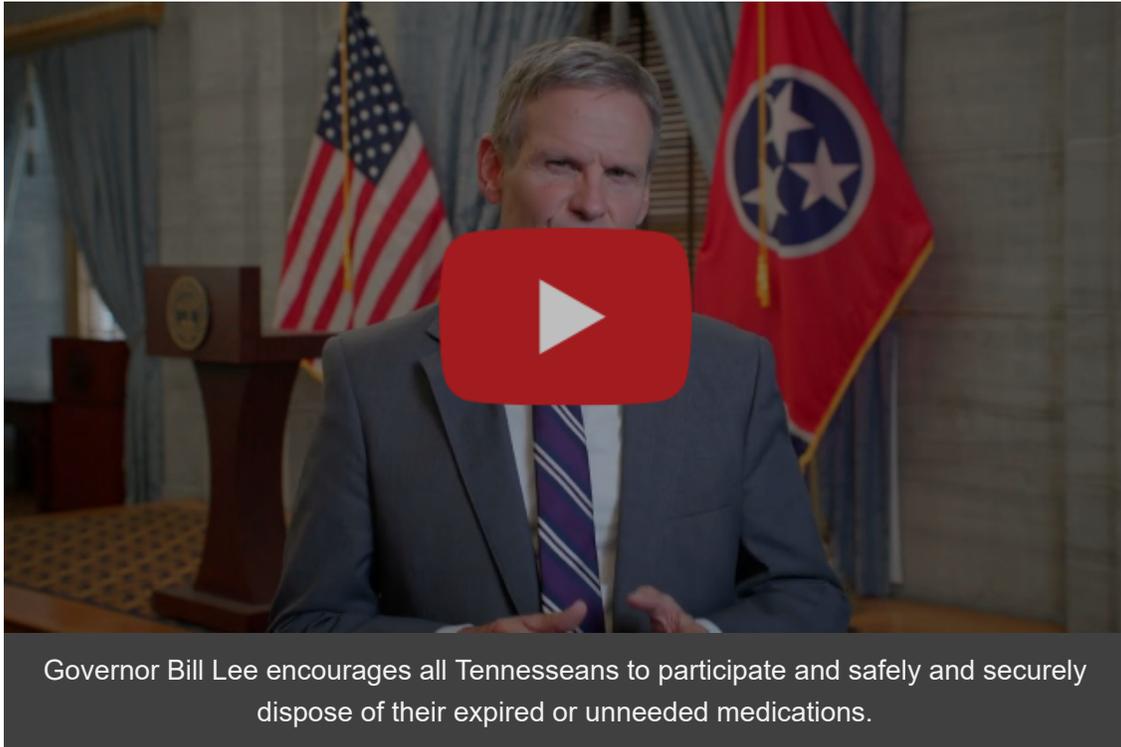
Marie

<b>FY23 TDMHSAS Budget Increases</b>		
<b>Provider Rate Increase</b>	17,995,000	
<b>Substance Abuse Clinical Treatment Services</b>	6,000,000	
<b>Mental Health Courts</b>	5,669,400	\$180K NR
<b>Naltrexone for drug court treatment programs</b>	2,000,000	NR
<b>Tennessee Sports Gambling Fund</b>	1,225,000	Dedicated
<b>Addiction Recovery Program Enhancement</b>	1,000,000	
<b>Creating Jobs Initiative</b>	900,000	
<b>Morgan County Residential Recovery Court</b>	550,000	\$200K NR
<b>Information Technology Support Positions</b>	520,700	
<b>Mental Health Evaluations in Juvenile Courts</b>	200,000	
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>	6,580,300	NR
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,640,400</b>	
<b>ARPA Projects</b>		
<b>Crisis Continuum Enhancement</b>	34,919,716	
<b>Project Rural Recovery</b>	6,300,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,219,716</b>	

# National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: April 30

TDMHSAS and its community partners including our Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions are gearing up for another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The biannual event coordinated nationally by the Drug Enforcement Administration gives people an opportunity to clean out their medicine cabinets and safely and securely dispose of medications that are

expired or no longer needed during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Take Back Day is this Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. local time.



[During the October 2021 Take Back Day](#), Tennesseans safely and securely disposed of nearly 17,000 pounds of medications at 112 sites across the state. In the decade that the Drug Enforcement Agency has organized Take Back Day, Tennesseans have safely and securely disposed of more than 330,000 pounds of medications.

[Find a Take Back Day event or permanent prescription drop box at this link](#)

The April Take Back Day comes as authorities from the [DEA to the TBI are warning of the danger of counterfeit prescription pills](#) that are laced with fentanyl. The DEA estimates that four out of every 10 counterfeit pills bought on the street or over the internet or social media apps contain a lethal dose of fentanyl.

That's having deadly consequences across the country, but the effects are most strongly felt among young adults and teens. [Overdose deaths among American teens](#) nearly doubled from 2019 to 2020, and researchers estimate the 2021 numbers will show another 20% increase in overdose deaths. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show fentanyl overdose deaths among teens increased by nearly 170% in just one year.

Safely disposing of unwanted pharmaceuticals at drop-off locations across the state helps ensure medicines are not misused or accidentally taken by someone they were unintended for. To learn more about Take Back Events close to you, visit [tn.together.com/takebackday](https://tn.together.com/takebackday).



**TN** TNtogether.com/TakeBackDay  
Learn More and Find an Event in Your Area

Take Back Day is a great opportunity for our Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions to connect with the communities they serve for year-round impact.

In addition to events coordinated by coalitions, TDMHSAS staff are working with the Nashville Predators to host a pair of Take Back Day events. If you're in Nashville, come out and see us at either of the Preds Ford Ice Center locations in Antioch and Bellevue. MANY thanks to the Preds for their support!



# Facts about Fentanyl

## FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL

PRESENTED BY THE OFFICE OF PREVENTION,  
TN DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

OPEN VIRTUAL TRAINING DATES  
AVAILABLE MONTHLY

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- WHAT IS FENTANYL
- WHAT IS HAPPENING IN TENNESSEE
- WHAT ARE THE RISKS
- WHAT ARE BASIC PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE



PRESENTER:  
DR. BRIAN WINBIGLER  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
UT-HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

**TN** Department of  
Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services

TDMHSAS has created a new fentanyl information and resource page on TN.gov. Fentanyl is a man-made opioid that's many times stronger than morphine or heroin. Because it is so strong and so addictive, it's being added to heroin, fake prescription pills, even stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine. The result is huge increases in overdoses, and sadly, more Tennesseans than ever dying. These deaths are preventable with knowledge and tools.

To help educate Tennesseans about fentanyl and its dangers, TDMHSAS Office of Prevention is hosting a virtual training on fentanyl with topics including what is it, how it impacts Tennessee, the risks, and precautions to take.

To learn more visit our website at this link: [TN.gov/behavioral-health/fentanyl](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/fentanyl) We've also created a onepager that's available to download and print. [Click this link or the image at right.](#)

**FACTS ABOUT FENTANYL**  
Knowledge and Tools to Save Lives

Fentanyl is a man-made opioid that's many times stronger than morphine or heroin. Because it is so strong and so addictive, it's being added to heroin, fake prescription pills, even stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine. The result is huge increases in overdoses, and sadly, more Tennesseans than ever dying. These deaths are preventable with knowledge and tools.

**FENTANYL IS 50 TIMES STRONGER THAN HEROIN AND 100 TIMES STRONGER THAN MORPHINE.**

**HISTORY AND LEGAL USAGE:** CREATED IN 1960, FENTANYL IS USED SAFELY DURING SURGERY OR TO TREAT CANCER PATIENTS, WHEN USED AS DIRECTED BY A DOCTOR. FENTANYL IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

**COMMON ILLICIT FORMS:** ILLICIT FENTANYL IS SMOGGLED IN POWDER FORM. IT'S MIXED INTO SUBSTANCES INCLUDING HEROIN, COCAINE, METH, AND PRESSED INTO FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS.

**TENNESSEE OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING FENTANYL**

Year	Deaths
2015	169
2016	295
2017	501
2018	744
2019	1,087
2020	1,814
2021	2,014

2021 OVERDOSE DEATHS WILL BE HIGHER

**FENTANYL AND OVERDOSE**

Because fentanyl is so strong, people who make their (legal) drugs use fentanyl to make their drugs cheaper and more powerful. They do not have the special equipment that spread out the chemicals evenly. Each pill or powder is not the same. It does not take a lot of fentanyl to cause an overdose, especially for someone who does not usually use opioids.

**Can you spot the difference?**

Fentanyl has been found in heroin, cocaine, meth and pressed into fake prescription pills. While there are lots of stories of fentanyl found in vapers, there are very few cases in the US when a kid inhaled and confirmed that fentanyl was present.

**TN** Department of  
Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services

[TN.gov/behavioral-health/coalitions](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/coalitions)

Anthony Jackson, Jr.  
Director of Early Intervention  
and Prevention  
615.533.6100  
Anthony.Jackson@tnhs.gov

# TDMHSAS Represents at Rx Summit



Tennessee's success stories in overcoming addiction and fueling recovery took center stage at this year's RX and Illicit Drug Summit in Atlanta! The department and its amazing community partners presented on the Tennessee Recovery Navigators, Collegiate Recovery, Certified Recovery Congregations, and Faith-Based Community Collaborations.





Jessica Youngblom and Polly Jessen pose after their presentation on the Tennessee Recovery Navigators.

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## TDMHSAS Attends Regional Court Conference on Behavioral Health



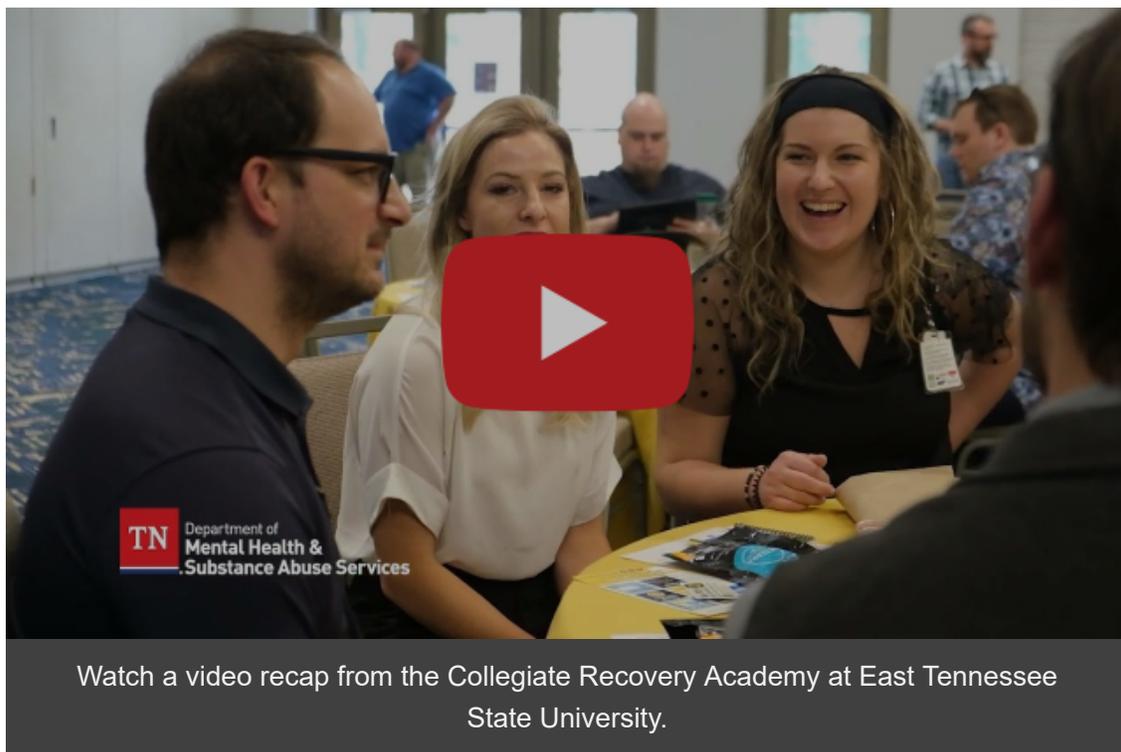
TDMHSAS Leadership were proud to represent our state and share successes at the recent CCJ-COSCA Regional Summit in Texas. Thanks to our partners at Tennessee's Administrative Office of the Courts for inviting us. Their leadership and partnership are essential in our efforts to improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals, especially our Recovery Courts. The Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators is part of the National Center for State Courts.

Pictured above (L to R): Administrative Office of the Courts Director Michelle Long, General Sessions Judge Vicki Snyder, Juvenile Court Judge Sheila Calloway, Commissioner Marie Williams, Assistant Commissioner Taryn Sloss, Director of Criminal Justice Services Rebekah-Provost Emmons, TN Supreme Court Justice Jeff Bivens.

## Collegiate Recovery Academy

*Collegiate Recovery Academies continue to build bridges to recovery on college campuses across Tennessee*





University of Tennessee Martin, East Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga were the latest schools to partner with the TDMHSAS Collegiate Recovery Initiative. Collegiate Recovery Academies bring lessons on creating recovery support resources and suicide prevention to faculty, staff, and students.

Learn more about the Collegiate Recovery Initiative at this link: [tn.gov/behavioral-health/collegiate-recovery](https://tn.gov/behavioral-health/collegiate-recovery).



We're so grateful to University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd for his

continued support and advocacy for the Collegiate Recovery Initiative on the campuses he leads. President Boyd is pictured above with collegiate recovery leadership from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga along with TDMHSAS leaders.

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## Shout Out!

### ***Bethlehem Centers and Steve Fleming recognized at Nashville Predators game***



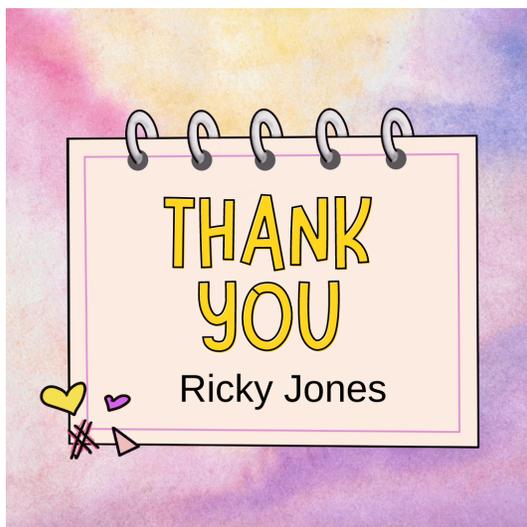
Shout out to Bethlehem Center of Nashville! They were welcomed at a recent Nashville Predators Game and even got to have fun with a ceremonial puck drop! Steve Fleming also spoke on Fox Sports Tennessee during pre-game warm ups to promote Bethlehem Center programs and services. Steve received the Nashville Jockey Award from the Nashville Predators for outstanding Community Service and his work to better the lives of others. The event was a great success and great exposure for the agency, children, staff and families that were able to attend. Bethlehem Center is a TDMHSAS provider through the Tennessee Prevention Network.

### ***MTMHI Holds Drive for local women's homeless shelter***



In honor of Women's History Month, the Diversity Awareness and Action Committee (DAAC) at MTMHI held a clothing and baby supply drive for the local women's homeless shelter. The same care and compassion that MTMHI staff show to the patients was also shown to these women in need. Donations included business attire that will allow the women to confidently go to a job interview or work in an office setting. There were also casual clothes, shoes, pajamas, diapers, and wipes. The picture is just a portion of all the donations. MTMHI staff showed once again that they are not just great care providers for the patients, but they are also great community members.

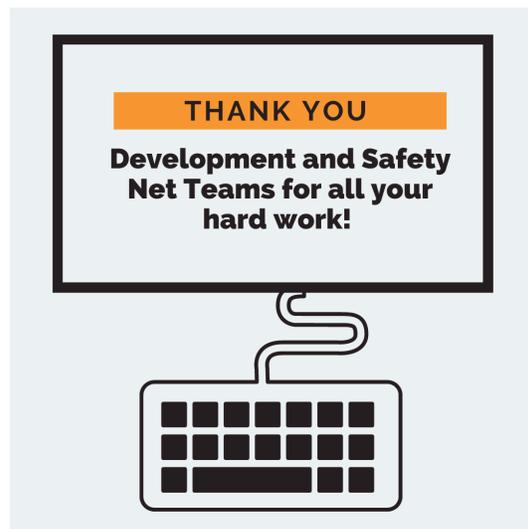
### ***#TeamTDMHSAS Employee Shout Outs***



Shout out to Ricky Jones! Since becoming a Technician at Western Mental Health Institute, Ricky has demonstrated great ability in learning the patients and their needs. He's able to keep the Unit calm, collected, and flowing. WMHI's Green 2 Nurses are happy to have this dedicated worker. Keep up the great work, Ricky!

Shout out to the amazing folks on both the program and information technology side who make the Behavioral Health Safety Net amazing! Over the years, Gina

Young's development team and Katie Lee's Safety Net team have put in a lot of hard work on the new BHSN system. The last phase went live earlier this month, and the old system was officially taken offline. It has been a huge lift as well as a huge success.



Shout out to the MTMHI housekeeping staff who had perfect attendance in the month of March! We appreciate you: Letha, James, Mary, Patricia, Constance, Roger, Martha, and Charles!

If you'd like to "shout out" to a TDMHSAS colleague, please send an email to [Kearston.Winrow@tn.gov](mailto:Kearston.Winrow@tn.gov). Tell us who you'd like to recognize and why.

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## Save-the-Dates

*Planning and Policy Council Meetings*

## **Children's Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CST

## **Region IV**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST

## **Region V**

Thursday, May 5, 2022

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CST

## **Region I**

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST

## **Region II**

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST

To listen to recordings of past meetings, and to verify the schedule and plans for future meetings, please visit the department website at these links:

[Statewide & Committee Meeting Schedule \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Regional Council Meeting Schedule \(tn.gov\)](#)

*TDMHSAS is committed to providing individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from TDMHSAS programs, activities, and services. To request reasonable accommodations or modifications, please contact Amy Holland at [amy.holland@tn.gov](mailto:amy.holland@tn.gov) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting. Requests for accommodations or modifications made after the deadline will be honored to the maximum extent feasible, but it may not be possible to fulfill them.*

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MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA'S ANNUAL  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & AGING CONFERENCE 2022**

FINDING YOUR PATH TO THE BEST INTERVENTIONS & CARE

VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR  
FREE REGISTRATION  
6 FREE CEU'S\*  
8:30AM-4:30PM CT

Tuesday  
**MAY**  
24<sup>th</sup>



SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION OR VISIT  
[MHAMIDSOUTH.LEARNWORLDS.COM](http://MHAMIDSOUTH.LEARNWORLDS.COM)

\*Professional Continuing Education Credits Pending & Include: Social Workers, Licensed Counselors, Psychologists (Level II), Nurses, Certified Peers, ACP Administrators



 **nami** Walks  
YOUR WAY  
Greater Nashville

May 21, 2022  
Shelby Park  
Nashville, TN

Join our Movement / Share our Message Benefitting NAMI Davidson Co.



Scan the code or go to [namiwalks.org/greater-nashville](http://namiwalks.org/greater-nashville)

Walk, Run, Sponsor, Volunteer for Mental Health Awareness

Questions? please reach out to [namwalksnashville@namidavidson.org](mailto:namwalksnashville@namidavidson.org)

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## Resources

*Call or text for emotional support for healthcare workers, first responders, and teachers*

# COVID-19 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT LINE FOR TENNESSEE

Need to talk to someone about feelings of stress, anxiety, sadness, or depression related to work? Calltakers with the COVID-19 Emotional Support Line can help.



Tennesseans working in education, healthcare, or first responder roles can call or text:

# 888-642-7886

Calltakers are available: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. (CT), 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. (ET)

The COVID-19 Emotional Support line is a collaborative project among National Association of Social Workers-TN Chapter and the following groups:



*In the event of a mental health emergency ...*

**STATEWIDE**

# CRISIS LINE

**HELP IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS**

**855-CRISIS-1** [TN.gov/CrisisLine](https://www.tn.gov/CrisisLine)  
**855-274-7471**  **Department of  
Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services**

*For questions about addiction treatment/referrals ...*



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*To talk with a TDMHSAS Consumer Advocate ...*

Need help with mental health or substance use services?

Call the TDMHSAS Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services

# HELPLINE

## 1-800-560-5767

We can help with:

- finding mental health and substance abuse resources in your area
- questions about insurance
- finding housing options
- communicating with mental health and substance abuse providers
- questions about the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist program
- filing a complaint



We are available

- Monday through Friday
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT
- Closed on state holidays



Department of  
**Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services**

OCA.TDMHSAS@tn.gov | [TN.gov/behavioral-health](https://tn.gov/behavioral-health)

**OUR MISSION:** CREATING  
**COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS**  
*TO RESILIENCY, RECOVERY & INDEPENDENCE*  
FOR TENNESSEANS LIVING  
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND  
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

## OUR VISION:

A STATE OF *RESILIENCY, RECOVERY, AND INDEPENDENCE*  
IN WHICH **TENNESSEANS**  
LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS  
AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS **THRIVE**

## AS A DEPARTMENT, WE VALUE:

**CUSTOMER FOCUSED:**

*An unwavering commitment to keep patients and those who serve them at the forefront of every decision.*

**INTEGRITY:**

*Honesty and truth in all we do.*

**INSPIRED PURPOSE:**

*The call to action in service of a cause greater than one's self.*

**EXCELLENCE:**

*The highest standards for services, efficiency, and conduct.*

**COMPASSIONATE**

**AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP:**

*The commitment to make effective decisions and inspire others through active listening and empathy.*

**SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES-ORIENTED:**

*The commitment to positive outcomes and meaningful changes in response to the critical needs of the Tennesseans we serve.*

**PARTNERSHIP:**

*Beyond teamwork, collaboration based on mutual success to the benefit of the Tennesseans we are blessed to serve.*

*We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the Update! If you have news to share (a story idea, accomplishment, provider news, etc.) or if you'd like to be added to the distribution list, please email: the Office of Communications at [OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov](mailto:OC.TDMHSAS@tn.gov).*

*And please connect with us on social media!*



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**Facebook**

Thanks to our [Facebook family](#) for "liking" us and sharing our posts!

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