

TDMHDD Update

VOLUME 12, NO. 3

SUMMER 2008

International and National Mental Health Community Meets in Nashville

Integration of Health and Mental Health Care Focus of Meetings

NTDMHDD hosted three mental health meetings in July, the International Mental Health Leadership, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Summer meeting, and the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development 2008 Training Institutes. One of the main topics of conversation at each of these meetings was the integration of mental health and primary health care services. Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher was on hand to share his opinions and expertise to the almost 3000 attendees.

“I am honored that Tennessee was host to these meetings that are so important to the national and world mental health community,” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “It was such a great experience to have so many diverse people from different regions come together and discuss mental health policy and share their ideas on how to strengthen the all important public mental health systems.”

The International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership gathered in Nashville July 10. This group is comprised of mental health leaders from the following nations: the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Scotland, and England. Dr. Terry Cline, director of the U.S. Substance and Mental Health Services Administration, joined Commissioner Betts in welcoming the IIMHL executive board to the U.S.

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Summer meeting began July 13 and TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts was re-elected President for a two-year term. Formerly Vice-President, she had served as President of NASMHPD since January, 2008 when President Carlos Brandenburg of Nevada retired.

The Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development 2008 Training Institutes officially kicked-off on July 17. Over 2500 mental health advocates attended to focus on the important work of developing systems of care for children and adolescents with mental health needs and their families. Tennessee currently has one system of care in place in Columbia, Tenn. — the Mule Town Family Network.



Commissioner Betts with NASMHPD staff

These three meetings of significance were enhanced by their opportunity for overlap and significant interaction with one another, including the international leadership. A common theme among the three conferences was the integration of health and mental health care and the positive effects of such integration on the health of the population. The NASMHPD program included a Tennessee panel comprised of three mental health experts to share some of the most innovative ideas for mental health integration across the state.

“Mental health is fundamental to overall health and well-being,” stated Commissioner Betts who participated in the development of two reports while working with Dr. Satcher at the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration—*Mental Health: a Report of the Surgeon General* and *the Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent Suicide*. “This is a message that grew out of our reports, and I think the message is more important than ever in today’s society. Forums such as these three provide an opportunity to shape mental health policy as well as assist in overcoming the stigma of mental illness. Tennessee was honored to serve as host.” ■

Selections from the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute Art Show Go to Frist Center

Statewide Exhibition by Tennesseans with Disabilities

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts opened *The Artist's Voice: An Exhibition Featuring Tennessee Artists with Disabilities* on May 16 in the Conte Community Arts Gallery. The juried exhibition presents more than 50 paintings, prints, sculptures, digital art and documentary film created by 54 Tennessee artists, who each live with a disability. The artists and their works were selected by a juried panel from more than 400 submissions. Admission is free for this exhibition, which will continue through Sept. 14, 2008.



Left to Right : Paul Tripp, Kenneth Mallady, Lynn McDonald(CEO), Commissioner Betts in front, Antonio Milan behind , then Howie Bryant and Yancy Minnis last on right.

“The works in *The Artist's Voice* are a testament to the power of art to eliminate barriers as it offers healing, strength, and encouragement to its creators, while giving voice to the varied lives of these resilient artists,” says Anne Henderson, director of education at the Frist Center. “The artwork provides a visual language that broadens our own understanding as well, not only of people with disabilities, but also of our connections with each other and the world.”

The works featured in the exhibition have an expressive force and sense of beauty that transcend any limitations that might be

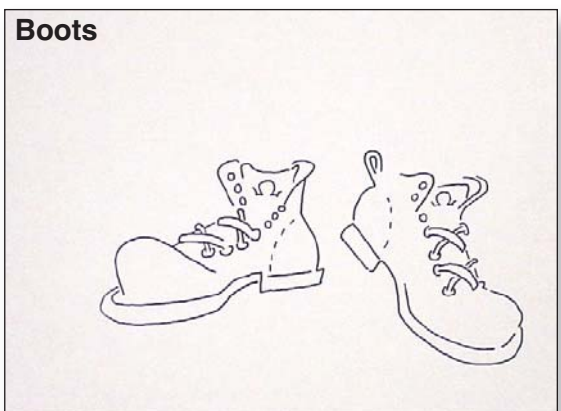
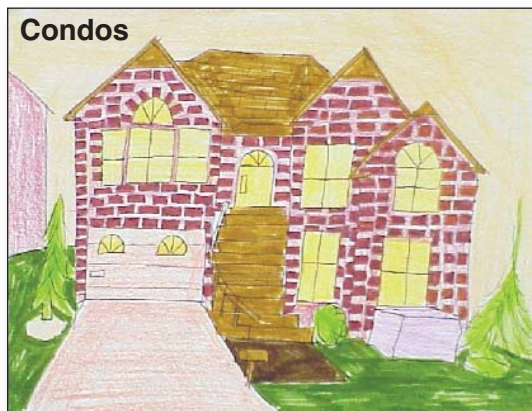
imposed by their makers' disabilities. The artists' personal circumstances often inform their art, as well as their chosen media. Some of the works explore an artist's daily struggles of living with a disability; others convey a positive outlook, rich with vitality and raw energy that is often achieved through the use of bright, bold color. Intertwining themes of strength, resilience, fragility, contentment and endurance can be seen throughout this exhibition. Though each work stands on its own artistic merit, the individual stories of their creators make the art even more engaging and awe inspiring.

The artists in this exhibition are motivated to make art for many reasons. Some use the creative process as a means of coming to terms with their particular situations and the world, while others use art as an escape from it. All of the artists attest to the therapeutic value of art and maintain that creating it assists them in their personal efforts to heal, live, and flourish in the world at large.

Selection Process

Last summer, the Frist Center announced a statewide Call for Works to receive entries for this exhibition, open to Tennessee artists ages 18 years and older who have physical, cognitive or mental disabilities (a disability is defined as an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity). Submissions were reviewed and chosen by a selection panel that included Donna Glassford, director of the department of cultural enrichment at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Carol Mode, Nashville-based artist and Frist Center artist council member; and Mark Scala, chief curator of the Frist Center.

In advance of the exhibition, the Frist Center collaborated with VSA arts of Tennessee and Full Circle Art to provide free workshops across the state for artists. Participants learned how to create professional portfolios, write artists statements and photograph work for submission to juried art exhibitions. ■



Howie Bryant's picture "Condominiums" and Yancy Minnis' picture "Boots" were shown at the Frist.

Deputy Commissioner Joe Carobene Retires With 36 Years

Deputy Commissioner Joe Carobene has retired after 36 years of service to the state of Tennessee. Carobene has been Deputy Commissioner for TDMHDD since March 2003. He was formerly the CEO/Chief Officer of Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute from February 1989 to March 2003.

“Joe Carobene has been a true asset to the Tennessee public mental health system,” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “His dedication to the department’s mission and the clients we serve is extremely admirable. All of us here at TDMHDD are so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Joe, and he will truly be missed by TDMHDD staff and the entire mental health community.”

Carobene has also served at three of the five state psychiatric hospitals. His first involvement with a psychiatric hospital was in 1987 when he was placed in charge of Lakeshore Mental Health Institute. In 1999-2000, the department called on him to be the interim CEO at Memphis Mental Health Institute as the hospital’s medical staff resigned with only two weeks notice. His experience on both sides of mental health, including his tenure at Greene Valley



(top) Commissioner Betts presents Carobene a State of Tennessee Achievement Award. (above) Carobene and Senator Doug Henry.

Developmental Center and Clover Bottom Developmental Center, provided him with knowledge that has allowed him to be an

integral part of the progress of the department.

Carobene feels that one of his most rewarding career accomplishments was being part of the design and development of two new state psychiatric facilities from start to finish. Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute opened in August of 1995 and Memphis Mental Health Institute opened in September of 2007. Few hospital CEO’s have been involved in all the stages of construction of a new hospital, and he is grateful to have had that opportunity.

After spending four years in the United States Air Force in medical administration, Carobene returned to Austin Peay State University to finish his degree. Upon graduation in 1972 he began his 36 year tenure with the State of Tennessee and was hired as a budget analyst for the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation fiscal office.

Carobene and his wife, Betty, have been married for 41 years. He has two children and one grandson. In his free time, he enjoys boating and duck hunting. ■

HAPPENINGS

West-Freeman Named Chief Officer of Memphis Mental Health Institute

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities has named Dr. Jeanne West-Freeman chief officer of the Memphis Mental Health Institute. West-Freeman recently held the position of interim CO.



Dr. Jeanne West-Freeman

Dr. West-Freeman has 28 years experience working at Memphis Mental Health Institute and 35 years total service to the state of Tennessee. She is a licensed clinical social worker, holds a MSSW from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Alabama.

“We are pleased that Dr. Jeanne West-Freeman has agreed to assume the role of leadership to ensure MMHI is providing quality, acute mental health services to those residing in Memphis/Shelby County,” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts.

New Policy Helps Those Applying for VR Services

A new Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services policy is expected to streamline the process of making application for Vocational Rehabilitation services. Effective immediately, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners with a Tennessee Advanced Practice Nurse certification may provide diagnostic information for persons applying for VR services.

Previously, diagnostic information, part of the eligibility criteria, could only be supplied by physicians or licensed psychologists. Because Nurse Practitioners are often the persons providing primary evaluation and medication management in providers facilities, this change will simplify the

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— HAPPENINGS —

Happenings...cont.

application process for consumers. To learn more about Vocational Rehabilitation or to set up a supported employment program, contact Rodney Bragg at 615-532-9439 or Rodney.Bragg@state.tn.us.

The Next Door Receives National Award

The Next Door, a Nashville non-profit organization that provides assistance, housing and support services for women who are reentering society from incarceration, received the Outstanding Criminal Justice Program of the South by the National Criminal Justice Association at the organization's annual meeting August 3-5 in Louisville, Ky. The organization was nominated for this award by the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programming.

Linda Leathers, Executive Director of The Next Door said, "I truly believe that this award is reason for all of us to celebrate. It is a team award!" She went on to add, "I am so thankful for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities' encouragement and support of The Next Door's work."

Leathers commented on one of the department's A&D services, Access to Recovery, by saying it "has been a tremendous catalyst for the organization to provide each resident excellent and timely services. The experience gained by ATR has positioned The Next Door for continued growth and enhanced service delivery."

"Thank you for investing in us" she concluded.

Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts added, "We are pleased to partner with such an outstanding group with our shared mission—true recovery and all that it brings to families and communities."



Linda Leathers stands in the doorway of one of the housing units in Nashville.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

TDMHDD Employee Presented with Rhoda O'Meara Award



Dr. Freida Outlaw, Assistant Commissioner of Special Population, and Susan Steckel.

Susan (Sukey) Steckel, grants manager in the Division of Special Populations, was this year's recipient of the University of Tennessee, College of Social Work Rhoda O'Meara Award for Public Welfare. The Rhoda O'Meara award is presented to one graduating student at each campus to recognize the "outstanding graduate demonstrating high achievements as indicated by master's level grades; special aptitudes or outstanding performances in field practice, potential for the profession, and commitment to returning to public social services". Ms. Steckel received this award at her MSSW hooding ceremony May 17, 2008.

New Staff Member

Allison Harvey, Pharm.D. is the department's new State Methadone Authority. Alli, as she is called, grew up in Shelbyville, IL and received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 2005. She has served as a pharmacist for Walgreens for the past 3 years. Contact her at (615) 741-6995 or Allison.harvey@state.tn.us.

Congratulations to Westlake

Carol Westlake, Executive Director of the Tennessee Disability Coalition, was recently recognized by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) in Washington DC for her commitment to people with disabilities as a national disability rights advocate. A special ceremony honoring Westlake and other "Champions" from across the nation was held on July 23, commemorating the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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