

TDMHDD Update

VOLUME 12, NO. 3

MAY/JUNE 2007

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES EXPAND IN TENNESSEE Crisis Stabilization Units Open in Nashville and Cookeville

TDMHDD announces the opening of two crisis stabilization units (CSUs) in Nashville and Cookeville. Funds were awarded to the Mental Health Cooperative and Volunteer Behavioral Healthcare System to establish and operate the second and third CSU in Tennessee. These facilities provide 24-hour, 7 days a week, short-term (up to 72 hours) stabilization mental health services.

This essential service will benefit individuals in need of intensive, 24-hour mental health treatment provided in a less restrictive setting than a psychiatric hospital or other treatment resource. CSU services include assessment, triage, medication management, and group and individual therapy.

“It is important that individuals have appropriate care in the least restrictive environment possible,” stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “CSU’s are structured to stabilize high-risk individuals and strengthen clients’

own coping skills while allowing them to remain in the community close to their essential support system.”

“A main goal of the CSU is to divert clients, when clinically appropriate, from psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations and unnecessary incarcerations stemming from their behavioral health conditions,” stated Candace Gilligan, TDMHDD Executive Director of Managed Care. “The excellent staff of Volunteer Behavioral Healthcare System and the Mental Health Cooperative is highly trained and qualified and will provide the best care possible to residents of middle Tennessee in need of these crucial services.”

The Cookeville CSU will serve residents of nine counties including Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, and White and is located at 1200 South Willow Street. The Nashville CSU will serve Cheatham,

Davidson, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, and Wilson counties and is located at 1034 West Eastland Avenue.

For more information, contact Trish Wilson in the department’s Division of Managed Care at (615) 532-9156 or at trish.wilson@state.tn.us. ■

ACCESS TO RECOVERY PROGRAM IN THIRD YEAR SAMSHA GRANT APPLICATION MADE

The Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services is currently in the third year of an Access to Recovery (ATR) grant that ends in August 2007. The ATR program in Tennessee is successful in providing essential recovery support and treatment services to over 11,000 persons with substance abuse/addiction problems. Services provided and paid for by vouchers issued to the consumer include evidence-based intensive outpatient treatment, aftercare, case management, drug testing, pastoral support, recovery skills, relapse prevention, transitional housing, and transportation.

Annual Conference On Addictions Held in Nashville May 20-25

The Tennessee Advanced School on Addiction (TASA) celebrated 30 years of education May 20-25, 2007 at Belmont University in Nashville. Sponsored by the Tennessee



Featured author and speaker William Cope Moyers (center) is welcomed by Ira Lacy, A&D Strategic Initiatives (left) and TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts and A&D Program Director Jay Jana (right).

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TDMHDD Continues to Combat the *Stigma* of Mental Illness

2ND ANNUAL ART FOR AWARENESS DAY HELD AT STATE CAPITOL

May is Mental Health Month, and in Tennessee, a special event for persons in recovery was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at the State Capitol. Sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Bredesen, TDMHDD Commissioner Betts, and several members of the 105th General Assembly were presented a unique piece of art created by mental health consumers to display in their offices throughout the month of May in

TDMHDD and the Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition for their collaboration in, again, making this event such a great success and in bringing attention to the importance of art and the role it plays in life and as a vehicle for recovery,” stated Governor Phil Bredesen.



“It is important and special that so many Tennesseans have come together in support of this event for two years in a row.” commented TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. “I admire the courage and commitment of every artist who participated in Art for Awareness Day, and I am gratified that Governor Bredesen and many legislators were so enthusiastic and supportive of this effort. I truly hope that consumer participation in this event will continue to grow in the coming years.”

(TDMHDD) and the Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition, the 2nd Annual Art for Awareness Day featured the works of over 80 mental health consumer artists. During Tuesday’s event, Governor

recognition of Mental Health Month. Several regionally acclaimed artists submitted works, including Anne Ambrose and Allen Beech of Nashville and John L. Butts, Jr. of Clarksville. “I commend the artists, as well as

Art for Awareness Day was held in the House Chambers in the State Capitol. During the event selected consumer artists from across Tennessee registered their works, met with Commissioner Betts and their legislators, and enjoyed a reception in celebration of this annual event. ■



Nashville’s Parthenon Celebrates Recovery and Creativity Through Consumer Art

An exhibit of the Nashville Parthenon, Creative Expression and Recovery: A Path to Mental Wellness, opened April 27 and runs through July 7 to showcase the artistic creations of Tennesseans with persistent mental illness while exploring the healing potential of creative expression. The exhibit contains the work of many persons from the Middle Tennessee region, including Ann Ambrose of Nashville and John Butts, Jr. of Clarksville. Artistic mediums include oil, watercolor, sculpture, and pencil.

Principal among the historic works of TDMHDD is “Myrllens Coat,”

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TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts (standing on the right) congratulates several members of the exhibit committee, including (front row) Louetta Hix, Park Center of Nashville; Parthenon Curator Susan Shockley, Jane Baxter, Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition; and Parthenon Assistant Curator, Brenna Cothran.



— HAPPENINGS —

• Criminal Justice/Mental Health Liaisons Network



front row from left to right: Tracy McKinnis-Carter, Liz Ledbetter, Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts, Tamarin Allen, Lorri Fennell; back row from left to right: Tracey Groves, Jody Reecer, Emma Long, Barbara Hobson, Danielle McRae, Roque Martinez, Tarra Kiehn, Lindsay Reeves, Cameka Sanderfur, Deborah Cloyd, Jan Cagle; Absent: Amanda Smart, Nicki Weth, Ashlee Cook.

Criminal Justice/Mental Health (CJ/MH) Liaisons come to Nashville three times a year from throughout Tennessee to participate in a two-day networking and training seminar hosted by the department. Commissioner Betts participated in the April network meeting, listening to the liaisons discuss issues and situations they encounter when working on behalf of persons with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance disorders within the criminal justice system. Liaisons work in jails, courts, and community mental health agencies along with district attorneys, public defenders and law enforcement officers. The liaisons facilitate communication/coordination between the community, criminal justice system, and mental health system to achieve common goals; support the establishment of services that would promote diversion activities; and provide activities for adults with serious mental illness who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration. In support of this work, the department contracts with nine agencies to provide service in 23 counties across the state. For more information, contact Liz Ledbetter in the Division of Policy and Legislation at (615) 741-9137 or Liz.Ledbetter@state.tn.us. ■

• Personnel Notes

Staff Changes in Managed Care Division

Allison McCarty, a Program Specialist III since November 2005, was promoted in February 2007 to the position of director of Contract Compliance for East and West Tennessee.

In April of 2007, **Mary Shelton** joined the Division of Managed Care as the director of Contract Compliance for Middle Tennessee.

Shelton has worked for TDMHDD for over 11 years. Prior to joining the division, she was in the Office of Hospital Services.

In March of 2007, **Theresa Shelton** joined the Division of Managed Care as director of Clinical Services. Shelton came to Managed Care from CCS-TN, an inpatient post-acute rehabilitation center serving the brain injury population.

Retirement

On May 15, 2007, **Ronnie Howell**, formerly the department's forms and records officer, retired from the department. Howell worked for TDMHDD in the General Services Section for over eighteen years. Howell was known for his dedication and extensive knowledge of property management and inventory. He was chosen as the department's *Employee of the Year* in 1995.

Robinson-Coffee is New Director of Licensure

Tracey Robinson-Coffee recently joined TDMHDD as the director of the Office of Licensure. Robinson-Coffee is an attorney with extensive knowledge of litigation at state and federal levels. Prior to her appointment, Robinson-Coffee had her own law office in Nashville and was affiliated with Blackburn & McCune, P.C. She also served for three years as an assistant state attorney for Dade County, Florida. Robinson-Coffee has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. John's University School of Law in Jamaica, New York. You can reach her at (615) 532-6586 or Tracey.Robinson-Coffee@state.tn.us.



Bob Currie Named Director of Housing and Homeless Services

Bob Currie comes to the department with 27 years combined experience in alcohol and drug abuse services and services to persons with mental illness. In addition to his eight years of state service with the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, including five years as an assistant commissioner, Currie has fifteen years of executive level experience with non-profit agencies. Since 2004, he has served as Regional Housing Facilitator for Davidson County/Metropolitan Nashville and has honed his expertise in housing and homeless services while in that position. You can reach him at (615) 532-4651 or Bob.Currie@state.tn.us.



— HAPPENINGS —

Central Office HIPAA Privacy Officer Named

Sandra Braber-Grove, attorney, is designated as the Central Office HIPAA Privacy Officer. Braber-Grove is responsible for interpretation and application of HIPAA regulations and processing of any complaints regarding the use and disclosure of protected health information (PHI). Contact her at (615) 532-6520 or Sandra.Braber-Grove@state.tn.us.



TDMHDD's Director of Pharmacy Jason Carter (center) instructs UT College of Pharmacy students Micah Cost and Erika Tritt on various medications and mental health disorders.

Pharmacy Students Intern At TDMHDD

From charts and records to pharmacy calculations, high school seniors and college students have an opportunity to learn from staff at the department's mental health institutes.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Nashville Sounds Host Suicide Prevention Awareness Night

Commissioner Betts threw the first pitch to recognize *Suicide Prevention Awareness Night* at the Nashville Sounds baseball game on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) was honored as the Purity charity of the night.



Commissioner Betts receives throwing tips from the Nashville Sounds' Mascot, Ozzie, before making the opening pitch.

health workers, and advocates who have achieved great things and fostered an attitude of hope, recovery, and resiliency.

Lynn McDonald, Chief Officer of Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, received the *Professional of the Year* award. McDonald's tireless commitment to nursing excellence and reorganization of the regional facility was cited as giving hope and a better quality of life and care to those who pass through the institute's doors.



The complete list of award-winners are:



TDMHDD was honored Tuesday, May 29, 2007 with a *10-Year Special Recognition Award* by NAMI-Nashville at the Sheraton Music City. The award highlighted a decade of departmental staff service and success in the development of programs and advocacy on behalf of Tennesseans with mental illness. The occasion was the annual *Ambassador of Hope Awards* for 2007 that recognized programs, consumers, mental

TDMHDD

10-Year Special Recognition Award

Garin Gamble

Consumer of the Year

Dr. Karen Rhea

Psychiatrist of the Year

Bob Currie

President's Award

Dr. Kimberly Brown

Outstanding Advocate in Criminal Justice

Tom Murdock

Educator of the Year

Tracy PeKovitch

Advocate of the Year

Lynn McDonald

Professional of the Year

Audrey Pessoni

Hope Award

Centerstone Community

Kitchen Culinary Arts

Program & Chef Willie

Jemison

Business Community

Partner of the Year

SOAR

Mental Health Program

of the Year

Sarah Burnett

Spirit Award

Access to Recovery...cont.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced the availability of funding for another three-year cycle of ATR services. It is estimated eighteen (18) grant awards will be made to states for up to \$7,000,000 per year for three years.

The department prepared a grant application to continue the important work of the past three years. A meeting was held with stakeholders to discuss the performance of the current ATR program as well as the division's vision for the future should Tennessee be funded for another three years. Competition for these new funds will be strong; however, the department is working hard, along with partners, to assure this important program of services continues. ■

Consumer Art...cont.

which has not been on display for many years and is maintained by the Tennessee State Museum. A video about the coat's creator, a patient at a state mental health facility in the early 1900s, is part of the exhibit.

The exhibit is funded by the Parthenon's Conservancy, TDMHDD, the Mental Health Cooperative, Centerstone, Park Center, NAMI Tennessee, the Tennessee Mental Health Consumers Association, and the Middle Tennessee Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., the exhibit is located in the Parthenon's East Gallery. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children and seniors. Visit www.parthenon.org for more information. ■

Addictions Conference...cont.

Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities' (TDMHDD) Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, TASA, also known as The Summit, elicited a diverse professional group of over 350 attendees from the substance abuse field to learn from each other as well as from nationally recognized experts in the field.

"This year's theme, '30 Years of History, 30 Years of Recovery, 30 Years of Excellence: Leadership for the 21st Century' truly reflected the impact this conference has had on the recovery community over three decades," stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "Our feature presentations detailed the latest evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, as well as highlighted strategies designed to build relationships with community and faith-based organizations to recognize and fight addiction."

A variety of experts from across the nation presented at the Summit including Jerry Moe, National Director of Children's Programs at the Betty Ford Center; published author Isabel Burk, Director of the Health Network; and Nashville singer/songwriter John McAndrew.

The public was invited to attend the Wednesday evening session from 7-9:00 p.m. at Belmont's Massey Performing Arts Center. William Cope Moyers, author of *Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption*, discussed overcoming addiction, identifying three factors that indicate progress, and applying techniques to relate to positive behaviors beyond victimization. An award-winning journalist, Moyers has worked at CNN, Newsday, and various other newspapers around the country. ■

TDMHDD Update Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Volume 12, Number 2 May/June 2007 Issue

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Published bi-monthly by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities. First Class at Nashville, Tennessee. Postmaster: send address changes to TDMHDD/OPIE, 5th Fl. Cordell Hull Bldg., 425 Fifth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37243.



Published online and in print, bi-monthly by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Postmaster: send address changes to TDMHDD/OPIE, 5th Fl. Cordell Hull Bldg., 425 Fifth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37243