

BETTER TOGETHER

A Collaborative Response to Improve Outcomes for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Homeless outreach providers and personnel;
- Local law enforcement personnel;
- Community behavioral health and crisis response professionals; and,
- Other stakeholders who directly impact homeless outreach and engagement efforts.

This training opportunity emphasizes **capacity building, cross-system collaboration, and evidence-based practices** (such as trauma-informed, peer-led or peer-focused, and recovery-oriented approaches within outreach and crisis response systems) for professionals working at the intersection of homelessness, serious mental illness (SMI), and justice involvement. The training is intended to specifically encourage and foster the strengthening of collaboration among behavioral health providers, law enforcement, courts, and homeless services partners to improve outcomes for people with SMI or co-occurring disorders (COD) experiencing homelessness.

SPEAKER



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Director of Co-Response Services

MHC Mental Health Cooperative

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



Understand Cross-System Roles

- Identify the roles of behavioral health, law enforcement, homeless outreach, and community partners.
- Recognize how collaboration improves outcomes.



Apply Evidence-Based Practices

- Use effective engagement and de-escalation strategies.
- Connect individuals to appropriate behavioral health and housing resources.



Strengthen Local Collaboration

- Improve communication and referral pathways across agencies.
- Support coordinated community responses.



Navigate Community Resources

- Identify crisis services, diversion programs, peer supports, housing resources, and specialty courts.
- Integrate resources into coordinated care.



Create an Action Plan

- Identify three opportunities to strengthen local partnerships.
- Develop practical next steps to improve community collaboration.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE	WEST TENNESSEE	SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE	EAST TENNESSEE
August 14, 2026	August 20, 2026	September 3, 2026	September 15, 2026
10:00am - 2:00pm Central	10:00am - 2:00pm Central	10:00am - 2:00pm Eastern	10:00am - 2:00pm Eastern
DoubleTree Hotel 1850 Old Fort Parkway Murfreesboro, TN	DoubleTree Hotel 1770 US Hwy 45 Bypass Jackson, TN	DoubleTree Hotel Hamilton Place 2232 Center Street Chattanooga, TN	Regas Building 318 North Gay Street Knoxville, TN

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CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This event has been submitted to the National Association of Social Workers – Tennessee Chapter for consideration of 3.0 CE units. **Approval is pending.**



This project is funded under a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Secure Your Seat



This training is supported by grant funding that does not permit the provision of food or beverages. A one-hour lunch break has been built into the agenda to allow participants time to purchase lunch at nearby locations and return for the afternoon session. To help ensure your comfort throughout the day, we encourage you to bring a refillable water bottle and a light snack to stay hydrated and energized.