

Bridging the Gaps

Enhancing Behavioral Health Treatment and Support for Tennesseans

TAMHO Annual Conference

December 4-5, 2025



Wednesday, December 3, 2025

5:00pm - 7:00pm **Salons 7-10**

EXPO Hall | Display Table set-up

Thursday, December 12, 2024

8:00am - 4:30am **Conference Foyer**

Registration

8:00am - 9:00am **Salons 7-10**

Networking, Refreshments, & EXPO Hall

9:00am - 9:15am **Salons 1-5**

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Brian Buuck, *TAMHO President, Chief Executive Officer,*
Ridgeview Behavioral Health, Oak Ridge, TN

Alysia Smith Knight, *Executive Director,* Tennessee
Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO),
Franklin, TN

9:15am - 10:15am **Salons 1-5**

Shared Goals, Shared Solutions: Advancing
Housing Stability and Behavioral Health in
Tennessee

Opening Remarks: Alysia Smith Knight, *Executive*
Director, Tennessee Association of Mental Health
Organizations (TAMHO), Franklin, TN

Moderator and Panel Introductions: Ben Middleton,
Chief Executive Officer, Centerstone Tennessee, Nashville,
TN

Panelists :

Laurie Powell, *Chief Executive Officer,* Alliance Healthcare
Services, Memphis, TN

Jessica Carlton, MSSW, *Director of Homeless & Recovery*

Services, McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN

Amanda Bracht, *President and Chief Executive Officer,*

Park Center, Nashville, TN

Neru Gobin, *Director, Office of Housing and Homeless*

Services, TN Department of Mental Health and Substance

Abuse Services, Nashville, TN

10:15am - 10:30am **Salons 7-10**

Networking Break, EXPO Hall, &

Refreshments

10:30am - 11:30am **Salons 1-5**

From Loss to Legacy: Transforming Systems
to Better Serve Individuals with Co-
Occurring Disorders

Opening Remarks and Speaker Introduction: Cindy

Sneed, *Director of TN Co-Occurring Disorders*

Collaborative (TNCODC), Tennessee Association of Mental
Health Organizations (TAMHO), Franklin, TN

Speaker: Stephanie Marquesano, *Founder & President,*
the harris project, Westchester, NY

11:30am - 11:45am **Salon 6**

Transition to Awards Luncheon & Ceremony

11:45am - 1:30pm **Salon 6**

TAMHO Annual Awards Ceremony &
Luncheon

Welcome Remarks: Chloe Ligon-Smith, *Director of*
Policy & Advocacy, Tennessee Association of Mental
Health Organizations (TAMHO), Franklin, TN

Opening Remarks: Alysia Smith Knight, *Executive*
Director, Tennessee Association of Mental Health
Organizations (TAMHO), Franklin, TN

President's Remarks: Brian Buuck, *TAMHO President &*
Chief Executive Officer, Ridgeview Behavioral Health

Services, Oak Ridge, TN

Ceremony Emcee: Michael Yates, *Director of*

Development, Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services, Oak
Ridge, TN

1:30pm - 1:45pm **Salons 1-5**

Transition to General Session

1:45pm - 2:45pm **Salons 1-5**

Prevention in Action: Bringing Co-Occurring
Disorder (COD) Prevention to Schools and
Communities

Opening Remarks and Speaker Introduction

Chloe Ligon-Smith, *Director of Policy and Advocacy,*
Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations
(TAMHO), Franklin, TN

Speaker

Stephanie Marquesano, *Founder & President,* the harris
project, Westchester, NY

2:45pm - 3:00pm **Salons 7-10**

Networking Break, EXPO Hall, &

Refreshments

3:00pm - 4:15pm **Salons 1-5**

The Overlooked Overlap: Building Better
Pathways for IDD and Behavioral Health

Opening Remarks and Panel Introduction: Jimmie

Jackson, *Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer,*
Professional Care Services of West TN, Inc., Covington, TN

Session Moderator: Bruce Davis, PhD, BCBA-D, Sr. LPE,
LPC, *Deputy Commissioner of Clinical Services,* TN
Department of Disability & Aging, Nashville, TN

Panelists

Kristie Hammonds, *President and Chief Executive Officer*,
Frontier Health, Gray, TN

Robert Edmonds, *Senior Vice President of Operations*,
Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro,
TN

Renea Bentley, EdD, LPC/MHSP, *Executive Director -*
Behavioral Health, Wellpoint, Nashville, TN

Nora Buckley, *Chief Operations Officer*, MHDS, Inc.,
Jackson, TN

Adjourn for Day 1

Friday, December 13, 2024

8:00am - 8:30am..... **Conference Foyer**

Registration

8:00am - 8:30am..... **Salons 7-10**

Networking, Refreshments, & EXPO Hall

8:30am - 10:00am..... **Salon 1-5**

Everyday Kindness: The Art & Science of Gratitude and Compliments

Opening Remarks and Speaker Introduction: Mona

Blanton-Kitts, *President and Chief Executive Officer*,
McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN

Speaker: Laura Leone, DSW, MSSW, LMSW, *Senior*
Consultant, National Council for Mental Wellbeing

10:00am..... **Conference Foyer**

4:15pm..... **Conference Foyer**

CONTINUING EDUCATION

A certificate of continuing professional development for
up to **5.75 CE units or contact/clock hours**
will be made available by TAMHO to all participants
upon request for documentation of clock/contact hours
earned during this conference.

Please use these QR codes to access evaluation forms
and request documentation for the CEs you earned
during this event. Visit the conference landing page,
using the QR code for complete CE details.



EVALUATION FORMS



DOCUMENTATION OF
CEs EARNED

It is the responsibility of the event attendee to use their professional judgment, to justify that the continuing educational programs attended meet the
guidelines of their respective licensure or certification boards/agencies and is relevant to their professional practice.



PRIZE DRAWINGS

Visit the exhibitors and become eligible for the Door Prize Drawing.

One drawing for a \$100 gift card and two drawings for a \$50 gift card.

Winners will be announced at the 3:00 General Session closing on December 4th.

When you visit an exhibitor, have them initial your prize card. Once completed, place in the
prize drawing container at the TAMHO Registration Desk by 3:15pm on December 4th.

WiFi Access TAMHO2025

**FREE WIFI IS PROVIDED BY
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel.**

TAMHO AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

Leaders and Longevity

Frank G. Clement Community Service
Award

Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award

Andrea R. Chase Impact Award

Emerging Leader Award

Distinguished Service Award

Community

**Engagement and
Outreach**

Media Award

Outreach and Engagement
Award

Peers

Personal Courage Award

*Courage to Overcome One's Own
Mental Health Challenges*

*Advocacy and Support of a Loved
One Who Has Overcome Mental
Health Needs*

Direct Service

Innovation and
Creativity Award



11:45pm – 1:30pm (Central) | Salon 6



CONFERENCE LANDING PAGE

COMPLIMENTARY CHAIR MASSAGE

Thanks to the generous support of our
sponsors, complimentary Chair Massages are
available throughout Day 1 of the conference.

See therapists to book your massage time.

NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS

**TAKE TIME TO
NETWORK, STRETCH
YOUR LEGS, GRAB A
SNACK OR BEVERAGE
IN BETWEEN
SESSIONS**

**FIND THE PERFECT
SEAT TO ENJOY
LUNCH AND THE
ANNUAL AWARDS
CEREMONY**



**PRE-EVENT
REFRESHMENTS**
8:00AM-9:00AM | Day 1 & 2
SALONS 7-10

**MID-MORNING
REFRESHMENTS**
10:00AM-10:15AM | Day 1
SALONS 7-10

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION
CEREMONY & LUNCHEON**
11:45AM-1:30PM | Day 1
SALON 6

**MID-AFTERNOON
REFRESHMENTS**
2:45PM-3:00PM | Day 1
SALONS 7-10

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUESTS



A meal card has been
provided in your name badge
holder if a dietary
consideration was submitted
during pre-registration.

**Please present your meal card to
wait staff who will attend to
providing your special meal.**