



PRESS RELEASE

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Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) Bestows Highest Honors for 2014 *Elects Leadership for 2015*

Nashville, December 2, 2014 The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently bestowed its highest honors during their annual Annual Conference at Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

TAMHO President's Award and Recognitions

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, United States Senator



The TAMHO President's Award is given at the discretion of the President of the TAMHO Board of Directors. It is given at the discretion of the outgoing TAMHO President of the Board to recognize extraordinary contributions to the field of mental health.

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Recognition of Same Day Access Initiative Participants

In 2013, seven TAMHO members participated in a Same Day Access learning opportunity offered by National Council on Behavioral Health. The initiative provided technical assistance and support to assist providers in transforming their systems to offer initial appointments on the same day an individual requests it.

The importance of access to behavioral health services cannot be overstated. There is consensus among providers and payers that appointment timeliness leads to improved outcomes. For providers contracted with the TennCare managed care companies, appointments are required to be offered within specified periods of time.

The participating providers in this initiative included: Alliance Health, Carey Counseling Center, Centerstone, Professional Counseling Services of West TN, Quinco Mental Health Center, Ridgeview and Volunteer Behavioral Health.* The results of the initiative are impressive. We are excited that TAMHO members are taking the lead in transforming the way services are offered in TN. We look forward to additional service delivery improvements in the months ahead.

* While these providers participated in the initiative, other TAMHO providers also have same day appointments available.



Photo 1 (L-R) Andrea Chase, Clinical Director, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN; **Shana Parker**, Millington Site Director and Clinical Supervisor, Professional Care Services of West TN, Covington, TN; **Phyllis Persinger**, Chief Administrative Officer, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro, TN; **Susan Bell**, Vice President of Clinical Services, Alliance Healthcare Services, Memphis, TN; **Stacy Park**, Outpatient Services Director, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN; **James Fehrman**, Clinic Manager, Centerstone Tennessee, Lewisburg, TN; **Darvis Gallaher, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, Quinco Mental Health Center, Bolivar, TN

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Photograph #_04A0324 (cropped)



Photo 2 E. Douglas Varney, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) Nashville, TN
<http://hisimage.shootproof.com/tamho>
Photograph #_04A0327 (cropped)



Photo 3 Robert N. Vero, Ed.D., CEO, Centerstone Tennessee, Nashville, TN
<http://hisimage.shootproof.com/tamho>
Photograph #_04A0674 (cropped)

Frank G. Clement Community Service Award

The Honorable Douglas Henry, Jr., Senator, Tennessee General Assembly, Nashville, Tennessee



The TAMHO Frank G. Clement Community Service Award honors individuals who have provided exemplary leadership and volunteer service on behalf of TAMHO or a TAMHO member organization to greatly benefit the community at large. Individuals nominated for this award are frequently known as the “unsung heroes” who provide a valuable resource that strengthens the community based behavioral health system and supports the mission of TAMHO and its members.

(L-R) The Honorable Douglas Henry, Jr., Senator, Tennessee General Assembly, Nashville, TN; **Robert N. Vero, Ed.D.**, CEO, Centerstone Tennessee, Nashville, TN
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Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award

Leann Human-Hilliard, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, Tennessee



The TAMHO Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award honors a behavioral health professional who has provided significant contributions over an extended period of time to the behavioral health system that will have a far reaching and long lasting positive impact on the quality and/or scope of behavioral health services in Tennessee.

(L-R) Leann Human-Hilliard, Vice President for Adult Services; Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN
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Distinguished Service Award

Charles E. Good, CEO/President, Frontier Health, Gray, Tennessee

The TAMHO Distinguished Service Award recognizes extraordinary and long-standing dedication and achievement on behalf of TAMHO or a TAMHO member corporation. Consideration is given to the longevity of service and the significance of overall contributions to the community behavioral health organization, TAMHO, and the community based system at the community and state level.



(L-R) Charles E. Good, CEO/President, Frontier Health, Gray, TN; Elyn Wilbur, Executive Director, TAMHO, Nashville, TN

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Personal Courage Award

The TAMHO Personal Courage Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies courageousness in facing personal challenges presented by mental illness in order to provide effective leadership, advocacy, or support for programs that serve others through the public service delivery system.

Two awards given for 2014:

Linda Munday, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, Tennessee



Ms. Munday offers such an inspiring story of overcoming life's challenges. From the complex trauma of abuse in early childhood, to moving from city to city in multiple foster homes, to aging out of the system and finding herself pregnant and homeless, Ms. Munday found help, found hope, and has broken the cycle of abuse. She is not only raising her son in a way that was not afforded to her, but has also become a passionate advocate for others.

(L-R) Isiah Munday, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN; Stephanie Rollins, Service Coordinator, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN; Linda Munday, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knoxville, TN

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Kenneth L. Barton, Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association, Nashville, Tennessee



Kenneth L. Barton has faced many challenges and has removed many barriers in his lifetime. He knows the pain of losing loved ones early in life, living in foster care, being homeless and he knows the real struggles that accompany depression. Ken understands that recovery is minute by minute, day by day.

Kenneth L. Barton, Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association (TMHCA), Nashville, TN

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MEDIA AWARD

The TAMHO Media Award recognizes members of the print and electronic media who have made outstanding contributions through their professional activities to Tennessee's behavioral health system and the people it serves.

Two awards given for 2014:



WCYB-TV | WCYB-TV has been providing coverage for nearly 60 years in Northwest Tennessee as well as surrounding areas and is an important community partner with Frontier Health. In addition to breaking news, WCYB covers local news that specifically addresses community and behavioral health news. As part of their commitment, WCYB-TV regularly schedules local health care experts to provide awareness, support and solutions.

Accepting the Award on behalf of WCYB-TV . . . **Randy Jessee, Ph.D.**, Senior Vice President of Specialty Services, Frontier Health, Gray, TN

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Herald-Citizen | It is important to embrace radio, television and print media. Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System has done just that by building a strong relationship with the Herald-Citizen newspaper. The Herald-Citizen newspaper and its associated reporters have been invaluable partners as they have brought awareness to behavioral health needs of the people in the Upper Cumberland region and have also emphasized the importance of treatment and recovery services.

(L-R) **Chris Wyre**, CEO, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro, TN; **Vickie Harden**, Senior Vice President of Grants and Business Development, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro, TN; **Mike DeLapp**, Editor, Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN; **Shelba Hodges**, Director Plateau MHC, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Cookeville, TN

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Program of Excellence Award

The TAMHO Program of Excellence Award spotlights programs at TAMHO member corporations that have been exceptionally creative, exceptionally successful or have achieved exceptional outcomes.

Three recipients for 2014 . . .

- Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System – **Mission Accomplished: Stable Housing (M.A.S.H.)**
- Ridgeview – **Scott/Morgan Targeted Outreach Program (S.T.O.P.)**
- Lowenstein House – **Lowenstein House Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program**

Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System – **Mission Accomplished: Stable Housing (M.A.S.H.)**



Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System's Mission Accomplished: Stable Housing program also known as MASH seeks to end homelessness among Veterans and their families. This program serves Central and Southern Appalachia, including the Upper Cumberland and Southeast regions of Tennessee. Volunteer has structured the program in an innovative way that insures community buy in and enhances opportunities for outreach that is attuned to the culture and needs of rural Tennessee.

(L-R) **Staff of Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System** | **Chris Wyre**, CEO; **Vickie Harden**, Senior Vice President of Grants and Business Development; **Carla Mohammed-Lawson**, MASH Outreach Coordinator; **Connie Farmer**, MASH Program Director; **Ronald Rohrbach**, MASH Outreach Coordinator; **Daniel Bailey**, MASH Representative Payee

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Ridgeview – Scott/Morgan Targeted Outreach Program (S.T.O.P.)

Ridgeview's Scott/Morgan Targeted Outreach Program, known as S.T.O.P., is an innovative, substance abuse treatment program that addresses key accessibility barriers to behavioral health services in several rural counties. They have expanded their tele-health to connect individuals in these remote, rural areas from different counties to participate simultaneously in substance abuse treatment groups.

(L-R) **Richard Chirip**, Director of Community Services, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN; **Shawn Yantis**, Recovery Specialist, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN; **Brooke Claborn**, Recovery Specialist, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN; **Melody Morris**, STOP Program Director, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN; **Hannah Samawi**, Recovery Specialist, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN; <http://hisimage.shootproof.com/tamho> Photograph #_04A0755

Lowenstein House – Lowenstein House Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program

A remarkable Program of Excellence, especially in the area of Consumer Advocacy

(L-R) **Lowenstein House, Memphis, TN** – **Brian Maxwell**, **Adrenne Burton**, **April Hunter**, **June Winston**, Executive Director
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Service Award**THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE**

Robert Vaughn, Executive Director, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN



The TAMHO Service Award – established to annually honor those members of its Board of Directors who have contributed through longevity of tenure. The award recognizes tenure of service of ten or more years with presentations made at each five-year increment.

(L-R) **Robert Vaughn**, (Secretary) CEO, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN; **Elyn Wilbur**, Executive Director, TAMHO, Nashville, TN; <http://hisimage.shootproof.com/tamho> Photograph #_04A0837

TAMHO 2014 Leadership Election

Photograph – left to right



(L-R) **Robert Vaughn**, (Secretary) CEO, Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN; **Charles E. Good**, (Immediate Past President) CEO/President, Frontier Health, Gray, TN; **Elyn Wilbur**, Executive Director, TAMHO, Nashville, TN; **Robert N. Vero, Ed.D.**, (President) CEO, Centerstone Tennessee, Nashville, TN; **Chris Wyre**, (President Elect) CEO, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro, TN
Not Pictured: **Mary Claire Duff**, (Treasurer) Chief Financial Officer, Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN; **Liz Clary**, (2015 Secretary) CEO, Peninsula Behavioral Health, Knoxville, TN
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The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently elected officers for 2015 at the organization's recent annual meeting held in Murfreesboro. **Chris Wyre**, chief executive officer/president, **Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Murfreesboro, TN**, will serve as **President**. He will succeed **Robert N. Vero, Ed.D.**, chief

executive officer, **Centerstone of Tennessee, Nashville, TN**, who will remain on the board as **Immediate Past President, Robert Vaughn**, chief executive officer, **Carey Counseling Center, Paris, TN** was elected **President Elect** and **Liz Clary**, chief executive officer, **Peninsula Behavioral Health, Knoxville, TN** will serve a two year term as **Secretary**. **Mary Claire Duff**, chief fiscal officer, **Ridgeview, Oak Ridge, TN**, remain on the board as **Treasurer** completing the second year of a two-year term.

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The trusted voice for Tennessee's
behavioral health system for more
than half a century.

www.tamho.org

The trusted voice for Tennessee's behavioral health system for more than half a century, the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) is a statewide trade association representing Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) and other not-for-profit corporations that provide behavioral health services. These organizations continue to meet the needs of Tennesseans, from all age groups and socioeconomic levels, with a mental illness or substance abuse diagnosis. The TAMHO member organizations have been the virtual cornerstone of the community-based behavioral health system throughout the state since the 1950s and today serve as the primary provider network for the TennCare Program.

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