

# Mississippi PROFILE

A Publication of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health

SPRING 2017

## MISSISSIPPI AWARDED \$3.58 MILLION TO COMBAT OPIOID CRISIS

U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) announced in April that the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) will receive \$3.58 million in federal funding to combat opioid addiction and overdose related deaths.

of Pharmacy. DMH has also been a participant in the governor's Opioid and Heroin Study Task Force. The efforts of these agencies will address not just illicit drugs like heroin, but abuse of prescription opioids as well.

health issues like back pain, abuse and dependence of those opioids, like hydrocodone, has skyrocketed. This has led to an uptick in the use of heroin as people begin to seek out opioids when they are no longer able to get prescriptions.

The State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will allow Mississippi to expand access to opioid treatment, implement a broad range of prevention strategies, train health care providers, and continue to improve prescription drug monitoring throughout the state.

**“Every opioid prescription has the potential to lead to addiction, and unfortunately, that’s all too often how addiction has started for many Mississippians.”**

“Last year, I assembled a task force to develop strategies to fight opioid addiction and overdoses in Mississippi,” said Governor Phil Bryant. “We must have every resource available to stop this scourge, so I am grateful to Sen. Cochran and everyone else involved in securing this funding to allow the Department of Mental Health to join us in this fight.”

The grant will allow DMH to continue collaborative efforts with other state agencies and continue its efforts to combat this epidemic. DMH is already collaborating with multiple state agencies, including the Department of Public Safety, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, and the Mississippi Board

“Prescription drug abuse is a significant problem in our country and our state right now,” said Melody Winston, Director of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Services at DMH. “People often think that just because a prescription came from a doctor, they don’t have anything to worry about when taking it. Every opioid prescription has the potential to lead to addiction, and unfortunately, that’s all too often how addiction has started for many Mississippians.”

As opioid prescriptions became more widespread in recent years for common

Opioids were responsible for over 33,000 deaths in the United States in 2015, according to HHS. The Mississippi Department of Health attributes many accidental overdose deaths in Mississippi to a high level of opioid painkiller prescriptions.

**“The opioid problem in Mississippi is serious, and this funding will help**

provide the state the resources needed to continue to address the issue,” Senator Cochran said. “Mississippi health officials will be able to use this funding to improve treatment options and prevent unnecessary deaths.”

In all, HHS is making \$485 million available to all 50 states, the District of Columbia and six U.S. territories. These grants are formula based and administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grantee in Mississippi is the Department of Mental Health.

Supporting a *better* tomorrow...**TODAY!**



**MISSISSIPPI PROFILE  
SPRING 2017**

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

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The Mississippi Profile is devoted to providing the public with information about services provided or administered by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. It also strives to increase public awareness and knowledge about mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, substance use, and Alzheimer's disease and other dementia to improve health and quality of life.

This publication is free of charge to persons interested in mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use, Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, or the individuals it serves. It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to comply with federal and state laws assuring equal opportunities of employment and services.

The editor reserves the right to edit all materials printed in this publication. Send requests for items to be included in the newsletter and other inquiries to:

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you for reading the Spring issue of Mississippi Profile, the Department of Mental Health's quarterly newsletter. We have a lot of good news to share in this issue, and there are several things I'd like to be sure to mention. The most recent news we have received is that DMH is the recipient of a \$3.58 million grant to fight opioid addiction and overdose deaths in our state. The efforts being made to fight opioid and heroin addiction are needed both here and throughout the country. We look forward to working with other state agencies to develop and implement treatment and prevention programs due to this grant.



You will also see a story about a group of people who recently received a designation as Parent/Family Caregivers, an expansion of the Certified Peer Support Specialist Program. These are people who will be providing information, support, and advocacy to families receiving services from the mental health system. They will play an important role in our system as we move forward.

Another story in this issue will give you look at a number of evidence-based and best practices that are in use at DMH programs around the state. Evidence-based practices are practices that have been proven to work and are successful in helping people recover from mental illnesses and substance use disorders. It is important for our state to know that DMH and community providers are using programs and practices that bring those successes to people in need, and you can read about some of those here.

One other story I hope everyone gets a chance to read is about a young man from the Mississippi coast who receives services through The Arc of Mississippi. Noah Duffy was able to spend a week during the legislative session as a legislative page. Stories like his are a reminder of why we do what we do. Thanks to everyone who has supported Noah and everyone else served by the state's mental health system.

Sincerely,

Diana S. Mikula  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Department of Mental Health

# DMH HOSTS FIRST PARENT/CAREGIVER TRAINING FOR PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

The first Certified Peer Support Specialists with a designation of a Parent/Caregiver completed their training at the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) this past March. DMH offered the training as part of the agency's continued transformation to a person-centered and recovery-oriented system of care. The Parent/Caregiver designation is an expansion of the Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) Program.



Pictured are participants Marshia Moody, Kizzy Kidd, Ekoko Onema, Wanaki McDuffy, Lois Childs-O'neal, Jessica James, Cheryl Pollock, Jacquelyn Ratcliff, Ramona Russum, Shayonne Thigpen, Stacie Webb, Kimberly Benefield, LaShell Steward, and Dr. Joy Hogge.

"As a parent, this training opened up new and innovative possibilities and knowledge of what is needed to gear in on what is happening in our communities," said Marshia Moody, Parent/Caregiver Trainer and a CPSS Ambassador. "As a professional, this is a benefit of knowing up to date information, resource centers, acknowledgement of partnerships, as well as changes within the state. This training also teaches us the root information and strategies needed to go out with confidence and reassurance to teach and educate others."

Dr. Joy Hogge, Executive Director of Mississippi Families as Allies, was the other Parent/Caregiver Trainer for this program. She said sometimes parent-to-parent support is seen as an extension of adult peer support, but it is not.

"It is focused much more on supporting resiliency of families rather than supporting a particular person who is in recovery. It also focuses on all the systems children naturally engage in," Dr. Hogge said.

DMH received a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop the Parent/Caregiver designation by creating a customized training for parents and caregivers of children and youth with a mental illness or substance use disorder. The agency contracted with Families as Allies to lead the way in developing the Parent/Caregiver curriculum and training. The results of their efforts are CPSSs who will

be able to provide support to parents and caregivers as they navigate the state's mental health system for their children. In order to become a CPSS with the Parent/Caregiver designation, a person must successfully complete the application requirements and the training, which includes an examination.

Although Mississippi has a successful CPSS training program geared toward adults in recovery, this

new designation of peers focuses on those who will be working with children with behavioral health issues. The training is a customized, two-day block within the current CPSS training program.

"Parent/Caregivers differ from other peer support specialists as they must be a current parent/caregiver with the experience of raising a child/youth between the ages of birth to 21 with an emotional, mental or a behavioral disorder," said Jackie Chatmon, DMH Division of Children and Youth.

The core tasks of the Parent/Caregivers are to provide information, support, and advocacy; help families navigate the state's mental health system; help family members understand options and make informative decisions; and promote productive partnerships between parents and professionals. Those tasks can take place in different settings ranging from Individual Education Plan meetings, Making a Plan teams, Programs of Assertive Community Treatment, and Mobile Crisis Response Teams.

"Research indicates that parent/caregiver peer support can have a positive impact for others who have children with serious mental health challenges," Chatmon said. "It can improve coping skills, increase hopefulness, reduce stress, and increase social connectedness. Peer support may also increase treatment engagement."



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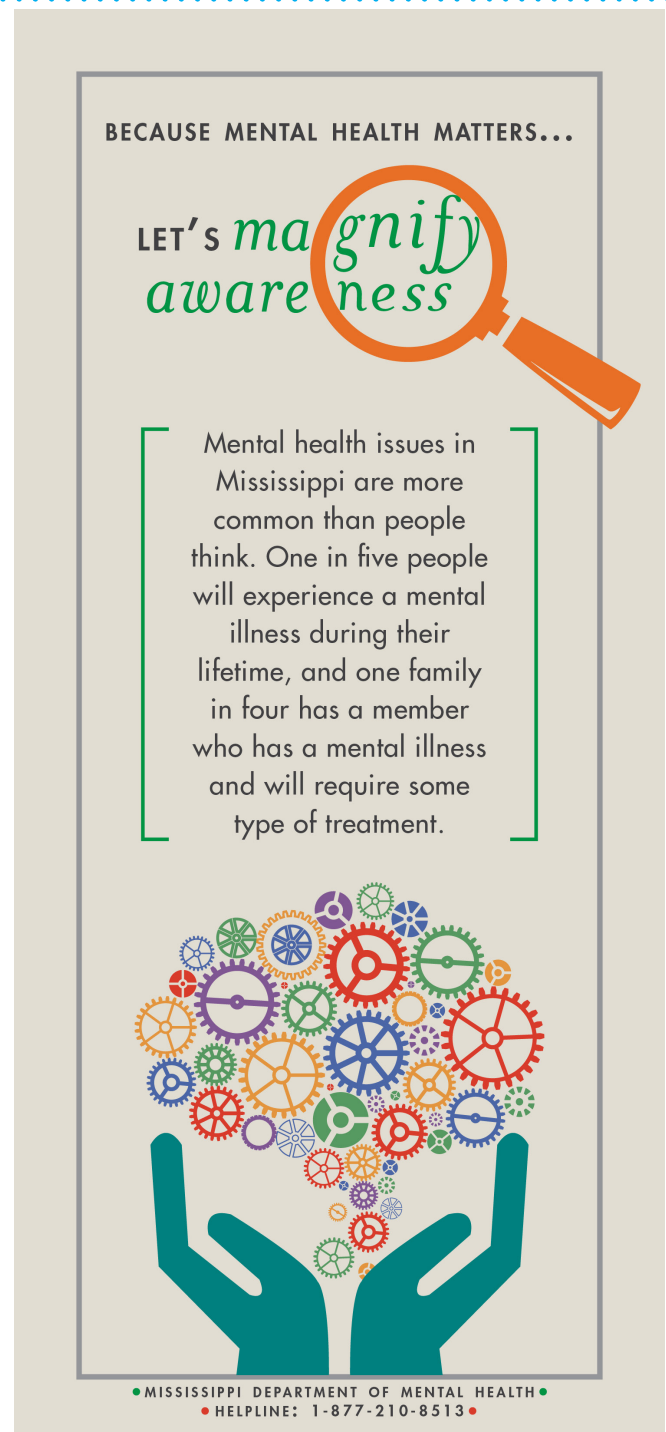
DMH hosts several Peer Support Specialist trainings each year. As part of the Parent/Caregiver designation, the agency has also developed a two-prong proactive outreach plan to target both parents/caregivers who are interested in becoming CPSSs and providers who are interested in employing CPSSs.

The first training held in March was well-received by participants, several of whom were already CPSSs. During the first two days of training, all participants met together in learning modules geared towards all

participants. During the final two days, participants split into their respective groups. Several participants attended only the final two days to take part in the new Parent/Caregiver modules and provide feedback for the trainers.

“Families as Allies was thrilled to be selected to develop the curriculum for this program and to train the trainers,” said Dr. Hogge. “It was very touching to train the first group and for them to report that the training addressed the real world needs of families. They were an amazing and spirited group.”

*In recognition of May as Mental Health Month, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) will be sharing important facts about mental health to encourage Mississippians to “Magnify Awareness Because Mental Health Matters.” Visit DMH’s Facebook page for more facts throughout the month of May.*



## NOAH DUFFY, ARC CLIENT AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Noah Duffy of Pascagoula spent a week in March serving as a legislative page for Senator Michael Watson. The son of Sean and Kim Duffy, and younger brother to Paul and Joseph Daniel, Noah is a client of The Arc of Mississippi who has received services through the ID/DD Home and Community Based Waiver Program.

He is a sophomore at Resurrection Catholic High School in Pascagoula, where he plays on the basketball team. He is an enthusiastic sports fan, and plays in the Dream Program's inclusive sports leagues. Noah is also a Boy Scout with Troop 220 and working towards his last required merit badge before he earns his Eagle Scout Award. He loves Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack.

Noah enjoyed his week serving as a legislative page. He first met Senator Watson approximately five years ago, when his wife, Lauren Watson, started the Dream Choir. Noah has been an enthusiastic member ever since. He enjoys singing and performing with his fellow choir members.



*Pictured are (l to r) Department of Mental Health Executive Director Diana Mikula, The Arc of MS Director Matt Nalker, Senator Michael Watson, Noah and his fellow legislative pages, Annie Perkins, Bailey Bass and Olivia Randle, and DMH Deputy Executive Director Steven Allen.*

His mother, Kim, works with The Arc of Mississippi, an advocacy organization that promotes the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and supports their inclusion and participation in the community. The Duffy family first became involved with The Arc of Mississippi when Noah was only three years old. Noah looks forward to the annual disability MegaConference every year.



## William Gates retires as Director of Mississippi Adolescent Center

William Gates, Director of Mississippi Adolescent Center in Brookhaven, retired from the Department of Mental Health at the end of April. Mr. Gates was named the director of Mississippi Adolescent Center

(MAC) in 2014. MAC began operations in 1999 as a Department of Mental Health program and is dedicated to providing comprehensive services to adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a specialized setting. The goal of MAC and its staff is to return each person to their home to lead a fulfilling and productive life. As Director, Mr. Gates was responsible for the overall success of MAC, managing all aspects of its operations. He was also responsible for new program development and service and support growth in southwest Mississippi.

Mr. Gates first joined DMH as a Direct Support Professional at Boswell Regional Center in 1991, later going on to hold numerous management positions during his tenure with the department. A licensed Nursing Home Administrator and Mental Health Administrator, he received his Master in Business Administration from William Carey University and his Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Belhaven University.

Additionally, he is a Certified Public Manager through the Mississippi State Personnel Board and the National Consortium of Certified Public Managers, a graduate of State Executive Development Institute sponsored by The John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, and a graduate of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Accelerated Leadership Development Program, Focus.

# EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

## A PRIORITY FOR DMH

Increasing and tracking the use of evidence-based and best practices is a priority for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH). During the first half of FY17, DMH conducted a survey of its 12 Programs to determine the evidence-based practices and best practices being utilized and if they are being monitored to fidelity.

DMH is working to compile a list of these practices which will be available at the end of FY17. Some of the practices being used at DMH's six behavioral health programs include:

### **Illness Self-Management**

**and Recovery:** The Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) Program helps people set meaningful goals for themselves, acquire information and skills to develop more mastery over their psychiatric illness and make progress towards their own personal recovery. Specifically, research and educational materials cover four areas of symptoms: schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depression.

### **Family Psychoeducation**

**(FPE):** Family Psychoeducation (FPE) is an approach for partnering with consumers and families to treat serious mental

**Increasing and tracking the use of evidence-based and best practices is a priority for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.**

illnesses. The goal is that practitioners, consumers and families work together to support recovery.

### **Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy:**

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) is an evidence-based treatment that has been evaluated and refined during the past 25 years to help children and adolescents recover after trauma. Children and parents learn new skills to help process thoughts and feelings related to traumatic life events; manage and resolve distressing thoughts, feelings and behaviors related to traumatic life events; and enhance safety, growth, parenting skills and family communication.

### **Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP):**

Wellness

Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) is a manualized group intervention for adults with mental illness. WRAP guides participants through the process of identifying and understanding their personal wellness resources ("wellness tools") and then helps them develop an individualized plan to use these resources on a daily basis to manage their mental illness.

In addition, DMH has added a component to its site visit monitoring for DMH Certified Providers to collect information on the number of evidence-based practices and best practices being utilized and if they are being monitored to fidelity.

Over the last five years, DMH has providing funding and/or support to community providers to offer specific evidence-based practices. These programs would not be possible without the funding provided by the Mississippi Legislature and/or federal grants. Community Mental Health Centers have expanded service provision to support these programs in order to help people receive services and remain in their communities as they embrace their recovery.

### **Programs of Assertive Community Treatment Teams (PACT):**

Mississippi now has

*continued on page 7*



eight PACT Teams operated by the following Community Mental Health Centers: Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services, Life Help, Pine Belt Mental Health (operates two PACT - one on the Gulf Coast), Hinds Behavioral Health, Weems Community Mental Health Center, Region III Mental Health Center and Timber Hills Mental Health Services. PACT is a person-centered, recovery-oriented, mental health service delivery model for facilitating community living, psychological rehabilitation and recovery for persons who have the most severe and persistent mental illnesses and have not benefited from traditional outpatient services. In FY 16, there were 85 new admissions to PACT Teams in addition to the 164 already being served.

**Wraparound Facilitation for Children:** In partnership with the Division of Medicaid, DMH has provided introductory training to approximately 500 mental health professionals over the past three years. Fourteen coaches have been identified and are in the process of gaining certification from the University of Maryland Innovations Institute. In FY16, 2,960 children and youth were provided wraparound facilitation. In FY13, University of Southern Mississippi, School of Social Work was funded to develop an Institute for Wraparound Facilitation and Development.

In FY16, 462 wraparound facilitators were trained.

**Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS):** A CPSS is an individual or family member of an individual who has self-identified as having received or is presently receiving behavioral health services. A CPSS has successfully completed formal training recognized by DMH and is employed by a DMH Certified Provider. These individuals use their lived experiences in combination with skills training to support peers and/or family members with similar experiences. Mississippi began the CPSS program in 2012 and currently has more than 150 active CPSSs.

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** In 2015, the Mississippi Home Corporation partnered with DMH to develop an integrated permanent supported housing project. This project ensures people with a serious mental illness who are housed as a result of permanent supportive housing have the opportunity to live in the most integrated settings in the community of their choice by providing an adequate array of community supports/services. This program began implementation in March 2016. Known as CHOICE—Creative Housing Options in Communities for Everyone—it provided housing vouchers to 48 people during FY16.

**Supported Employment for Individuals with Mental Illness:** In January 2015, DMH provided funding to develop four pilot sites to offer Supported Employment to 75 individuals with mental illness. The sites are in Regions 2, 7, 10 and 12.

Supported Employment, an evidenced-based way to help people diagnosed with mental illnesses secure and keep employment, begins with the idea that every person with a serious mental illness is capable of working competitively in the community. In FY16, the DMH Supported Employment Pilot Program assisted 108 individuals on their road to recovery by helping them to become employed in the openly competitive job market.

**Navigate:** This evidence-based program is being piloted through a Coordinated Specialty Care team to assist individuals, 15-30 years of age, who have experienced their first episode of psychosis. This recovery-oriented approach bridges existing resources for this population and eliminates gaps between child, adolescent, and adult mental health programs. In FY16, Region 6 Life Help Mental Health Center piloted the NAVIGATE program through the PACT Team. Region 13 has also received a grant to begin implementation of the NAVIGATE program.

## MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL HOSTS CHANCERY CLERKS



Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) hosted 79 of Mississippi's 82 Chancery Clerks for a tour on March 8 as part of their state conference.

The group, which also included members of the Mississippi Judicial College and Deputy Clerks, toured the Male Receiving Treatment Mall, Admissions and the Museum at the hospital. Clinical staff from all disciplines of the Male Receiving Unit took time to educate the clerks about MSH acute services.

At lunch, Service Chiefs from other programs were available to provide information and answer questions. Dr. Maria Scarbrough and Dr. Barbara Fishgrab of Oak Circle Center, Dr. Susan Taylor of Substance Use Services and Dr. Reb McMichael and Dr. Thomas Recore of Forensic Services participated in that session. Dr. Robert Maddux, Clinical Director, and MSH Director James Chastain also were on hand throughout the tour.

A survey at the start of the tour indicated that 36 participants had positive perceptions of MSH and 41 had positive perceptions of persons with mental illness. At the end of the tour, 74 had positive perceptions of MSH and 69 positive perceptions of persons with mental illness.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

The Mississippi Legislature adjourned sine die on March 29, bringing their regular session for the year to a close. A number of bills passed this session that will involve the Department of Mental Health or the people the agency serves. Below are some of those bills, along with some information about their impact.

**“Thanks goes out to anyone and everyone who has advocated for the people served by the state’s mental health system.”**

- SB 2976 – This is the department’s appropriations bill. It does represent a cut to the agency and DMH, like many other state agencies, is facing difficult decisions to determine how to live within the budget it has received. All DMH Programs and the DMH Central Office will be looking at ways to continue efforts to streamline and consolidate functions and research available community options for some services.
- HB 263 – This bill originally related to defining behavior that is considered bullying. An amendment was made to this bill later in the session that requires DMH to work with the Department of Education on a model policy regarding suicide awareness training for school districts to adopt. Starting with the upcoming school year, all school districts will be required to have suicide awareness and training for all employees. DMH is looking forward to working with the Department of Education on this initiative.
- HB 996 – This bill allows pharmacies to have standing orders for an opioid antagonist that would be available to anyone. With this bill in effect, anyone who fears their family members

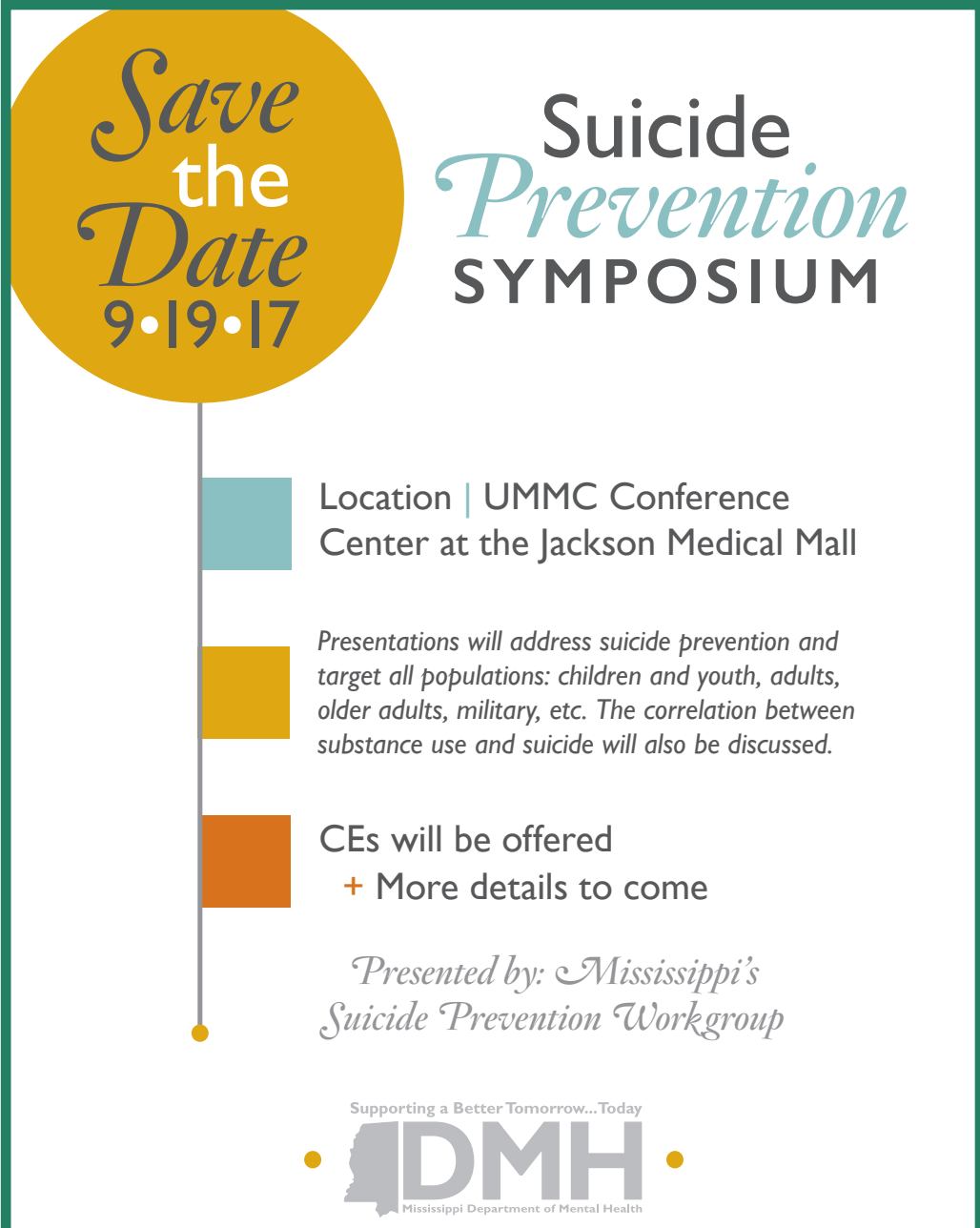
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or loved ones may be at risk of an overdose will be able to go to a pharmacy and get a medication that reverses the effects of an opioid.

- HB 1089 – Named the Rivers McGraw Mental Health Diversion Pilot Program Act, this bill sets up a pilot program for mental health courts in several circuit court districts in the state. When these pilot programs are set up, their goals will include improved links between the criminal justice system and the mental health system.
- SB 2194 – Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is even more potent than morphine. SB 2194 includes fentanyl on the list of Schedule I drugs. This drug has been a driver behind the rising numbers of overdoses in our state. Allowing law enforcement greater ability to prosecute its abuse will hopefully help keep this dangerous drug off the streets.
- SB 2311 – The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act allows the creation of individual, tax-exempt accounts for people with disabilities. These accounts can help pay for disability-related expenses. The Department of Rehabilitation Services will be administering this program, but it will no doubt be of great benefit to many of the people DMH serves.

These bills have the potential to save and improve the lives of Mississippians. Thanks goes out to anyone and everyone who has advocated for the people served by the state's mental health system. Everyone who reached out to their legislators during this session to support these bills has helped make a difference in the lives of patients and clients DMH serves.



*Save the Date*  
9•19•17

# Suicide Prevention SYMPOSIUM

Location | UMMC Conference Center at the Jackson Medical Mall

*Presentations will address suicide prevention and target all populations: children and youth, adults, older adults, military, etc. The correlation between substance use and suicide will also be discussed.*

CEs will be offered  
+ More details to come

*Presented by: Mississippi's Suicide Prevention Workgroup*

Supporting a Better Tomorrow...Today

**DMH**  
Mississippi Department of Mental Health

# MENTAL HEALTH DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Department of Mental Health staff gathered in the rotunda at the Mississippi Capitol on Wednesday, March 15 to share information about mental illness and the department's behavioral health programs.

In Fiscal Year 2016, 5,811 people were served in the department's behavioral health programs. It is estimated that one out of every five people will experience a mental illness at some point during their life. If you or a loved one needs help, please don't hesitate to seek or encourage someone to get help. Contact the DMH toll free help line 24 hours a day at 1-877-210-8513. Thanks to the legislators and everyone else who visited with us at the Capitol this year to hear about the services provided by the Department of Mental Health.





# death • cost

# and

# destruction

## *The Impact of Opioids in Your Community*

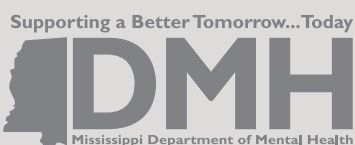
**In MS, 1 in 10 people misuse prescription drugs.**

Continued misuse eventually leads to physical dependence, followed by full-scale mental addiction when a person loses the ability to stop the misuse on sheer will power alone. No community, city, or county in our state is immune to this disease. Addiction is in fact a chronic disease, not a moral failing or a lifestyle choice. Addiction does not discriminate. It occurs in families from all walks of life, regardless of age, sex, race, income, religion or education. Understanding the problem and prevention are keys to keeping you and your loved ones safe. Prescription drug abuse has surged 400% in the past decade. More teens say it is easier to acquire prescription drugs than it is to buy beer. According to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, for the past three years there were 486 reported drug overdoses in Mississippi. Of those reported, 394 were opioid related. Therefore, more than 81% of the reported overdoses were a result of the illusive and cunning beast known as opioid addiction.

During this event, you will hear from a panel with representation from across the state and your local community. You will also hear from someone who has been personally impacted by the destruction of opioid addiction. The goal is to learn more about this topic and what you can do to help reduce the death and destruction caused by opioid addiction.

**May 23, 2017 | 6:30 p.m.**

**Brandon Civic Center | 1000 Municipal Drive | Brandon, MS**



**For more information, visit:**

[www.dmh.ms.gov](http://www.dmh.ms.gov)

[www.mbp.ms.gov](http://www.mbp.ms.gov)

[www.dps.state.ms.us](http://www.dps.state.ms.us)



# Person-Centered and Recovery-Oriented Training Continues at DMH

With more than 150 Certified Peer Support Specialists now working in the state's mental health system, Mississippi has shown its commitment to a person-centered and recovery-oriented system of care (PC-ROSC) that utilizes peers and family members throughout its network of service providers.

Since July 2016, the Department of Mental Health's Division of Recovery and Resiliency has conducted and presented trainings to promote a person-centered and recovery-oriented system of care (PC-ROSC) in Mississippi's mental health system. The division's signature "Golden Thread" training has been its premier training conducted for DMH Certified Providers throughout the state to provide the most proficient approach to assessment and treatment planning, all delivered through the lens of recovery.

"We worked with Community Mental Health Centers first, and are now working with other DMH Certified Providers," said Sherry Bouldin, Director of the Division of Recovery and Resiliency. "DMH also offers technical assistance after we have completed training. Every DMH Certified Provider will have a chance for us to come in and enhance their standards process based on the Department of Mental Health's own recovery standards."

The participants trained in the "Golden Thread" have consisted of peers, case managers, support coordinators, therapists, special teams/workgroups, and administrators. One Certified Peer Support Specialist Professional (CPSSP) training class in the fall of 2016 consisted of 26 participants, with 15 of them becoming Certified Peer Support Specialists within a month, bringing the current number of CPSSPs to 155. These are individuals employed in the state's mental health system who provide support to adults with mental health and substance use issues.

In 2016, as part of the continuing transformation to a PC-ROSC, DMH also established a Personal Outcome Measures campaign in partnership with The Arc of Mississippi to provide state-wide, face-to-face training and technical assistance. This training has been ongoing during FY17 to integrate Personal Outcome Measures (POM) into Mississippi's system of care.

By the end of January 2017, every service provider had an opportunity to take part in this training and request technical assistance.

"In FY18, as a follow-up, each provider will be assessed again by utilizing the POM process and results will be compared with the previous assessment," Bouldin said. "In addition, our CPSSP training has been revised to better integrate the recovery model standards and include another level of peer support called Parent/Caregiver."

Along with the overall certification in Peer Support, this training gives peers an opportunity to increase their knowledge and support as a parent or caregiver. The curriculum encompasses two full days of training (12 hours) focused on parents' and caregivers' engagement as a peer. The first training in this specialized area was conducted in March 2017.

**'Golden Thread' training has been its premier training conducted for DMH Certified Providers throughout the state...**

# INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DAY RECOGNIZED AT THE CAPITOL

The Department of Mental Health recognized Intellectual and Developmental Day at the Capitol on March 22. Families, advocates, and people with disabilities all gathered at the Capitol to help bring awareness to Mississippians with these disabilities and their needs.

The term intellectual/developmental disability (IDD) covers a broad range of conditions, many of which are often misunderstood. An intellectual disability is characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning and difficulties in a variety of everyday social and practical skills. A developmental disability is attributed to a cognitive or physical impairment that results in limitations in areas such as self-care, language, and mobility.

DMH is responsible for the development and implementation of services to meet the needs of people with IDD. This public service delivery system is comprised of five state operated comprehensive IDD programs, a state operated program for youth who require specialized treatment, 14 regional community mental health/IDD centers and other non-profit community agencies/organizations that provide community services. Community Services are available throughout the state for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thanks to everyone who came out to recognize this event with DMH!

