



# SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES™

Addressing underlying conditions of wellbeing and justice, for all to reach their full potential

# Community Connections

A Newsletter of the Shelby County Government's Division of Community Services

## Springing Forward with Data

### A Message from the Director's Office



Over the past few weeks, the Division of Community Services has been buzzing with discussions about data. We have hosted an internal Data 101 training for staff, as well as coordinated our first webinar with the Shelby County Health Department to review local health data that will help us make decisions about how and where services are delivered.

We recognize that data collection and analysis is the responsibility of us all. It is part of our everyday decisions, serves as a means to improve process and service delivery, and is a valuable tool in determining where resources are allocated.

If you are anything like me, data can seem a little bit intimidating and overwhelming. I am not as comfortable with numbers as others. Many times I feel that data can't or won't capture the intangible value of our mission to walk alongside people most in need, which raises the questions of, "how to quantify hope." Or, when something isn't working, does it mean that we are not doing a good job or just an opportunity to tweak the process? There is just so much data, often I don't even know where to start!

Whether you think of yourself as a "data novice" or a "data nerd", there is no disputing how useful data is for the provision of the services that reflect the best possible impact and outcomes for clients. Data allows us to determine how well our services are working. It allows us to change course when they aren't working so well. Data helps us to figure out all of the essential questions for our system- who, what, where, when and how.

Moving into this new season brings hope and new possibilities. We are excited about opportunities yet to be discovered and milestones to be achieved as we strive towards becoming a more data driven team. So join the challenge as my team and I Spring Forward into DATA!

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#### Vision Statement

The Shelby County Division of Community Services strives to be a highly organized team and partner, dedicated to promoting a strong community where all people are able to reach their full potential.

#### Mission Statement

The Division of Community Services promotes ongoing economic security and independence for the people of Shelby County. We do this by promoting, coordinating and delivering services that address the underlying conditions for wellbeing and justice.

## We Are Live on Facebook!

CONNECT WITH THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE INITIATIVES ON



GET THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT PROGRAMS, NEW INITIATIVES, UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS, AND MORE.

FIND US

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## The Division Insider: Office of Justice Initiatives Behavioral Health Unit

The Shelby County Division of Community Services' Office of Justice Initiatives' Behavioral Health Unit coordinates Shelby County's response to persons with severe and persistent mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system. The Behavioral Health Unit assists persons in various stages of involvement in the criminal justice system, pre adjudication and post adjudication.

**Mission:** To reduce the risk of recidivism for justice involved persons who experience mental illness and co-occurring condition.

**Goal:** To reduce the recidivism of individuals in the criminal justice system

### Service Delivery Snapshot

- Provides pretrial services
- Supports persons participating in Mental Health Court
- Assists persons who are being offered probation in lieu of incarceration
- Evidence based practices to promote individual and community safety
- Collaborates with community behavioral health and support services
- Provides community supervision
- Assesses and procures appropriate community based support for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, so they might secure and maintain their health



## Behavioral Health Unit Programs

**The Mental Health Advocate – Pretrial Service program** is designed to assist persons with serious mental illness, mental illness, co-occurring disorders and substance abuse disorders who come in contact with the criminal justice system due to arrest and deemed eligible for pretrial services. The Mental Health Advocate program addresses the service goals of assuring that persons with these diagnoses charged with crimes return for court dates and managing the risk to public safety when these persons are released from incarceration prior to adjudication of charges. Mental Health Advocates assist them by serving as their liaison within the justice system and with helping clients make plans to maintain their health.

**Shelby County Mental Health Court** diverts persons who are severely and persistently mentally ill from the traditional criminal justice system and engages them in comprehensive community based mental health services and/or substance abuse treatment, medical care, housing, childcare, transportation, education, and vocational programs while being judicially monitored. It is the intent of the Mental Health Court to structure supports and services for persons that can be maintained after participation in the court is complete and avert future episodes of incarceration.

**The Criminal Justice/Behavioral Health Liaison Project** is a community based project which facilitates communication and coordination among community, criminal justice, and behavioral health systems to achieve common goals of decriminalizing mental illness, co-occurring disorders and substance abuse disorders: to support the establishment of services that would promote diversion activities for persons with these diagnoses who come in contact with the criminal justice system due to arrest: and provide liaison and case management services to those who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration. The goals of the project are: early identification of persons with serious mental illness, mental illness, co-occurring disorders, or substance abuse disorders who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration; divert them to behavioral health and community services; continue to develop working relationships and sustainable systems between criminal justice, behavioral health, and the community, and improve the understanding of needs and rights of persons with serious mental illness, mental illness, co-occurring disorders, or substance abuse disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system.

For information contact, Kim Daugherty, LMSW, Deputy Administrator, [Kim.Daugherty@shelbycountytg.gov](mailto:Kim.Daugherty@shelbycountytg.gov), (901) 222-2043. Success Story Continued on page 3.





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## Mental Health Court Success Story

When the Mental Health Court Team met Mr. Smith, his housing was unstable, his behavioral health condition of Schizophrenia was untreated, and he was using crack cocaine regularly. Mr. Smith had been charged with crimes approximately 169 times over the past 26 years. In the year prior to his beginning participation in the Mental Health Court he had been charged with a crime 15 times.

His Public Defender was very familiar with Mr. Smith and was seeking a long term solution for Mr. Smith to break the cycle of his frequently being jailed and having a difficult time maintaining his health. Staff began

assistance to persons participating in the specialty courts in Shelby County. While participating in Mental Health Court he resided at Judicare where he participated in groups for his alcohol and drug addiction, received regular care for his Schizophrenia at a local mental health center, and reestablished his disability benefits.

Mr. Smith recently graduated from the Mental Health Court Program. The criminal conviction he received prior to



### *“Charged with 169 crimes over the past 26 years”*

working with Mr. Smith and found he had been in treatment sporadically at best over the years. Additionally, we found that at one time he had received Supplemental Security Benefits due to his disability but that the benefits had been discontinued due to his unstable housing and frequent incarceration.

The Mental Health Court Team arranged for Mr. Smith to receive inpatient drug and alcohol treatment. After successfully completing the treatment Mr. Smith participated in the Judicare program, a residential program unique to Shelby County that offers

participating in Mental Health Court was expunged and he is now residing in a care home that is suited to assist him in managing his behavioral health needs. At graduation, Mr. Smith said, “I just want to thank you all for helping me, I am just so thankful”. His Mental Health Court Case Manager Tiffany Hilson commented, “I am so proud that Mr. Smith took advantage of all the support and services offered by Mental Health Court which allowed him to progress and change the circumstances of his life.”

*The name in this story has been changed to protect the person’s identity and the image is a stock photo.*

## Clinical Supervision for Staff Seeking Licensure

There are many positives about working for the Division of Community Services. One is the opportunity to work with staff that has diverse fields of training and levels of education. Many employees who have been inspired by their colleagues in the Division have decided to return to school to learn more or to become licensed in their field.

Licensure enables a clinician to take on tasks and jobs with more responsibility. Having licensed staff boosts the Division’s image, enables us to offer more services, to attract university students for clinical internships and gives staff the opportunity to give and receive high level supervision. Once professionals receive their licenses, they can obtain jobs with greater responsibilities and higher pay. Each field has its own licensure rules, regulations and requirements. Many require supervision by someone who has obtained a clinical license.

Being able to offer clinical supervision is helpful when recruiting staff that have degrees but are fairly new to the workplace. Employees

seeking supervision for their licensure are often put in the position of having to pay a private consultant for their supervision, often as much as \$100.00 per week! Not so if you work in the Division of Community Services. We have staff that can provide supervision for Social Workers who are working towards becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) at no cost to the employee.

Division staff who are licensed in other fields may be able to offer supervision for Licensed Professional Counselors or for a Marriage and Family Therapy license. The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach is committed to helping our employees provide the best services possible and we are here to help make that happen. Please get in touch with Ms. Whalley at [anna.whalley@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:anna.whalley@shelbycountyttn.gov). If you are interested in LCSW supervision or if we can help you find someone to supervise you in your field.





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## Interested in Scheduling a Speaker or Inviting Us Participate in Your Community Event?

The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach (OCEO) of the Division of Community Services has designed a new system to coordinate requests to participate in community events or speak at professional meetings. A request form can be accessed through the Shelby County website at [www.shelbycountyttn.gov](http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov) and then by following these steps:

You will be connected to a page explaining the request process and a simple form to fill out and submit.

The OCEO staff then forwards it to the department best suited to meet your needs. You should receive a call regarding the event and who will be working with you within two working days!



1. Go to the **Government** drop down.
2. Click on **Community Services** under the Divisions list.
3. On the right side of each page, you will notice a sentence stating, "[Click here to request a speaker or a presentation at a community event or health fair.](#)"

We encourage you to go to the webpage and take a look for yourself to see just how easy the process is. We hope that this streamlined approach will make the process easier for you. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call or contact Anna Whalley at 222-2092 or [anna.whalley@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:anna.whalley@shelbycountyttn.gov).

## Find Us Around Town at Neighborhood Events!

### Shelby County Community Services is Coming to a Location Near You!

Join Us at the One of the Community Events Listed Here to receive information about the following :

- Services for older adults & adults with disabilities
- Rent , mortgage, & medical prescription assistance
- Services for multicultural & Hispanic individuals
- Criminal justice services
- Veterans services
- Victims services

\*\*\*Services available on site at these events

- APRIL 7TH FRAYSER COMMUNITY FAMILY FUN DAY @ ED RICE COMMUNITY CENTER\*\*\*
- APRIL 17TH GARDEN OF LIGHTS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL @ MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN
- APRIL 19TH STAND WITH SURVIVORS EVENT IN HONOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH ON THE CAMPUS OF LEMOYNE -OWEN COLLEGE
- MAY 1ST SENIOR EXPO
- MAY 12TH MIRACLE IN MAY COMMUNITY DAY @ GREATER FAITH TABERNACLE MINISTRIES
- JULY 21ST GREATER NEW KINGDOM \*\*\*





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## Community Spotlight: Brooks Art Therapy Access Program

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art offers an Art Therapy Access Program that is designed to provide a supportive and creative environment for the participants to develop and explore their personal narratives through art-making and gallery discussions.

The Art Therapy Access Program at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art partners with area organizations such as Juvenile Intervention and Faith-Based Follow-up (JIFF) to provide a multi-visit outreach program that includes art-making sessions with a registered art therapist, museum tours, family/caregiver tours, and an exhibition of the resulting artwork.

The program strives to facilitate ideal conditions in which the participants can establish or improve a positive self-image. Through therapeutic art making directives that incorporate a

variety of media, participants gain new problem solving and coping skills, and learn how art can be used as a tool to stabilize their mood and affect.

### Specific Group Goals:

- Alzheimer's or Dementia Groups: Encourage art-making as a tool for communication, evoke familiar feelings, and increase confidence.
- At Risk Youth Groups: Establish or improve a positive self-image and gain new problem solving skills.
- Veterans: Increase confidence and encourage emotional expression.

To learn more about the Art Therapy Access Program and the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art visit [www.brooksmuseum.org](http://www.brooksmuseum.org)



## Upcoming Events!

**13TH ANNUAL  
GARDEN OF LIGHTS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL  
MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN  
TUESDAY, APRIL 17TH AT 6:00PM  
HOSTED BY  
THE CRIME VICTIMS CENTER'S  
HOMICIDE RESPONSE PROGRAM**



*The event is open to the public and is held at the Homicide Memorial Garden near the Japanese Gardens. The purpose for the Homicide Memorial Garden is to serve as a living legacy and tribute to the many people who lost their lives to homicide in Memphis and Shelby County. It is a sanctuary for the survivors of homicide to mourn, remember, and honor their loved ones. It also serves as a place for them to engage in the healing process in a tranquil, safe and sheltered environment.*

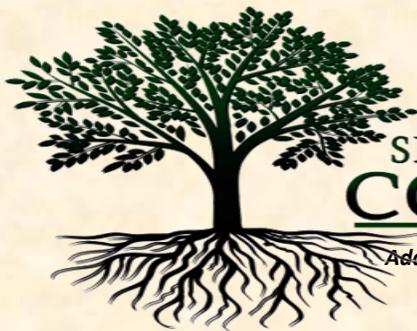
### OTHER EVENTS IN HONOR OF CRIME VICTIMS WEEK AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

**Friday, March 30th:** Love Doesn't Hurt event to raise funds for victims of domestic violence in the LGBTQ community. We will see you at the Haven (206 G.E. Patterson), doors open at 7:30pm, show at 8:30pm. \$7 cover or bring donations of hygiene products or liquid laundry detergent. For more info, contact Phillis Lewis at [lewisphillism@gmail.com](mailto:lewisphillism@gmail.com).

**Saturday, April 7th:** The Memphis and Shelby County Domestic and Sexual Violence Council, the CVC/RCC, and the Memphis and Shelby County Family Safety Center will have a tent at the 4th Annual Sista Strut 3K Breast Cancer Walk. Stop by our tent at the Liberty Bowl Stadium at 8:00am.

**Saturday, April 14th:** The Memphis and Shelby County Domestic and Sexual Violence Council is hosting the 3rd Annual Race Against Sexual Violence 5K at 9:00am and the CVC/RCC's Annual Crime Victims' Rights Awards will be held immediately following the run. Please register for the 5K here...and Nominate someone for an award today.





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Published by the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach for the Shelby County Division of Community Services  
Keisha Walker, Administrator

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**  
In support of survivors of sexual violence and the #MeToo Movement

#MeTooShelbyCounty #USTooShelbyCounty  
#MeTooLOC #USTooLOC

# STAND *With* SURVIVORS

PRESENTED BY  
The Shelby County Rape Crisis Center & LeMoyné-Owen College's HBCU Wellness Project

## EVENT SCHEDULE

- COLLEGE PANEL DISCUSSION 9a-10a
- EMPOWERMENT MARCH W/LIVE BAND 10:15a-11:30a
- LUNCH ON THE LAWN (LUNCH PROVIDED) 12p-1p
- SPEAKERS & BALLOON RELEASE 1:15p-1:35p
- SPECIAL GIVEAWAY 1:45p-2:05p
- MIXER & CLOSING REMARKS 2:05p-3:00p

## WHO'S INVITED

SURVIVORS, SUPPORTERS, ORGANIZATIONS, COLLEGE STUDENTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, COMMUNITY LEADERS, PROFESSIONALS, ETC.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS  
**FREE PARKING ON CAMPUS**

**APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**9a-3p**  
LeMoyné-Owen College Campus  
807 Walker Avenue

For more information and to register to be a vendor use the links below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-with-survivors-ustooShelbyCounty-ustooloc-tickets-44106655193>

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScC4vsJ654sMdgS1cEAJw8J5qOR-jgNRzNb32Ghto7\\_uLTIag/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScC4vsJ654sMdgS1cEAJw8J5qOR-jgNRzNb32Ghto7_uLTIag/viewform)



Shelby County Government Division of Community Services  
Shelby County Mayor's Administration  
Dorcas Young Griffin, Director  
[www.shelbycountyttn.gov](http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov)



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