

## Training to Strengthen Self Reliability



As we lean in to giving our Persons Supported the resources they need to lead more independent lives, we understand our obligation to make sure they have the tools they need. With many of them spending an increasing amount of time self-supervised, we knew fire safety was an area to prepare them for. “The skills to react to a fire emergency are valuable to anyone,” states CEO, Nora Buckley. “We were pleased when our MAPs Manager, Brandon Scarmardo, brought the idea of teaching the PASS method of fire safety to us.”

“Most homes are equipped with fire extinguishers but knowing how to use them effectively is important,” shared Brandon. “When I contacted the Jackson Fire Department, they were pleased to connect me to Duane Seals, Community Risk Reduction Specialist.” Mr. Seals recently provided on-site training for several of our program participants who are currently or striving to lead more independent lives in their own homes. You can view the video results of the training [here](#).

## The Council on Quality & Leadership Update



Tina Taylor, Tomika Barbour, Kimerly Brown, Nora Buckley, Allison Boyd, Krystal Rushing, Karla Goodman, Shalita Wells, Chad Buckley, and Deana Shephard pose with commemorative pins marking MHDS achieving levels of CQL accomplishment.

These partners along with additional MHDS staff participated in a update session to further our commitment to retaining our CQL status.

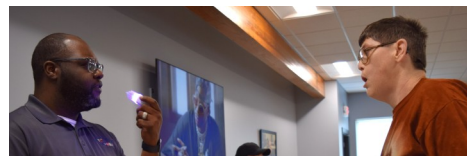
## Harmony Health Dental Pilot Program



We were privileged to be the first provider agency to partner with Harmony Health to provide salivary testing to participating persons supported. The test involves analyzing saliva to detect health markers like bacteria, enzymes and hormones which provide insights into a person’s overall health and potential diseases.

“If we can determine a person’s risk level with this simple test, we can hopefully avoid more costly and potentially traumatizing treatments later,” commented CEO, Nora Buckley. “We always prefer to take a proactive approach to wellness care.”

To learn more about Harmony Health and it’s services, please click [here](#).

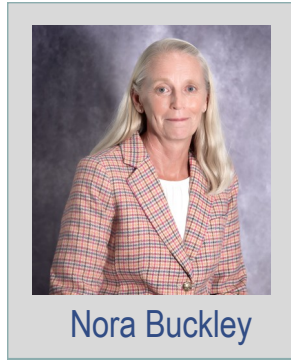


## Need To Know

- 7/2 July 4th Celebration  
615 Moss Lane, Bolivar
- 7/3 July 4th Holiday
- 9/7 Labor Day Holiday
- 10/2 Golf Tournament

Full Calendar on [website](#).

## CEO Focus



At MHDS, we believe that every person who wants to work deserves the opportunity to do so with the right supports, meaningful choices, and pathways for growth. I am proud to share the incredible progress our Employment and Community teams have made this spring in advancing that vision across West Tennessee.

These dedicated teams have expanded community employment to 48 individuals now successfully employed across 38 different businesses. This milestone reflects not only strong partnerships but also the persistence and creativity of our staff in matching each person's strengths and goals with meaningful work.

A key component of this success has been the integration of the Empower Works training, developed by Kelly Sorrells. This program has provided individuals with valuable insight into workplace expectations, helping them build confidence and develop the skills necessary to succeed in competitive employment.

We are also excited to welcome Jenny Faulkner to our Selmer location and Vanessa Ferguson as a Job Developer. Both have already made a positive impact, strengthening our ability to connect individuals with employers and expand opportunities in meaningful ways.

Our community partnerships continue to grow as well. We are grateful to organizations such as Savannah Bowling Alley, Empire Theater, and the Jackson Family Fun Center for opening their doors and creating inclusive opportunities for the people we support to engage, connect, and thrive.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our Employment and Community departments across all three locations. Their work goes beyond job placement. It's about building relationships, fostering independence, and ensuring that each person we support has access to a full and meaningful life in their community.

Thank you to our teams and community partners for making this important work possible. Together, we are building stronger opportunities and brighter futures.

*Nora*



Kelly Sorrell  
Director of Employment  
& Community Services



Jenny Faulkner  
Employment Coordinator  
Certified Job Coach  
Selmer



Vanessa Ferguson  
Job Developer  
Bolivar & Selmer



Staff Reservations  
will be made  
through  
your Department  
as assigned.



*Mental Health & Developmental Services*

You are cordially invited to join us  
as we reflect on 250 Years  
of Our Great Nation  
and the Legacy of Leadership  
of Retiring Tennessee  
Representative Johnny Shaw

Thursday, July 2, 2026  
11 am - 1 pm  
Program & Lunch  
615 Moss Lane, Bolivar TN

Please RSVP by 6/29 at  
731.664.0855

Nora Buckley, CEO  
Bill Brewer, Retired CEO  
& The Board of Directors

## Mental Health Month



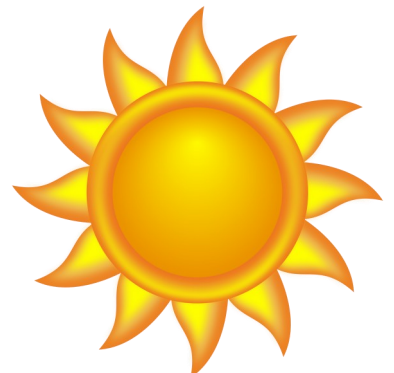
## Bingo



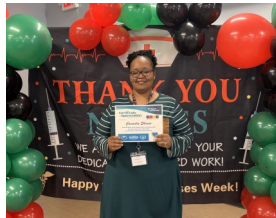
## Redbone's Steak Nights



## ABB Memorial Day Cookout for Selmer



# Nurses Week



United Way  
of West Tennessee

# Spring Banquet!



Mail:  
P O Box 11205  
Jackson TN 38308  
www.mhds.org

Admin/Program Centers:  
27 Conrad Drive  
Jackson TN 38305  
731.664.0855

Program Center:  
615 Moss Lane  
Bolivar TN 38008  
731.658.4404

Program Center:  
1431 Peach Street  
Selmer TN 38375  
731.645.7730

Proudly serving Madison, Hardeman, McNairy, Haywood and other area counties.