



# Easterseals TN

**ALL ABILITIES. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.**

Medicaid Alternative Pathways to Independence (MAPs) is a new program at Easterseals Tennessee that provides individuals with the tools, enabling technology, and support they need to live life independently, to create a network of people, places, and activities in their community, secure employment, and find hobbies that interest them.

## The MAPs Program Enables Those Supported to Accomplish Personal Goals

Brittney is a determined, hard-working, optimistic young adult who has become confident, independent, and self-reliant since participating in the Medicaid Alternative Pathways (MAPs) program through Easterseals Tennessee.



Her journey to success began after she was initially approved for the Tennessee CHOICES program. Subsequently, Brittney’s mother heard about MAPs, discussed the option with her daughter, and then enrolled her. As soon as Brittney and the staff at Easterseals Tennessee met, they realized Brittney was enthusiastic and committed to the MAPs opportunities. First, Brittney set goals for herself and took advantage of the Enabling Technology funded through the MAPs program. With the guidance of her MAPs mentor, Brittney learned how to use a smartwatch, smartphone, and tablet to enhance her independence, help her study, and ultimately receive her High School Equivalency Test diploma, all within nine months. Brittney was able to equip her family home with other Enabling Technology tools, such as a smart smoke detector, Ring doorbell, an Alexa, and smart lightbulbs to help her with mood regulation, all components to support her when she is home alone. An induction stove top with cookware is next on Brittney’s wish list. When asked, Brittney expresses that beyond the technological benefits, the most valuable outcome of MAPs has been making friends. Brittney now has a small group of young adults she met through the MAPs program. She video chats with them and they enjoy activities like going to the local pottery painting studio. Brittney and her mother commented that she had never made a friend before participating in MAPs. Brittney now enjoys visiting the library and has visited the local Chamber of Commerce to learn more about the people and places in her neighborhood.

The impact of the MAPs program on Brittney’s future appears limitless. She has learned how to cook and has created a cookbook to assist her with meal planning and preparation. Her next steps include exploring and securing a job that will encompass caring for either pets or people in need. Brittney is interested in attending college, so she recently took a tour of Chattanooga State.

Brittney’s smile, attitude, and willingness to tell her story all exemplify that she is on the pathway to a bright future and fulfilling her potential. Her mother is equally elated over Brittney’s successes and self-sufficiency. Both mother and daughter recognize that Brittney’s personal goals, because of her MAPs experience with the support of Easterseals Tennessee, have exposed her to greater opportunities and inclusion that will enable her to live her best possible life.



## 2024 Adult Summer Camp and Fall Weekend Camp Enjoyed By All



Easterseals Tennessee’s recreation camps for adults were a hit this summer and fall. Adult campers explored their interests and talents through activities like swimming, canoeing, archery, pontoon boat rides, campfires, and karaoke. Camp is a time to meet up with old friends, make new friendships, and build self-confidence, while offering families much-needed respite from their daily caregiving responsibilities.

For information about Adult Camp visit the Easterseals Tennessee website.

## Recent Happenings



Congratulations to Direct Support Professional, Ty (right), who received the DSP of the Year – CHOICES Middle Region award at a Managed Care Organization (MCO) Luncheon.



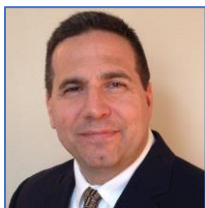
Congratulations to Home Lead, Eboni (left) who was awarded the Outstanding DSP-West at the Tennessee Community Organizations (TNCO) Luncheon.



Congratulations to Residential Manager, Jesse (left) who was awarded the Outstanding Manager – Middle at the Tennessee Community Organizations (TNCO) Luncheon.

Not only is Easterseals Tennessee proud of these three staff; but it is wonderful to know that outside entities recognize and applaud the dedication and care each one provides to the individuals Easterseals Tennessee supports.

## President and CEO Corner



*Tim Ryerson, President and CEO*

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2025 will be here soon and Easterseals Tennessee leadership have been very active on finalizing the next 3-years of strategic priorities which focus on expansion efforts and providing exceptional services across Tennessee.

A few of the organizations high-level priorities are as follows:

- Create, nurture and solidify a robust Easterseals Tennessee that is always driven by the mission of the organization
- Client & member excellence focused on targeted results both from quantitative and qualitative evidence
- Continue executing a clear marketing and awareness strategy throughout Tennessee
- A technology centric process with systems that have critical thinking abilities to utilize data and support decision making
- Diverse revenue streams that increase funds enhancing program supports across all communities in Tennessee

The mission continues to guide Easterseals Tennessee to focus on making a profound positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities as they learn, work, and play in their communities. These high-level priorities assist leadership in placing objectives, goals, and targets to monitor and attain the highest standards for members and clients Easterseals Tennessee supports.

### Easterseals Tennessee 2024 Board of Directors

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