

The Journey Together Conference 2026

Mapping out Success

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Monday, September 7, 2026 4:00 – 5:25

Welcome Pathway: Opening and Welcome

- Brief Introduction of presenters
- Brief Introductions between attendees at tables with one person out on one person's report: where you work and position; what is unique/fun about you that many people will not know; what would you like to take away from the conference? 3 Great Divisions – Where are you from?

Registration and Conference Registration Pathway:

Expectations of Conference

Registration is already sent in but it's not too late to change. What to consider and how to change.

- **What to Consider:** Licensure, Continuing Education hours, what are you interested in professionally or working towards? **(example)**
 - **Ethics for Clinical Supervisors**
 - **Annual Ethics**
 - **Suicide Prevention**
- **Annual requirements** – Ethics, Suicide Prevention, 8 Domains courses (all).
- **Each Workshop and one luncheon speaker meeting is approved** for hours. Total of 26.5 hours for the full conference- which you submit based on self-report and honor system.
- **How to Change:** So, think you missed what you really want or need now?
- **Registration Boards:** boards outside of registration room are the key to schedules and availability to change workshops. Review for changes through-out the day.
- **Change:** literally cross your name out and add your name to a different workshop. Consider the number of people already signed up before making your change. **Maybe take a course that sounds different- like drumming or yoga.**

Engagement Pathway:

How to become part of the conference. Risk-taking!

How to become engaged (getting to know others) Building Relationships/Networks/Set your Boundaries

- **Exchange of Information:** bring business cards or other means of exchanging contact information such as exchanging cell phone numbers.
Speed Networking
- **Let's try Speed Networking –**
 - *First- pair up at your table or move quickly to another table to pair up.*
 - *You will have 5 minutes to learn about each other.*
 - *Before we get started jot down a few questions you would want to ask someone.*
 - *Decide who goes first. You will have 2 minutes to get to know your partner*
 - *You are stopped and*
 - *The second person has 2 minutes to get to know their partner.*
- **Process activity! –**
 - *What did you like?*
 - *What could have been improved to make the activity better?*
 - *What is a Wow?!*
- **Activity: Move Around to Meet Others From Other Regions, Areas**
- **Process Activity**

Other ideas about engagement:

- **Communication:** displayed in many ways. You are not a counselor at the conference but you do use positive communication skills.
- **Physical Interactions:** body language is a huge communication tool! Smile, provide enough space, eye contact, nodding -tools sound familiar!? Active Listening! Again, good eye contact, lean forward when listening (but give space) Nod – encourage the speaker. Open posture! Relaxed!
- **OARS:**
 - **Open ended**
 - **Affirming**
 - **Reflective listening**
 - **Summarizing**

- **Workshop:** Where you sit – up front or middle - can make a difference. Arrive early. Join a table. Find someone you might like to get to know - - taking a risk or really just expanding your network.
- **Hospitality Room:** it's your place to pick up refreshments at no extra charge. Talk to attendees. Not open during workshops.
- **Hallways:** introduce yourself to others standing around hoping someone else may say hello! Or mingle with a small group talking. Is this easy—no... but can it have positive results, yes... Remember business cards or cell phone number exchange! **You did a great job with speed networking!!**
- **Coffee, tea, water stations:** start up a conversation.
- **Common topics:** Think about a strategy of discussing what you have in common. Examples: you're all here to learn, gain credits, get to know others, have fun. Find out what others have enjoyed previously.
- **What are some other topics to start up a conversation?**
- **Exhibit tables:** exhibitors are there to talk! Listen and learn what they offer. Pick up a treat!
- **Lunch:** provided each day and was on your registration form. Sit with someone different or rejoin someone if you think you made a connection. Ask at registration if you are uncertain about your meal registration.
- **Hotel:** lounge in hotel, ask to join someone for dinner. We will make announcements to be inclusive at night. We also have workshops at night!

Let's move around and talk to one or more people you do not know. This is how it works!

- **There is a flip chart with a division of the State.**
- **Go stand by the division you are from**
- **You have 10 minutes to talk to someone new in your division or other divisions.**
- **Move around and get to know others**
- **Get business cards or put number in cell phone**
- **Remember to ask if a person minds for you to have their number even if it is a work number which is what we suggest you are asking for and receiving!**
- **Time is up so please return to your original seats**

Process activity!

- ***What did you like?***
- ***What could have been improved to make the activity better?***
- ***What is a Wow?!***

Observation Pathway

Contribution through Evaluation: let us know how we're doing and how we can improve or make changes, additions which is where this workshop came from. Unusual evaluation system. Forms were provided at registration. Honor system.

- Each workshop presenter is evaluated
- Plenary speakers are evaluated
- Conference is evaluated
- Summary form of your attendance
- Submit to Registration Desk.

Ethics of Profession Continuous Pathway

- Learning about Profession: NAADAC, TAADAC, MTADAAAC, WTADAAAC, ETAADAC, SETAADAC (not currently active), Department of Health - TN Alcohol and Drug Abuse Licensure, Department of Health – Social Work Board; TN Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. NASW, TN NASW
- Increasing Knowledge: take a risk/opportunity to try something different for you. Learn a specialty in-depth
- Honor System
- Behavior – you are at work during the conference!

Future Engagement - Beyond this Successful Conference!

What is your Future? Ways to become involved in your community and in your career.

- Learn your career path. Complete your LADAC if needed, work toward your Qualified Clinical Supervisor in TN.
- Learn your Social Work Career Path. Learn the levels of certifications and licensees. **NASW – advocacy, etc.**
- Attend Department of Health Board Meetings for Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors or for Social Work Certification and Licensure Board.
- Attend this annual conference and become a committee member! Talk to Toby Abrams or Frances Patterson.
- Attend quarterly -or monthly- regional meetings. Get on the mailing list.
- Get on mailing list from TAADAC – The Tennessee Association for Addiction Professionals - Offers education, support and engagement of members, policy and advocacy.
- Join NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, the national association, and have lots of opportunities to learn, develop a career path, gain information on state, regional, national and international issues of

addiction and how that applies to us, the professionals, and yes, another place to become involved. And NAADAC has lots of resources and continuing education

- Join NASW, National Association of Social Workers and find out about specialty areas, continued education, advocacy, policies, national initiatives and TN NASW for chapters to participate in and build your community.
- **How have you become involved?**
- **What professional groups are out there for us?**

Happy Learning and Engaging at this year's Journey Together 2026 Conference for Addiction Professionals!!

Susan and Jane

Resources

NASW National Association of Social Workers <https://www.socialworkers.org/>

NASW TN Chapter <https://www.naswtn.com/>

Tennessee Department of Health - Social Work Board Licensure Board
<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/sw-board.html>

NAADAC the Association For Addiction Professionals
<https://www.naadac.org/>

Tennessee Department of Health – Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Licensure Board <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-professionals.html>

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
<https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health.html>

TAADAS <https://www.taadas.org/>

TAADAC <https://www.taadac.org/>

MTAADAC <https://www.taadac.org/> <https://www.taadac.org/middle-tennessee>

ETAADAC <https://www.taadac.org/> <https://www.taadac.org/east-tennessee>

WTAADAC <https://www.taadac.org/> <https://www.taadac.org/west-tennessee>

SETAADAC <https://www.taadac.org/south-east-tennessee>