

# Positively UC

*A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day*



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## SERVING A GROWING NEED: STATE UPDATES SPOTLIGHT AGING IN TENNESSEE



Collaboration and a shared commitment to serving others took center stage as members of the Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) Executive Committee welcomed Lauren LeGate, Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging, for a timely update on the future of aging services in Tennessee.

LeGate began by commending the Upper Cumberland region for its collaborative spirit and strong network of providers.

“You take care of each other, you do your job, and we’re not always handing down the best news from the state,” she said. “You always have that attitude of working together and doing the best for your folks in this region.”

She then highlighted the department’s transition over the past two years into a larger, unified agency serving both older adults and individuals with disabilities, a shift that has expanded its reach and responsibilities statewide.

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## CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY AT UNIQUE COOKEVILLE



Members of the Upper Cumberland Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) and the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) recently attended the Unique Cookeville event, a fun and welcoming community day designed especially for individuals with special needs and their families.



The event brought together the energy of a festival, with games, food, music, activities, and entertainment, alongside a valuable resource fair connecting families with local organizations, service providers, and advocates, all at no cost to the public.


*We’re grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful event and to share information about the services and supports available throughout the Upper Cumberland!*

# Events & Happenings

## UCDD & UCHRA MANDATORY SPRING TRAINING

UCDD and UCHRA Spring Training will take place on Friday, April 24, at the Putnam County Convention Center in Cookeville. Doors will open at 8 a.m. and the day's events will kick off at 8:30 a.m.

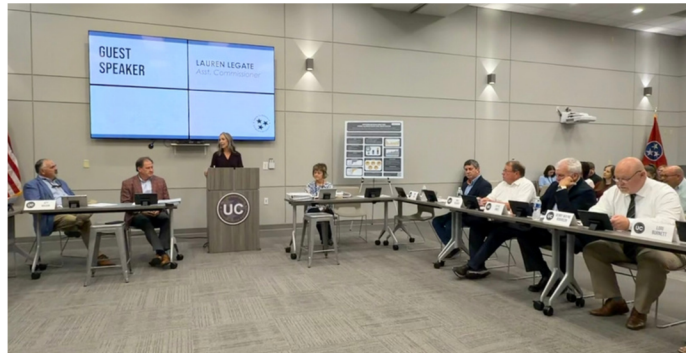
Remember, attendance is mandatory, and we must have a record (via sign-in sheet) of an employee's participation in the current Title VI training. Please coordinate with your supervisor regarding carpooling/travel arrangements or any other questions prior to the event.



**UCDD-UCHRA AGENCY-WIDE TRAINING**  
Putnam County Convention Center  
2121 Event Ctr. Dr.; Cookeville, TN  
Friday, April 24, 2026

<b>8:00-8:30</b>	<b>Doors Open + Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30-8:40</b>	<b>Welcome + Announcements</b> <i>Mark Farley, UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director</i> <i>Sherry Bilibrey, UCHRA Field Manager</i>
<b>8:40-9:40</b>	<b>Embracing Change</b> <i>Sarah Curtis, Public Entity Partners</i>
<b>9:40-10:10</b>	<b>Title VI, HIPAA, FACTA, LEP Video</b> <i>Video created by Madelyn Huddleston, UCDD &amp; Cookeville Communications</i>
<b>10:10-10:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>UC Regional Knowledge</b> <i>Mark Dudney, UCDD Historic Preservation Planner</i>
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>UCDD/UCHRA Trivia</b> <i>LaNelle Godsey, UCHRA Deputy Director</i>
<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12:30-1:30</b>	<b>State of UCDD and UCHRA</b> <i>Mark Farley, UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director</i>
<b>1:30-2:30</b>	<b>The Chick-Fill-A Way/Customer Service</b> <i>Lee Bailey</i>
<b>2:30-2:50</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>2:50-3:30</b>	<b>Department Presentations</b> <i>LaNelle Godsey, UCHRA Deputy Director/Community Services Director</i>
<b>3:30-3:40</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

## SERVING A GROWING NEED, CONTINUED



LeGate emphasized that funding remains a significant concern following the expiration of federal American Rescue Plan dollars, which had temporarily allowed for expanded programming and innovation.

With those resources no longer available and federal funding largely stagnant, service levels have declined in some areas despite growing demand. She underscored the importance of effectively using data to demonstrate need and secure future investments, particularly as Tennessee prepares for a new gubernatorial administration.

Looking forward, LeGate outlined several key priorities for the department, including the expansion of enabling technology to help older adults safely remain in their homes, ongoing efforts to strengthen rural healthcare access, and a continued focus on relationship-building with local partners.

She also highlighted the importance of social connection and mental well-being, lessons reinforced during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the vital role senior centers play in fostering engagement and community.

*Thank you, Assistant Commissioner LeGate, for stopping by and sharing updates with our team! To view the entire Executive Committee meeting, including Assistant Commissioner LeGate's remarks, visit our YouTube channel, UC Connect (@ucconnect6973).*

### WHO WE ARE

#### OUR MISSION

*To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.*

#### OUR VISION

*A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.*

**get plugged in.**

Follow us on social media for the latest updates.



## UCDD CONFERENCE ROOM RECEIVES VISUAL UPGRADE

Recent upgrades to the UCDD Conference Room (A Side) are now complete, with the new video wall fully operational and optimized for presentations.

To ensure a seamless, edge-to-edge display without borders, presenting devices must be set to a resolution of 1920x1080. This setting has already been applied to the conference room laptop, which remains the recommended device for all presentations, especially for guests. Staff using personal or work laptops should adjust their display settings accordingly before presenting and return them to their default afterward.

In addition to the screen enhancements, new presentation templates are now available to support a more consistent and polished look.



These templates can be accessed through the Google Slides template gallery under each agency's name, with UCDD/Admin users able to view all options and UCHRA users having access to the UCHRA-specific template. Instructions for accessing and using both the display settings and templates are available, and staff are encouraged to test out the templates ahead of their presentations.

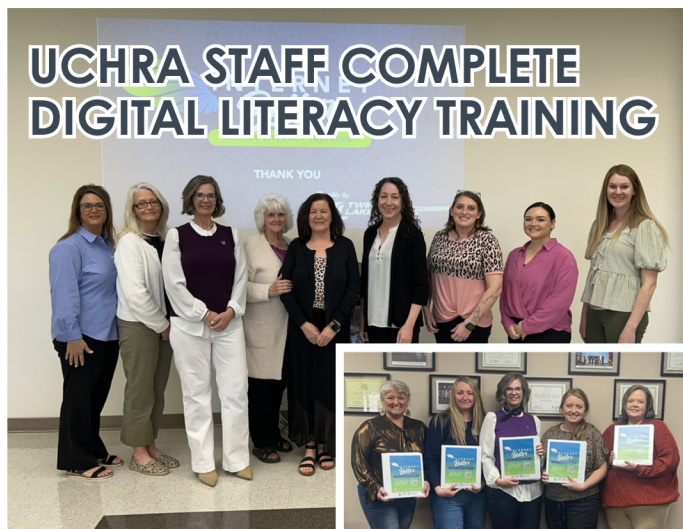
## AN EVENING OF HOPE



Several ladies from UCHRA and UCDD had the pleasure of attending the annual Pink Gala, hosted by the CRMC Foundation, a beautiful evening filled with elegance, hope, and community impact.

The event supports the Pink Ribbon of Hope Free Mammogram Program at Cookeville Regional Medical Center, helping provide free mammograms to women across the Upper Cumberland. Through this effort, more lives are reached with the power of early detection and access to care.

*We're proud to stand alongside partners who are turning compassion into action, and action into healthier communities.*



UCHRA staff are taking steps to expand digital skills across the region after completing the Internet Better Facilitator Training.

Hosted by Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative Corporation, the training, developed in partnership with Tennessee Tech University, equips participants to deliver digital literacy education in their communities.

With this certification, UCHRA staff are prepared to help residents build confidence in online safety, technology use, and access to broadband resources.