



Emcee

Eric Penniman, DO – Summit Medical Group

Dr. Eric Penniman is the executive medical director for Summit Medical Group.

Penniman has practiced family medicine throughout his 29-year career. Since 2011, he served as district medical director for primary care for Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin.

Penniman earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Missouri. He completed his internship at Tulsa Regional Medical Center and his residency at University of Wisconsin, Wausau Family Practice Center. The American Board of Family Medicine certifies him.



Since taking on his new role at Summit in 2016, Dr. Penniman immediately got involved with a community coalition to help educate physicians and implement changes in the region to combat the rising addiction and overdose endemic. Dr. Penniman has been co-chairing the standardization of practice workgroup of the All4Knox program since its inception. He continues to collaborate with community leaders to reduce the impact that the opioid epidemic is having on our communities.



Presenters (In Order)

Stephen Loyd, MD – Cedar Recovery

Dr. Stephen Loyd is an Internal Medicine/Addiction Medicine physician who graduated medical school and residency from the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. He currently serves as the Vice-President of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Loyd was the Assistant Commissioner (Opioid Czar) for Substance Abuse Services in the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in Governor Bill Haslam's administration. He has served as an expert witness in more than twenty federal and state cases against physicians who were improperly prescribing controlled substances.



Dr. Loyd was named an Advocate for Action by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), an office of the President of the United States. He has delivered over one hundred educational lectures on addiction and treatment of opioid use disorder and proper prescribing of controlled substances. Dr. Loyd was an original member (still active) of the Treatment of Chronic Pain Guidelines Committee which defined pain treatment for providers in the state of Tennessee. He has worked as an Addiction Medicine Physician in both the inpatient and outpatient settings, specializing in the treatment of opioid dependent pregnant women.

Dr. Loyd has served on multiple drug courts in Tennessee and remains an active participant in drug court in the 4th Judicial District under Judge Duane Slone. He has worked with multiple community level anti-drug coalitions from Johnson County to Shelby County and has worked with all levels of state law enforcement, mainly the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. He currently serves as Chief Medical Officer for Cedar Recovery in Middle Tennessee and he has been in recovery from opioid and benzodiazepine addiction since July 8, 2004.



Kathryn Schott, MD – Pain Consultants of East Tennessee

Kathryn Schott, MD was born in East Tennessee and is excited to serve the people of this community. She joined the Pain Consultants of East Tennessee team in 2023. She graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina and while there was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honors Society for her compassionate care of patients. Dr. Schott then went on to the University of North Carolina for residency in Anesthesiology where she was elected Chief Resident and received leadership awards including the George Sheldon Leadership Award and Robert E. Cafalo award for exemplary professional performance and patient care.



She stayed on at the University of North Carolina for Fellowship training in Chronic Pain. Dr. Schott has presented various research endeavors at several national and regional meetings including American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Society for Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, and the Pain Society of the Carolinas. She is double board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology in Pain Medicine and Anesthesiology. She has interests in education, opioid stewardship, and innovation in interventional pain management.

John Mathews - JM Consulting and the Stay the Course Institute

John Mathews is a former Assistant Mayor, executive, and author whose life exemplifies resilience and transformation. Before leading teams in both public service and the private sector, he overcame nearly a decade of addiction and homelessness in his early twenties, a turning point that shaped the leader he would become.

As Emergency Management Director and later Assistant Mayor over Emergency Services, he helped lead one of the largest mobilizations of emergency resources in Tennessee history during the 2016 Gatlinburg Wildfires. In the private sector, he applied that same strategic mindset as Vice President of Operations for a multi-million-dollar construction firm, where he guided teams, protected major projects, and strengthened the systems that supported the company's growth.





Today, through JM Consulting and the Stay the Course Institute, John helps individuals and organizations grow with clarity, structure, and practical tools they can use every day. He believes that growth becomes possible when people build trust in themselves, pursue meaningful goals, and choose to stay the course regardless of the circumstances.

Barry Reiman, PsyD - Recovery Unplugged Treatment Center

Dr. Barry Reiman, the V.P. of Business Development for Recovery Unplugged Treatment Center, has been a featured guest on such daytime television shows as Dr. Phil, The Doctors and Face the Truth with Vivica A. Fox. Working in the field of addiction treatment for close to two decades, Dr. Barry has developed an acute understanding and passion for treating those struggling with Substance Use Disorders.

Dr. Barry's career in the treatment field stems from his personal connection to addiction. Dr. Barry has been in recovery since June of 1996, and has dedicated his personal and professional life to facilitating change in the lives of those looking for a way out of their addiction. His passion and thirst for knowledge has led to him becoming one of the Treatment Industry's leading influencers.



Brian Winbigler, PharmD - Alliance for Multispecialty Research (AMR)-Knoxville

Dr. Brian Winbigler, a native of Maryville, TN, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, a Master of Business Administration from Lincoln Memorial University, a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD) from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and completed a community pharmacy residency.

As an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Translational Science at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, Dr. Winbigler directs the fall Substance Use Disorders elective and spring IPECS IV. He also works with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services as a Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist, providing training and education on opioid overdose and overdose prevention through the distribution of naloxone.





In the community, he volunteers and serves as an educator for Harbours Gate and works with Metro Drug Coalition to provide educational opportunities and resources that address substance misuse prevention and treatment.

He serves on the Blount County Board of Health, the Harbours Gate Board of Directors (Treasurer), and the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Board of Governors (Treasurer).

He holds active membership in both state and national organizations, including the American Pharmacists Association, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and the Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA), where he serves on the TPA Resolutions Committee.

Dr. Winbigler is the recipient of both state and federal funds for opioid-related research.

James J. Mahoney, III, PhD - West Virginia University Department of Neuroscience

James J. Mahoney, III, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and Clinical Neuropsychologist in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia (UVA) School of Medicine and is the Director of the recently established UVA Center for Psychiatric Neuromodulation Research (CPNR).

He is also an adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry at the West Virginia University (WVU) School of Medicine and Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute (RNI), where he was previously full-time faculty prior to transitioning to his current position at UVA in August 2025. While at WVU/RNI, Dr. Mahoney served as the Director of RNI Addictions Research and was Chair of the Research Oversight Committee in his primary department.



Dr. Mahoney's specific area of research interest, and the focus of the CPNR, involves investigating various forms of neuromodulation—such as focused ultrasound, transcranial magnetic stimulation, and vagus nerve stimulation—as adjunctive treatments for substance use disorders and other behavioral and psychiatric indications.

Dr. Mahoney has accumulated over 20 years of research experience, most of which has focused on the assessment and treatment of substance use disorders. He has co-authored over 85 peer-reviewed manuscripts (33 first- or senior-authored), has published several book chapters, has presented original research findings at multiple international conferences, and has served as co-investigator on several NIDA- and NIGMS-funded proposals.



Dr. Mahoney has led multiple first-in-the-world and first-in-the-U.S. clinical trials investigating different forms of neuromodulation, including deep brain stimulation and focused ultrasound, for treatment-refractory substance use disorder.

He completed his doctoral training at the University of Houston, a pre-doctoral internship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and specialized post-doctoral training in clinical neuropsychology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

Hillary Tamar, MD - Community Medical Services

Dr. Hillary Tamar is board-certified in both Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine. She has dedicated her career to improving care for people who use drugs, with a particular focus on expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder through opioid treatment programs. Her work centers on advancing clinical practices that promote safety, accessibility, and dignity for all individuals affected by substance use.



Dr. Tamar serves as a Territory Medical Director for Community Medical Services, where she provides clinical leadership and oversight across Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. In this role, she helps guide high-quality care delivery and supports the implementation of best practices nationwide.

The Honorable Kenneth R. Goble, Jr. - Montgomery County General Sessions and Juvenile Court

Kenneth R. Goble, Jr. is a Montgomery County General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge, a position he has held since 2010. He also serves as the Presiding Judge of the Veterans Treatment Court, reflecting his long-standing commitment to military service members and the community. Judge Goble earned his Bachelor of Science in Public Management from Austin Peay State University and his Juris Doctor from the Nashville School of Law. Prior to his judicial service, he practiced law and led multiple successful business ventures in Clarksville, Tennessee.





A lifelong civic leader, Judge Goble has served in numerous leadership roles with organizations including the Association of the U.S. Army, Austin Peay State University Foundation, United Way of Clarksville, and the Clarksville Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a recipient of the Department of the Army's Commander's Award for Public Service and remains actively involved in mentorship and leadership development initiatives throughout Middle Tennessee.

Community Panel Members

Mark Delaney - Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

Mark Delaney currently serves in the role of Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force (TDDTF). SAC Delaney is a twenty-six-year law enforcement veteran with over twenty-three years of experience as a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Special Agent.

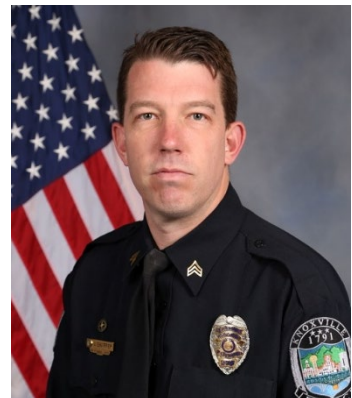
SAC Delaney spent approximately fifteen years assigned as a Special Agent within the TBI Drug Investigation Division assigned to the East Tennessee area. During this time, SAC Delaney was assigned as a Task Force Officer with the United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration.



Joshua Shaffer - Knoxville Police Department

Lieutenant Joshua Shaffer has served with the Knoxville Police Department since 1998, beginning his career as a police cadet. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2010 and to Lieutenant in 2020. He is currently assigned to the Investigations Bureau, where he oversees the Organized Crime Unit and serves as Task Force Commander for Appalachia HIDTA's Drug Related Death Task Force.

Throughout his career, Lt. Shaffer has held a wide range of operational and leadership roles, including patrol officer, street crimes investigator, Repeat Offender Squad investigator and supervisor, Violent Crimes Unit supervisor, Patrol Lieutenant, and supervisor of the Community Engagement Response Team. He also serves as Commander of KPD's Special Operations Squad.





Lt. Shaffer holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and completed internships at the University of Tennessee Medical Center prior to entering law enforcement. He has received extensive training in gang, drug, homicide, and tactical investigations from state and federal agencies, including the FBI, ATF, TBI, and Department of Homeland Security.

A class valedictorian of his police academy, Lt. Shaffer has been named Officer of the Year multiple times and has received numerous commendations throughout his career. He regularly teaches and presents on drug trafficking, overdose death investigations, and gang trends, and has testified as an expert in state and federal court.

Chris Thomas - Knox County Regional Forensic Center

Chris Thomas is the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of the Knox County Regional Forensic Center. He joined the center in August of 2019. The Regional Forensic Center's primary purpose is to provide autopsy and anthropology services to 23 counties and to serve as the medical examiner's office for Knox and Anderson counties. The center also provides training opportunities to pathology residents, law enforcement agencies, and other medical students.

Prior to joining the Regional Forensic Center, Chris spent 21 years in the financial industry, where he held a variety of roles including lending, senior management, and training facilitator.



Chris is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served 10 years including an 18-month tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III from 2004–2005.

Chris is a graduate of the University of Tennessee's Certified Public Manager course and is an active member of several regional organizations, including the Tennessee Medical Examiner Advisory Committee, the Knox County Overdose Fatality Group, the Knox City/Knox County Motor Vehicle Fatality Group, and LPEC. He has also recently joined the advisory board for the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service SMART Initiative.