

**From:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 11/16/2021 10:26:15 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Reimagine Crisis: Join our 988 webinar Nov. 15-19

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Jen,

Just to follow up since I didn't reply to this email. Becky Mitchell and Molly O'Neal lead this effort, at the secondary and elementary grades respectively. Becky wasn't working this week.

Jason Golden  
Superintendent  
Williamson County Schools  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 11, 2021 8:17 PM  
**To:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Reimagine Crisis: Join our 988 webinar Nov. 15-19

**WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS**

Just sharing after the discussion on mental health tonight. Not sure who within WCS would be the best person to include on this...is it Maria? In case anyone wants to register to attend.

Jen

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** NAMI Tennessee <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Reimagine Crisis: Join our 988 webinar Nov. 15-19  
**Date:** November 11, 2021 at 4:46:25 PM CST  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED]





November 15–19, 2021

# REIMAGINE

*A Week of Action to Reimagine Our National Response to People in Crisis*

**People across Tennessee will be able to access 988, a new three-digit number for mental health, substance use and suicidal crises, when it goes live nationwide by July 2022.**

But there is much more work that must be done to ensure there are enough resources and services available when people call for help.

With that in mind, NAMI is bringing together leading organizations and advocates from across the country for *REIMAGINE: A week of action to reimagine our national response to people in crisis*, taking place virtually November 15-19.

**[Register here](#)**

During special virtual events November 16-18, NAMI Tennessee invites you to learn about how our current response to crises negatively affects individuals, families and communities, and how you can help create impactful change.

You'll hear from speakers who have first-hand experience with our current response to mental health and suicidal crises. You'll have the chance to participate in conversations exploring key intersections with crisis response — equity and social justice, public safety and first responders, and youth and young adults. You'll also be provided with opportunities to advocate on behalf of your communities throughout the week.

One person, organization, or coalition cannot do this alone. We hope you'll join us — and NAMI advocates across the country — to build a better, more equitable crisis system.

**[Register today!](#)**

## What's going on in Tennessee?

Over the summer, Commissioner Marie Williams of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services convened a task force to develop recommendations for how the 988 system will work in Tennessee. NAMI Tennessee's Executive Director Jeff

Fladen is on that task force and has weighed in on behalf of individuals with mental illness and their families.

Currently, mental health crisis calls go to:

- 911 emergency line
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline -- routed to six Tennessee organizations
- Tennessee Statewide Crisis Line 1-855-CRISIS1
- Crisis lines through treatment providers.

The task force recommendations will be presented at a future date to Gov. Bill Lee and members of the Tennessee Legislature. We anticipate legislation will be filed for the 2022 legislative session on this issue.



### **Our thoughts on a 988 crisis system**

NAMI Tennessee believes that our state's 988 mental health crisis line should be supported by the following efforts (some are being proposed for the 2022-2023 state budget):

- Create a well-trained staff to answer calls and direct them to appropriate resources in Tennessee;
- Build upon Tennessee's solid mobile crisis efforts to provide in-person response throughout ALL communities, not just urban areas;
- Enhance crisis stabilization programs so people in all communities can avoid emergency room visits or jail;
- Establish additional "walk-in centers" in more communities so 988 dispatchers can direct people in a mental health crisis to a place where they can get immediate care;
- Establish a uniform way to collect data across the state so that we understand and have a clear picture of how many emergency calls deal with mental health crises;
- Fund this statewide crisis system in a way that won't create additional pressure or obligations to our state budget.

*For more information, contact our Policy & Advocacy Director Alisa LaPolt  
at [REDACTED]*

ADVOCACY



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