



## HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

WESTON WAMP

### For Immediate Release

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## Hamilton County Debuts State's First Overdose Prevention Team, Ready to Respond Countywide

*Multi-agency effort to deliver rapid overdose response & connect residents to long-term recovery*

**HAMILTON COUNTY, TN (November 3, 2025)** — Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp, Hamilton County EMS, and Hamilton County Health & Social Services today announced the official rollout of the Overdose Prevention Team (OPT)—the first initiative of its kind in Tennessee—now fully staffed and ready to respond countywide. Announced earlier this year, the OPT represents a coordinated effort to combat the opioid crisis by delivering life-saving medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and connecting individuals struggling with substance abuse to critical recovery resources.

“With the Overdose Prevention Team now in place, Hamilton County is taking a major step forward in how we respond to the opioid crisis,” said Mayor Wamp. “This initiative represents the largest commitment our county has made from opioid abatement funds provided by the State of Tennessee to fight the ongoing epidemic. Addiction touches every part of our community, and this team will meet people where they are—offering life-saving care, meaningful support, and a path to recovery.”

Following months of recruitment and training, the eight-member Overdose Prevention Team is now responding to calls and deploying to neighborhoods across the county through Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs). The team is staffed by three HCEMS outreach units, each consisting of a paramedic and a certified peer support specialist. Paramedics administer medication-assisted treatment (MAT), while peer support specialists, drawing on lived experience in recovery, help identify barriers and provide ongoing support. In addition, two navigators with Health & Social Services connect individuals to community resources for long-term rehabilitation.

“Recovery is for those who truly want it, not just those who need it,” said Andy Miller, Peer Support Specialist on the Overdose Prevention Team. “Our goal is to make that connection easier and faster for Hamilton County residents, no matter their circumstances. I know firsthand how much it helps to have someone who’s been through it come alongside you—someone who can guide families and offer hope along the way.”

Developed under the leadership of Dr. Ron Buchheit, Hamilton County Medical Services Director, the bridge training program was designed to provide timely medical care and comprehensive support for overdose victims and their families. After receiving approval from the State of Tennessee, the Overdose Prevention Team is now fully active as a multi-agency effort to address the opioid epidemic.

The OPT operates seven days a week, year-round, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Individuals seeking assistance or more information can call 423-209-7777.

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