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Access to Recovery through Faith-Based Collaboration: A top-down, Strategic Approach to Equip Communities of Faith

- Describe how state offices are educating and building the capacity of faith-based congregations and service providers
- Describe how the state of Tennessee has created a statewide process for identifying, training, and certifying congregations, of all faith traditions, to increase community-based recovery support
- Identify approaches to integrating faith-based responses into community recovery-oriented systems of care

Dr. Burks serves as the Director of Faith-Based Initiatives for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, where his role is engaging and connecting Tennessee's faith communities to the behavioral health care system, with the goal of expanding addiction and mental health support services across the state. He also oversees the Tennessee Lifeline Peer Project, a state program aimed at reducing the stigma associated with people who suffer from addiction and Mental Health issues and the Tennessee Faith-Based Community Coordinators, who seek to help congregations build their capacity to combat addiction and mental health issues in their respective communities. Dr. Burks has more than 19 years' experience working with the criminal justice system in various roles, including adjunct criminal justice professor at Motlow State Community College, Criminal Justice Research Analyst at Middle Tennessee State University, and Criminal Justice Program coordinator at Tennessee State University.

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