

Healthbeat

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10 Year Anniversary!

Kids Talk Celebrates 10 Years Protecting
the Children of Madison County



Feature Articles

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Social Media Hits

Brandi Brewer, Digital Marketing Coordinator

Recognition, Employee Spotlight

Jaclyn Saunders, Marketing Associate

Welcome New Employees

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Aspire Indiana Health Magazine

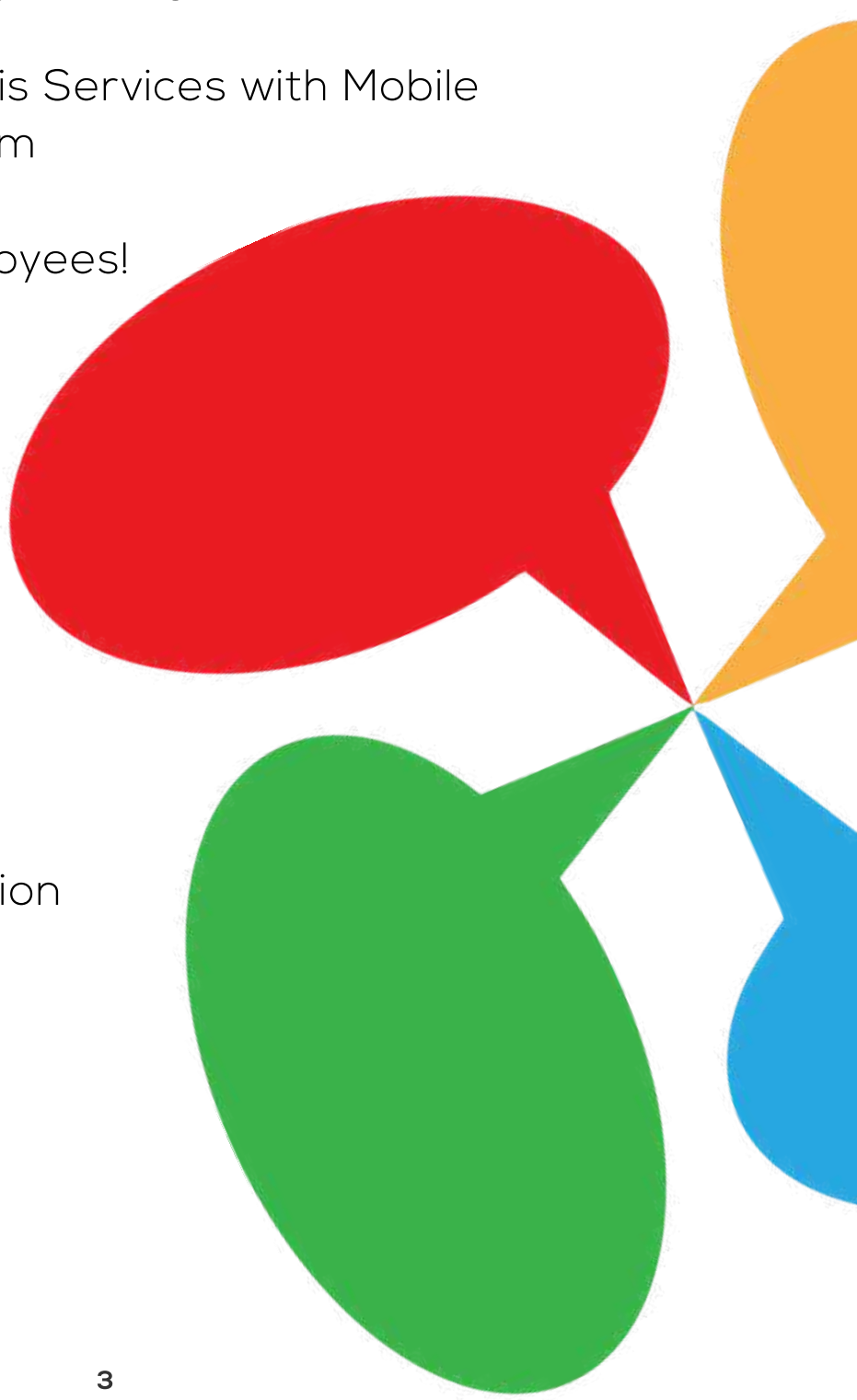
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by Tiffany Whisner

Kids Talk Celebrates 10 Years Protecting the Children of Madison County

“There was a need 10 years ago, and there is still a need today.” Kids Talk Director Denise Valdez is talking about the need for a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Madison County, Indiana. A decade ago, Madison County had the third highest rate of substantiated abuse or neglect in the state of Indiana – and today, it’s the second highest.

“Because the numbers of reported child abuse were – and still are – so high in Madison County, a lot of local leaders and organizations started discussing the need for a CAC,” Valdez says.



According to the [Indiana Chapter of the National Children’s Alliance](#), tragic events when children are abused, assaulted or neglected can be made worse by the experience children have when proceeding through the court system. That is the purpose of CACs, which provide forensic interviews in a child-friendly environment to discuss what did or did not happen to them as well as victim advocacy and family-focused healing.



10 Year Anniversary!



Juvenile Judge Steve Koester – who was chief deputy prosecutor in Madison County at the time – along with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) went to Aspire in January 2014 to ask if the organization would consider operating the CAC under its umbrella.

"Madison County didn't have the necessary resources to sustain a nonprofit," Valdez says. "So the task force was looking for an organization with infrastructure and resources; they needed a firm foundation. And Aspire was that firm foundation."

Valdez was hired in May 2014, and Kids Talk opened its doors in August of that same year.

The Kids Talk Early Years

"When Kids Talk first opened, it was just me," Valdez says. "My early goals included establishing a very strong multidisciplinary team with our local teams. We had a lot of meetings with law enforcement, child protective services (CPS) and the prosecutor's office to talk about how the CAC would operate and come to an agreement on the protocol and how we would operate together."

For a CAC to do well, all agencies involved need to understand how referrals come in, what the process is for those referrals, how interviews are conducted and how communications go out to the other agencies. Kids Talk is based on the CAC model. At its core, the model is about teamwork and bringing agency professionals involved in a case together on the front end of the case. It's about putting the needs of the victim or child first.

"In these situations with child abuse, it's a perfect storm for having a lot of conflict," Valdez says. "All the agencies involved have to respect each other's roles and have an agreement on how we are going to work successfully together. It was a priority for me to establish that early on, and we still have that working relationship today. With the commitment from law enforcement, CPS and the prosecutor's office, it made it a lot easier for all of us."

Valdez also started to research funding opportunities in order to hire more staff. Since her start at Kids Talk, the staff has increased from one to six team members and is now a nationally accredited CAC. The team has also completed more than 5,200 forensic interviews in the last 10 years.

“Our core service is doing forensic interviews,” Valdez says. “Like adults, our vulnerable child victims experience shame, fear, guilt and embarrassment and can be reluctant to participate in the investigative process. Getting children to overcome their fear and shame to trust an adult enough and share their experience can be difficult. But talking about it is the first step to providing safety and healing.”

Letting Children Tell Their Story

“When a child comes into Kids Talk, we are there to listen,” Valdez says. “We just let them tell their story. Many children don’t actually disclose any abuse – either because there was a misunderstanding in what someone saw or heard or because the child isn’t ready to talk about it. That’s why it’s all a process. Law enforcement gets the basic facts, but the forensic interview is to make sure the children don’t have to tell the in-depth narrative over and over to different people.”

A forensic interview is an information-gathering conversation where possible incidents of abuse or neglect or witnessing a violent crime are explored.



“The child is in control of the conversation,” Valdez says. “If the child is showing any signs of distress, we stop talking about it. We ask non-leading questions; it’s our job to listen to what they have to say, and then if they disclose something happened, we listen for additional details.”



There are four stages of the forensic interview:

Rapport Building – Assessing how the interviewer and child communicate and how well the child recalls details of things that have happened in the past.

Transition to Topic of Concern – Asking questions like, “Do you know why you were brought here to talk to me today?” “Did anyone tell you why you are here? Tell me what they said.”

There is also a discussion about body education and safety.

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STAYING SAFE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Exploring Details – Asking questions, letting the child tell their whole narrative and exploring all the details.

Closure – Asking if the child has any questions for the interviewer and then returning them to a normal state by asking questions about their day and what they are going to do later. While the forensic interviewer is with the child, another Kids Talk advocate is talking with the child’s non-offending caregiver.

“There is a lot going on during the forensic interview – both with the child and their caregiver,” Valdez says. “We ask the caregiver questions about what services are needed, how the child has been behaving and also educate them about available resources for when they leave Kids Talk. We try to protect the child as much as possible.”

Kids Talk ensures victims and parents or caregivers are guided toward programs that will facilitate the healing process for the child and family – and all Kids Talk services are provided at no cost to those served.

Reaching Out to Prevent Abuse

In addition to providing a safe and welcoming place for children to tell their story and be heard, Kids Talk also offers a prevention program for students K-12 in Madison County that educates them on body safety and digital media safety. These prevention programs provide an opportunity for children to confidentially disclose information about neglect and abuse.

“We present to more than nine thousand students throughout the year, starting with basic body safety rules for the younger children, and then for the older students, we talk about online safety, how to protect yourself and your identity and also the effects of sexting and child pornography.”



bodyboundaries

Body Boundaries is focused on grades K through 5, and Staying Safe in a Digital World is for students in grades 6 through 12. The Kids Talk prevention programs are customized according to the cognitive abilities of children of all ages and are based on criteria determined by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and by Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center. Kids Talk also provides training for teachers and school faculty to help them identify signs of abuse, how to report and the overall child welfare process.

“Providing kids with basic information about body safety and child abuse helps them better identify when something may be happening to them or someone they know,” says Kids Talk Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator Julie Coon. “Child abuse is still sort of a taboo topic among a lot of adults. The more we talk about it, the more comfortable and ‘normal’ it is for kids to talk about. As a society, we teach kids about fire safety, tornado drills and to wear their seatbelts. It’s beyond time for body safety to be upfront. Education gives the child the power and permission to speak up and get help.” ■

During the month of August, we are recognizing the 10-year anniversary of Kids Talk.

Thanks to the Kids Talk team for continuing to advocate for the children of Madison County! If you would like to support Kids Talk and their critical work for children in our community, **please give today:** <https://igfn.us/form/mVVPPhQ>.



by Tiffany Whisner
illustration by iStock

National Health Center Week 2024:
**Powering Communities
Through Caring Connections**





National Health Center Week celebrates and increases awareness of America's 1,400 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and is an opportunity to highlight the commitment and passion of all those individuals who make it possible to provide quality, comprehensive healthcare services to more than 31.5 million patients across 15,000 communities annually.

This year, National Health Center Week, launched by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) takes place August 4-10 with a theme of "Powering Communities Through Caring Connections," focusing on the social drivers of health and addressing healthcare inequities.

This theme is woven into different focus days throughout the week.

- Sunday, 8/4: Public Health in Housing
- Monday, 8/5: Healthcare for People Experiencing Homelessness
- Tuesday, 8/6: Agricultural Worker Health
- Wednesday, 8/7: Patient Appreciation
- Thursday, 8/8: Stakeholder Appreciation
- Friday, 8/9: Health Center Staff Appreciation
- Saturday, 8/10: Children's Health

With a mission to make high-quality, affordable care available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status, health centers save lives on the front lines of our nation's most pressing public health challenges. They are powered by a workforce of nearly 300,000 dedicated professionals who reach beyond the walls of the exam room to not only prevent illness but also address the social drivers that may cause it – climate change, homelessness, substance use disorders, food insecurity and behavioral health.



One of the ways Aspire has reached beyond the walls of the exam room and become part of the communities we serve is through MACY – Mobile Access Care for You – Aspire's mobile clinic that provides medical visits and assessments, with a focus on addressing medical challenges for those who are unhoused, experiencing mental health challenges and/or substance abuse disorders.

"For many reasons, patients who visit Macy are scared or hesitant or haven't been able to seek care, and it is amazing to see how they really do come back to access care when it is offered in a way that makes sense for them and meets them where they are, both literally and metaphorically," says Aspire Primary Care Physician Dr. Olivia Smith. "I think sometimes they feel really judged and rejected by society in many ways, and they are grateful someone showed up to care."

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Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Project Manager Sandia Saunders is part of the Macy care team, and she loves to care for those patients who aren't otherwise able to get the healthcare they need.

"We target the homeless population or the population with financial struggles," Saunders says. "Macy is so important to the patients who are unable to receive sufficient healthcare due to transportation, housing or financial challenges. So with Macy, we go to them. We are willing to walk through the homeless camps and meet them where they are."

Dr. Smith says building trusting relationships with patients is key.

It is important to welcome people in a way that is easy and personable and not intimidating.

"Our driver, Mike, is really the first and most important step in that connection, gaining people's trust and allowing them to see we are here to help," Dr. Smith says. "Sometimes the most vulnerable populations who are at risk for having the most complications are accessing care only through ER visits. Through Macy, we can get them connected to the care they need, which is huge both for the medical cost savings as well as having the community around them."

Community Health Worker and Macy Driver Michael Burke says Macy helps get treatment to people who otherwise wouldn't get it.



"These people we see with Macy – like a patient with a foot infection or another who was pregnant with twins – wouldn't have been seen by a medical provider otherwise," he says. "Especially with their lack of transportation, resources and insurance. It's about getting them care where care is needed. It's not a one-and-done relationship. The biggest part of it is building relationships with these patients. It's about their whole health, and we can get them connected."

"Not only is it important to get our neighbor's medical needs met, but we can also connect them to other services Aspire offers, such as mental health, employment and housing," Saunders says. "I believe our presence also offers hope – that they aren't forgotten, that they matter and that we care about building a relationship with each individual to improve

their quality of life. We also can connect people to resources for healthy foods and local exercise programs. We can listen and understand the barriers each individual has that prevents them from attaining a life of substance. We can set goals the individual is comfortable with and help chart a course of action to achieve them."

"It's been great to see Aspire be able to connect these patients to practical resources through our Social Impact team for housing, legal and insurance needs because often these barriers are the things preventing them from being able to be healthy, access medications and live a better life," Dr. Smith says. "I honestly wish we could be available for more than just three days because the need is there and these are some of the nicest, most grateful patients you will ever meet." ■



by Tiffany Whisner
photos by Ben Rose

Aspire Expands Crisis Services with Mobile Crisis Response Team



Our Aspire Crisis Services department is expanding our services beyond our traditional telephonic response and is moving toward the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) vision of someone to contact, someone to respond and somewhere to go. Earlier this year, Aspire received our mobile crisis designation through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), and we are now available for real-time mobile crisis responses Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.!

The goal of mobile response is to fill any gaps and not to replace existing supports or services. If an individual is already working with a treatment team, the crisis coordinators will always try to connect with the treatment team first as it is best practice for the treatment team to take lead.

CRISIS TIMELINE

1992

- CRISIS CALL CENTER ESTABLISHED

- EHR IMPLEMENTED WHICH CHANGES THE ROLE TO BE AN EXTENSION OF TREATMENT TEAM

2003

2021

- 5 STAFF IN THE CRISIS DEPARTMENT
- HELLO CCBHC! CRISIS IS AN IDENTIFIED CORE SERVICE

- CRISIS FALLS UNDER SERVICE ACCESS

2022

2024

- CRISIS SERVICES ARE BEING BILLED
- RECEIVES DMHA MOBILE CRISIS DESIGNATION
- 20 STAFF IN THE CRISIS DEPARTMENT

continued on page 16

WE HAVE EXPANDED OUR CRISIS SERVICES



Magnetic door signage. This is a unique feature that allows us to remove signage to allow for confidentiality when responding to someone's home. Subsequently, we can easily add it back onto the van should we co-respond with first responders to ensure we are easily identifiable.

What are Mobile Crisis Response Teams?

A two person, peer led team who provide community based crisis services in the location where the individual is experiencing the crisis.

Who can the MCRT serve?

All ages. Anyone who is experiencing a behavioral health crisis and needs in person support.

How does MCRT get involved?

The team can only be requested through first responders, 988 or through our crisis line staff determining an in person response is safe and appropriate. Through a co-response model, we work hand-in-hand with community partners, first responders and social workers when a behavioral health need is identified.

What exactly does the MCRT do?

They provide immediate triage, resources, de-escalation, support and safety planning during a behavioral health crisis. Their services extend beyond the crisis event and include warm handoffs and follow up care.

"The crisis department is very lucky to have a great group of individuals who have handled the daytime crisis needs over the years and supported the after-hours crisis line while on call," says Aspire Director of Service Entry Kaitlyn Ervin. "Everyone who has been a part of either of these teams are the reason our crisis call center has been successful

for so long. The team has all voiced excitement about the growth of the crisis continuum and that this is the support for the community they have been waiting for. Without the foundation of our coordination teams, the department wouldn't have been able to pivot so quickly."

Aspire's skilled crisis team is available to offer immediate support, help calm the situation, create a safety plan and offer guidance and further assistance if more intensive care is required. We recognize that when it comes to a behavioral health crisis, it isn't always a one-size-fits-all approach. That is why we have taken the necessary steps to make sure our crisis continuum focuses on meeting the individual where they are. We have created different pathways and access points to ensure everyone experiencing a crisis will receive the right level of care for their identified crisis when they need it.

SOMEONE TO CONTACT:

Aspire's 24-Hour Crisis Line
(800) 560-4038 or (317) 574-1252:

We answer your calls 24/7/365. We have trained crisis coordinators who will immediately support you and connect you within our continuum as needed. The crisis coordinators provide de-escalation support, safety planning, reviewing of skills being utilized in ongoing treatment, risk and level-of-need assessments, coordination with current treatment teams, coordination and support with first responders and coordination with local hospitals.

988:

The 988 Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. For individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, please text 988 or call 988 Videophone.

SOMEONE TO RESPOND:

Aspire's Mobile Crisis Team

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SOMEWHERE SAFE TO GO:

Crisis Triage Centers

In 2023, Aspire was one of 15 organizations in Indiana awarded through the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to provide a regional crisis receiving and stabilization unit. These units, known as Living Room Models, serve people experiencing less acute crises who are voluntary, nonviolent and motivated for help. These units promote autonomy, respect, hope and social inclusion while drawing from the support of peers. Your local Crisis Line or 988 can assist with information on availability and accessing this resource.

“Aspire, along with many of the other organizations, are actively planning and working on developing these centers to ensure they are best meeting the needs of the community and assisting with filling gaps in care,” Ervin says. “As a part of being a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), we are also actively planning a crisis stabilization unit. There are no specifics on this just yet, but the goal will be a 23-hour unit where individuals can get stabilization support, connection to resources and triage for a higher level of care.” ■



**SOMEONE
TO RESPOND**

**Mobile Crisis
Response**

Coming Soon



**SOMEWHERE
SAFE TO GO**

Crisis Clinical Decision Unit

Planning Stages



Indiana 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

The Indiana 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a direct connection to specialists who are trained in suicide and crisis prevention. The goal of 988 Indiana is to provide quick, competent and nation-leading crisis response services for every Indiana resident.

988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number. It connects you to compassionate, accessible care and support if you or someone you know is experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, a mental health or substance use crisis or any kind of emotional distress. According to 988indiana.org, “it’s someone who gets you, a listening ear and the nonjudgmental support you need. It’s whatever help you need, when you need it.”

“CCBHC, SAMHSA and 988 all align with the same goal of providing individuals access to

someone to call, someone to respond and somewhere safe to go,” Ervin says. “Some of the main goals are access to services, filling gaps in the crisis continuum, reducing ER visits for individuals who can get support elsewhere, and assisting the system in making sure individuals are only going to inpatient when no other less-restrictive service meets the individual’s needs.”

Indiana 988 offers a greater ability to refer Hoosiers in crisis to a network of local crisis specialists who are familiar with the community and better equipped to provide culturally competent support and referrals to local resources and other lifesaving follow-up care. To learn more, visit 988indiana.org. ■

Aspire's Crisis Services

| Crisis Line | Mobile Crisis |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 24/7/365 ✓ Phone triage ✓ De-escalation & linkage ✓ Review & update safety plan ✓ Initiate and/or coordinate inpatient admission ✓ Can provide basic patient information needed by first responders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ M-F 8-5pm * ✓ Requested by 988, first responders, or assessed by crisis line ✓ De-escalation & linkage ✓ Initiate and/or coordinate inpatient admission ✓ Can transport to appropriate level of care ✓ Provide follow up care ✓ Can co-respond with first responders |

* will expand in future
** with the individual's consent only

Welcome New Employees!

Oluwafolajimi Akinro

Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor- Youth & Family Willowbrook

Ashleigh Allison

Certified Medical Assistant Willowbrook

Kaitlyn Arivett

Patient Access Specialist Willowbrook

Vamshi Ayyam

Quality and Population Health Data Analyst Noblesville Admin

Ashlee Bellamy

Master's Level Therapist Noblesville OP

Paige Buckner

Residential Recovery Technician MBH

Camryn Ellison

Employee Belonging Specialist Noblesville Admin

Stacy Graves

Patient Access Specialist Lebanon OP

Grace Howle

Community Engagement Coordinator Willowbrook

Jaclyn Lang

License Eligible Therapist Noblesville OP

Bernika Miller

Crisis Response Provider Carmel OP

De'ominique Miller

Patient Access Specialist Willowbrook

Heidi Moffatt

Licensed Integrated Therapist Carmel

Austin Musgraves

Residential Recovery Technician MBH

James Noll

Psychologist HSPP Carmel

Letitia Obot

Licensed Clinical Therapist-FQHC Carmel

Tiffany Perdew

Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor-Home & Community Based Chase St.

KaSandra Perry

CC/LSI Youth & Family HCBS DeHaven

Zoe Rodriguez

Certified Medical Assistant Noblesville OP

Shayna Ulery

Licensed Clinical Therapist-Assessment Noblesville OP

Malissa Walsh

Data Entry Clerk- Infectious Disease Team Hoak

Erica Weiss

Infectious Disease Case Manager Richmond



by Brandi Brewer

Social Media Hits

A look back at our top social media hits in July!



Top row, left to right: Dr. Jon Butler, Demetrius Dillard, Kelly Howe
Bottom row, left to right: dianna Huddleston, Christopher Lloyd, Vanessa Pataky, Jim Skeel



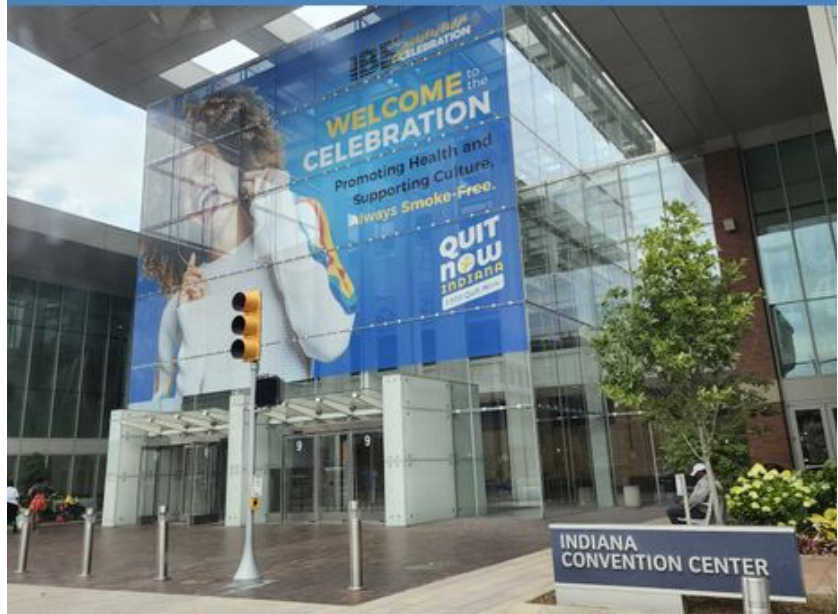
Aspire News



Aspire Joins Suburban Health Organization Network

Aspire Indiana Health has joined the Suburban Health Organization or SHO, a network of Indiana's largest community-based healthcare providers working together to improve Hoosier access to the highest quality care possible. Aspire's admission as the first non-hospital based system indicates its growing stature among the major providers of healthcare in the state. Since its 1994 founding, SHO has created value by forming shared services, leveraging their combined purchasing power, sharing best practices and founding innovative solutions to some of healthcare's biggest challenges. ■

Indiana Black and Minority Health Fair



For the first time, Aspire participated in the 2024 Indiana Black and Minority Health Fair that brought together nearly 10,000 Hoosiers to create a "Culture of Health." Aspire Outpatient Office Coordinator Deonne Smith and Office Coordinator Willie Trotter advocated for Aspire's participation in the event; they and others on the Aspire team also helped at the booth throughout the four-day event.

"In addition to general health and preventive medicine information, the Indiana Black Expo frequently offers screenings and assessments, such as blood pressure or cardiovascular health, that can identify issues and set attendees on the path to better health," Smith says. "This year, we were pleased to provide primary care, same-day access and behavioral services. This was a great event for our community, and Aspire Health was honored to be a part of this great affair."

Indiana Black Expo (IBE) has been a civic steward in the Indianapolis community since 1970. IBE has been leading, supporting and empowering individuals through hands-on events as well as educational and business initiatives. Thanks to all who participated in this event! ■

6 CEUS AVAILABLE

2024 RECOVERY RESIDENCES SUMMIT

S.O.S. START, OPERATE, SUCCEED

September 26, 2024
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 2900 Park Road, Connersville, IN

More Info 
<https://bit.ly/3V7PkRu>

KEY NOTE SPEAKER:
 DARRELL MITCHELL, MBA
 VICE PRESIDENT, RECOVERY CAPITAL

Sponsored by  **Reid Health**

ALONG WITH OTHER FABULOUS GUEST SPEAKERS



Connect to Cure

Check out this billboard! Last year, the state of Indiana launched Connect to Cure, a program funded by nearly \$6.6 million of grants from the Indiana Department of Health as part of the department's Health Issues and Challenges grant program. The Connect to Cure initiative helps provide supportive and preventive services for hepatitis C.

"Indiana saw the need for this kind of program and the value in having testing and treatment services for Hoosiers

2024 Recovery Residences Summit

Aspire Vice President of Recovery Capital Darrell Mitchell is the keynote speaker for the 2024 Recovery Residences Summit on Thursday, September 26 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at John H. Miller Community Center, located in Roberts Park at 2900 Park Road in Connersville. Indiana Affiliation of Recovery Residences (INARR), a program of Mental Health America of Indiana, in partnership with House of Ruth presents this second annual event with a theme of "S.O.S. Start, Operate, Succeed." This one-day event offers a time to network with Recovery Residence team members throughout Indiana and learn together through interactive educational sessions focusing on information needed to help teams start, operate and succeed as a Recovery Residence. Mark your calendars for the 2024 Recovery Residences Summit, and get your tickets here! ■

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Aspire News



Connect to Cure continued

living with hepatitis C,” said Julie Foltz, Aspire HOPE Director. “The Connect to Cure program is now available statewide, and Aspire has three case managers providing these services in 32 counties across Indiana.”

Aspire’s case managers are Jayne Weir in Anderson; Abby Vonderschmidt in Muncie; and another case manager to be added in Lafayette. Testing for hepatitis C is free, and the cure is easy – over the course of eight to 12 weeks. Many people who have hepatitis C don’t experience any symptoms, so testing is important.

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Minority Mental Health Awareness

An article penned by Dr. Gina was recently featured in the Indianapolis Recorder, with the topic “Raising Awareness for Minority Mental Health in Indianapolis: A Call to Action.” In the article, Dr. Gina says “it is imperative for Indianapolis to build on its current efforts and create a more inclusive and supportive mental healthcare system. This includes increasing funding for mental health services, expanding cultural competence training for providers and enhancing community outreach programs.”

“It is a collective responsibility to ensure that every resident, regardless of their racial or ethnic background, has access to the mental healthcare they need and deserve. Through community engagement, cultural competence and a commitment to breaking down barriers, the city can make significant strides toward mental health equity for all its residents,” Dr. Gina says. To read the full article, [click here](#). ■



Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses

Aspire Deaf Services Program Manager Silvia Lopez and Deaf Community Health Worker Maj Bippus recently attended the 2024 Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses (AMPHL) Conference in Chicago, an event that brought together 200 attendees from six different countries with the theme “Driving Authentic Representation in Healthcare.”

“This event not only highlighted innovative approaches in mental health and primary care integration, but also underscored the importance of inclusivity and collaboration in healthcare,” Lopez says. “It was an inspiring experience, especially for someone deeply connected to the cause of supporting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.”

“As a newcomer attending the AMPHL Conference, I was truly impressed by the wealth of resources and networking opportunities available,” Bippus says. “One presentation in particular, delivered by Holly Rioux and DT Bruno on ‘Empowering Patients,’ resonated deeply with me. As a newly minted community health worker (CHW), this session provided invaluable insights into the intricacies of my role and emphasized the critical

Connect to Care continued

“We can do free testing; it’s a quick, 20-minute antibody test,” Foltz says. “And we want people to know it can be cured. Treatment is more than 95 percent effective, so there is help. We have case managers who can help you with treatment or connect you or someone you know to information and resources – and it’s all free.”

Have questions or want more information? Contact Bri Green, Prevention Program Manager, at bri.green@aspireindiana.org.





AMP article continued

importance of effective communication in healthcare. Understanding the services at my disposal and learning how to leverage them to communicate crucial health information clearly is not only important for my clients' well-being but also for enhancing their overall understanding of their health. Ensuring they leave my office fully informed empowers them to make informed decisions about their health, which is a fundamental aspect of my professional commitment. Clear and effective communication builds trust and strengthens the patient-provider relationship, ultimately contributing to better health outcomes for my clients."

As an alum of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Lopez says she was particularly proud to learn about the establishment of the Deaf Hub, an initiative dedicated to promoting the representation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) individuals in healthcare and biomedical science careers.

"One of the most exciting initiatives introduced by the Deaf Hub is the Mentor Supported Shadowing Program (MSSP)," she says. "This program offers DHH students the chance to receive mentoring support from a team of experts and gain valuable shadowing experiences with healthcare professionals. MSSP is designed to provide these students with firsthand insights into the healthcare field, allowing them to build connections and gain practical experience that will be invaluable in their careers. I am particularly hopeful about the possibility of future collaboration between MSSP and Aspire. Such a partnership could further enhance the opportunities available to DHH students and strengthen our commitment to inclusivity and excellence in healthcare." ■



This program (Deaf Hub) offers DHH students the chance to receive mentoring support from a team of experts and gain valuable shadowing experiences with healthcare professionals.

- Silvia Lopez





by Jaclyn Saunders
photo/video by Ben Rose

Employee Spotlight: Jackie Idlewine

Residential Recovery Technician, Mockingbird Hill

Meet Jackie Idlewine, a residential recovery technician at Mockingbird Hill. For the last 18 months, Jackie has been working with residents in recovery – being a cheerleader, mentor and an inspiration for their aspirations of success. After all, he knows firsthand the importance of the work he is doing. Jackie’s story with Mockingbird Hill first began with his own recovery.



After struggling with addiction for many years, Jackie found himself at Mockingbird Hill. It was at Mockingbird Hill that Jackie learned to use the facility’s available resources to pull himself from the throes of addiction, with the support of the employees and residents alongside him. Eventually, he began working at Frisch’s Big Boy, a burger chain, and worked his way up to assistant general manager prior to joining the Mockingbird Hill staff. In fact, his previous manager at Frisch’s was so eager to keep Jackie, anytime Jackie considered looking for a new position, his manager would give him a pay increase and promotion. It was a true testament to Jackie’s determination and work ethic.

Jackie talks about what he loves most about his job at Mockingbird Hill, saying “Helping someone who has been through what you have been through – there is no greater

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Jackie has been working with residents in recovery — being a cheerleader, mentor and an inspiration for their aspirations of success. After all, he knows firsthand the importance of the work he is doing.

reward than that.” He looks forward to seeing the residents daily and supporting them through their own recovery journeys. He also reflects back on where he has been. “I don’t judge any of my old friends for anything they do. In fact, I hope they know they can be in recovery ... because I’m in recovery.”

Jackie also gushes about his recent marriage and their water-loving dog! His

pitbull, Ky, just loves playing in rivers and lakes – along with the occasional puddle. His family spends as much time as they can kayaking, swimming and camping.

Jackie hopes to continue inspiring others to accept the help they need. “I can’t believe I am where I am; and I know if I could do it, so can they.” ■





by Jaclyn Saunders

Recognition

We're proud of the people who work for Aspire. That's why we'd like to take a moment to give recognition to them for their achievements – both inside and outside the work they do with us serving Hoosiers.



Mallory Stapler

Mallory Stapler, Nurse Practitioner, really went above and beyond for her patients and works amazingly with her colleagues. She breaks down barriers and advocates for her patients beautifully.

Click the arrows to see all the amazing Aspire employees being recognized this month!

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Recognition



Danielle Jackson

Danielle Jackson, Patient Access Specialist, has gone above and beyond to train new colleagues. She is patient and never complains about helping trainees with their questions or assisting them learning their new role.

Click the arrows to see all the amazing Aspire employees being recognized this month!





In last month's Accent on Compassion feature by Aspire Indiana Health President and CEO Antony Sheehan, he talked with Executive Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer Jim Skeel about his new role and what it means for the future of Aspire.

Watch the video here

