



# CAC helps Aspire always keep patients first

The Aspire Indiana Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) is now recruiting people to serve as new members. The CAC is composed of former and current Aspire clients who provide feedback and ideas on the company's policies and procedures to improve the patient experience.

Amy Graham has served on the committee since its inception and says it has "has a loud voice for Aspire's consumers."

"The CAC is a bridge between the employees and consumers. We have been able to offer advice on everything from the waiting room experience to hiring questions for Aspire employees," Graham says. "I think having an Advisory committee is important to Aspire because it offers a perspective that might otherwise not be seen."

Darrell Osborne has also been a member of CAC since the very start, and was the immediate past chairman.

"Aspire has so many programs available that if people have a need, we very possibly are going to have staff to help them with that. And that's exciting," he says.

He points to a recent example of advising Aspire leadership on the implementation of a new phone system for its Contact Center, which receives all incoming requests for appointments and questions. As patients, the CAC members could point out problem areas they've encountered themselves and offer potential solutions.

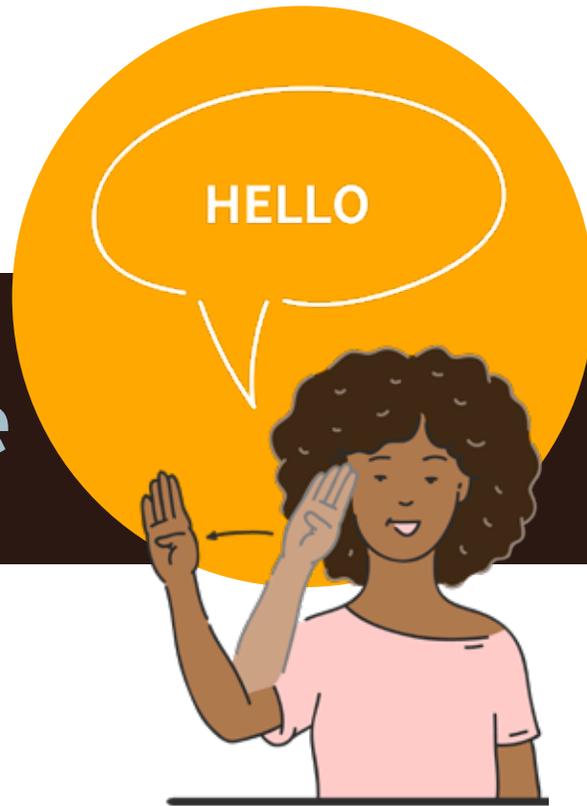
"They listened to our real-life experiences. That's the beauty of what we're doing. We're the ones receiving the services and treatment," Osborne says. "I know, as a former business owner, it's easy to lose track of the people we're serving. And the committee can tell Aspire how we feel."

Anyone interested in volunteering for CAC can contact Trusa Grosso at [trusa.grosso@aspireindiana.org](mailto:trusa.grosso@aspireindiana.org) or (317) 587-0546.

*Amy's personal favorite part of serving has been working with the CAC annual art show of works by patients. "The Art Show gives consumers the opportunity to submit their own art and have it displayed. I feel like this is just one way where Aspire shows how they value their clients. And I feel like it gives a lot of undiscovered artists the chance to not only share their talents and perhaps step out of their comfort zones, but also to know that they are capable of doing important things."*

# Employee

# Spotlight



**Heather Smith**  
discusses what brought her to be a Care Coordinator/ Life Skills Instructor in Aspire's Deaf Services department for the last six years.



**What is your job title and role at Aspire? How long have you worked here?**

I work as a Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor for the Deaf Services. I have worked at Aspire for 6 years. It will be 7 years in August.

**Tell me about your professional background – previous jobs/ industries, etc.**

After I graduated from Gallaudet University, I moved to South Carolina to work as a behavior specialist and worked at the school as a long term substitute teacher. My husband and I decided to move to Indiana for a better opportunity so I worked at Indiana School for the Deaf with elementary students as a residential mentor. My experiences lead me to work at Aspire after I worked at a few places.

**Why do you think having a Deaf Services unit is so important for Aspire?**

I think it is very important to have Deaf Services at Aspire because we are a minority group and we struggle with many things. Most of our clients are having a lot of language barriers. We have our staff that is able to access their language needs to work with their mental health so they can be stable.

**Please list any educational degrees or certifications you hold.**

I have B.S. Degree in Family and Child Studies from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. It is the only deaf university in the United States of America. :)

**What do you most look forward to about your job?**

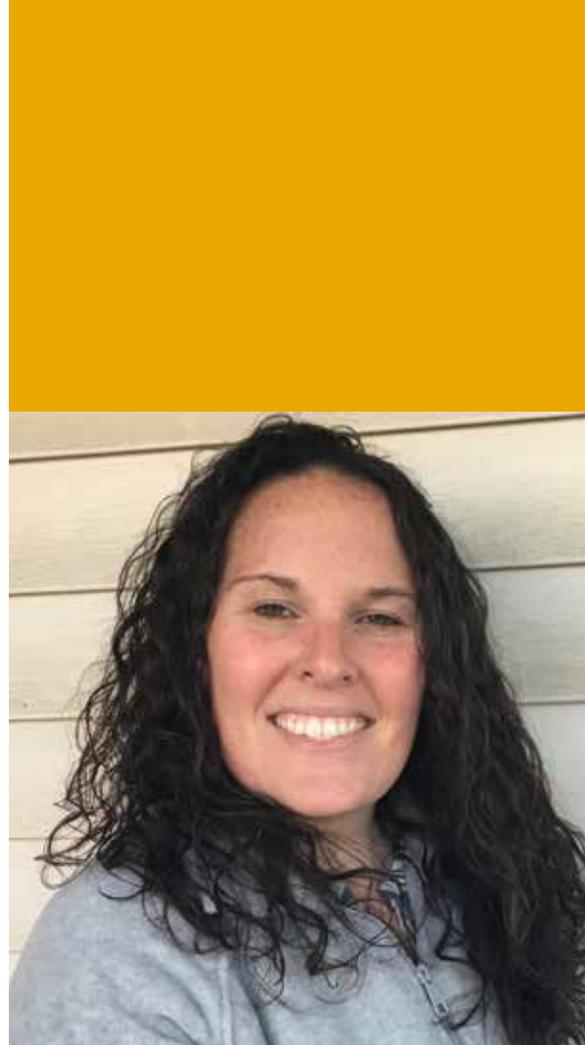
I always look forward to working with my clients to make their day!

**Is there any particular success story that sustains you?**

I do have one success story about one of my clients. My client used to be so scared to get out of his apartment. He would just stay in his apartment all day. I worked with him so hard to use his coping skills and learn how to use it when he faces people in the community. Now, he is enjoying himself in the community!

**Anything personal you feel comfortable sharing – family, hobbies, sports, things you're passionate about, life-changing experiences, community involvement/volunteerism, etc.**

I always enjoy spending time with my husband, my daughter and my dog! I will share one thing about myself, I used to be a very shy person and always nervous to start new things. It is just that I decided to move away for college and learned about myself better. After those experiences, I have more confidence in myself for my future! ■



**Heather Smith**  
Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor

// I always look forward to working with my clients to make their day! //

## Rep. Victoria Spartz visits Mockingbird Hill

CEO Barbara Scott and her team met with Spartz to update her on the challenges facing the recovery community and enlist her support. The congresswoman asked for information she can use to make the case in Washington D.C. and pledged to continue their dialogue together.



Welcome New  
Aspire Staff!

- ▶ Janie Bennett, License Eligible Residential Addictions Therapist, Progress House
- ▶ Elizabeth Burton, Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor Y&F HCBS, Noblesville
- ▶ Wen Chien, Supervisor, Y&F HCBS, Willowbrook
- ▶ Erin Cole, Infectious Disease Testing Coordinator, Muncie
- ▶ DaChelle Durham, Certified Medical Assistant, Willowbrook
- ▶ Shayla Harris, Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor - HCBS, Carmel
- ▶ Shelby Levy, Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor - School Based, Carmel
- ▶ Amy Mitchell, License Eligible Psychologist, Carmel
- ▶ Marta Ritz, Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor - OP, Lebanon
- ▶ Rheannan Shaieb, Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor - HCBS, Carmel
- ▶ Taylor Speer, Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor School Based, Carmel
- ▶ Desiray Vasquez, Residential Recovery Technician, Mockingbird Hill
- ▶ Jenna Wagoner, SDoH South Support Associate, Willowbrook
- ▶ Kirstyn Wehsollek, Outpatient Office Coordinator, DeHaven

# Aspire debuts free Naloxone boxes in Anderson, Elwood

Aspire Indiana Health has installed a [NaloxBox](#) at its health centers in Anderson and Elwood to help combat the scourge of opioid overdoses, which is currently the leading cause of death among adults 50 years old and younger in the United States – surpassing even COVID.

Each box is stocked with Naloxone, also known as Narcan, which is shown to block the effects of opioids and help save the life of someone experiencing an overdose. The NaloxBox also includes instructions and referral information for substance use disorder treatment. This is a free community resource available 24/7 and each box is restocked regularly.



Anyone who wants to obtain a free Naloxone kit can do so anytime, without an appointment or identifying themselves. The boxes are mounted on the exterior wall near the patient entrances at:

- ▶ 2009 Brown St., Anderson
- ▶ 10731 SR 13 in Elwood

Please spread the word about this important service that's saving lives!



- ▶ Katie Cutrell
- ▶ Mary Shafer
- ▶ Jenny Rodriguez
- ▶ Janis Ashburn
- ▶ Adam Fultz
- ▶ Lawrence Jones
- ▶ Mary Slowiak
- ▶ Janet Bazzell
- ▶ Emily Bauman
- ▶ Mary Houghton
- ▶ Tony Boberschmidt
- ▶ Jordan Riley
- ▶ Alyssa Pearson
- ▶ Amy Duncan
- ▶ Justin Nelson
- ▶ Shelby Watson
- ▶ Lillian Anderson
- ▶ Donna Barker
- ▶ Liz Philips
- ▶ Alexis Johnson
- ▶ Debbie Shelley

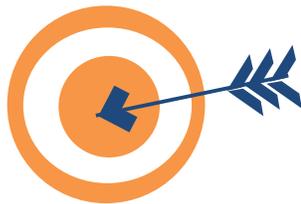
# Indiana Works

## Work Incentives Planning and Assistance 2020 Year in Review

Indiana Works, a Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) project, provides comprehensive benefits planning and work incentive counseling to eligible Social Security beneficiaries. We provide FREE services to individuals who are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/ or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who are currently employed or just about to enter the workforce, and any youth between 14 & 25 years old.

### NUMBER SERVED

**831**  
SOCIAL  
SECURITY



**BENEFICIARIES** (AGES 14 - RETIREMENT)

### STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY

PARTICIPANTS ANNUAL  
ESTIMATED EARNING OF

**6.4 M**



Participants in the program strengthen the economy through increased buying power, contribute to the tax base, and decrease reliance on social service systems.

### WAGES

**\$12.02/HR.**

(Range: \$9.25 - \$16.45 monthly average)

**AVERAGE EARNINGS OF  
PARTICIPANTS**

Individuals who receive

### TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

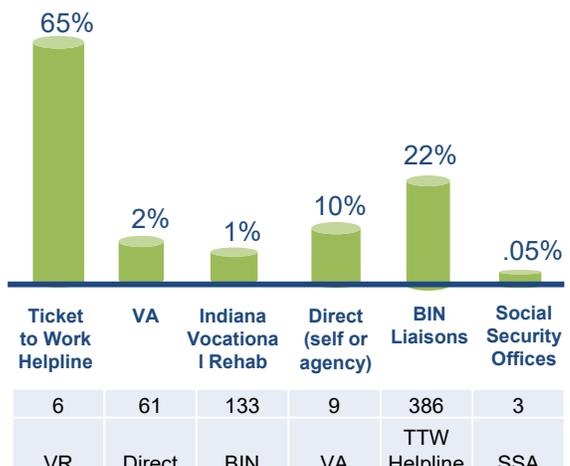
RECEIVED  
BENEFITS  
COUNSELING

**114 TRANSITION  
AGED YOUTH  
(14-25)**



Youth who received benefits counseling are more than twice as likely to secure employment than those youth who did not meet with a benefits specialist.\*

### REFERRAL SOURCES



benefits counseling are more than four times as likely to be gainfully employed.\*

### WHY IS WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING IMPORTANT?

Providing work incentive benefits counseling for individuals with Disabilities **IMPROVES** individual **EMPLOYMENT RATES** and **EARNINGS LEVELS**.\*

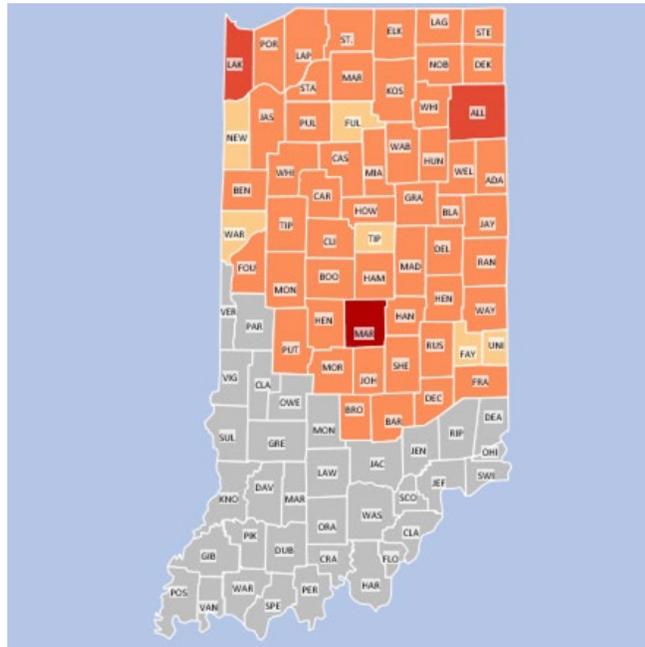
### KNOWLEDGE

## UNDERSTAND HOW WORK AFFECTS

- Medicaid •Medicare Parts A, B & D
- Social Security Disability Insurance •Supplemental Security Income •Food Assistance
- Housing Subsidies •And Other State & Federal Benefits

### SERVING INDIANA

COUNTIES **58**  
NORTHERN AND  
CENTRAL INDIANA



### TO LEARN MORE:

Call toll free: (855) 641-8382

<https://www.aspireindiana.org/community-programs/indiana-works-wipa>  
email us at [indianaworks@aspireindiana.org](mailto:indianaworks@aspireindiana.org)

Source: \*Schlegelmilch, A.; Roskowski, M.; Anderson, C.; Hartman, E.; and Decker-Maurer, H. "The impact of work incentives benefits counseling on employment outcomes of transition-age youth receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits."

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# TOP 5 HOTTEST JOBS!

## **Accounts Payable**

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=419712466>

## **Staff Nurse - Residential Facilities**

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=419712463>

## **Staff Nurse - Primary Care**

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=419702090>

## **Support Associate**

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=402975817>

## **Licensed Therapist**

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=352645575>



**We serve all. We hire all. We accept all.**



To view all of our job openings, [click here](#).