

# Healthbeat

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Team Health Equity Brings Together  
HOPE, Social Impact and Recovery Capital



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### **Feature Article**

Tiffany Whisner, Marketing Content Manager

### **Social Media Hits**

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### **Recognition, Employee Spotlight**

Jaclyn Saunders, Marketing Associate

### **Welcome New Employees**

Adrianna Burgos, Manager, Talent Acquisition

### **Way to Go!**

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by Tiffany Whisner  
photos by Ben Rose and iStock



*Aspire has a duty to improve the health of the population we serve. Health equity is at the core of our mission, serving underserved communities with compassion.*

**- Aspire Chief Culture & Health Equity Officer  
Dr. Gina Forrest**



# Team Health Equity Brings Together HOPE, Social Impact and Recovery Capital



That duty and mission led to the creation of a Health Equity Function at Aspire – bringing our work on recovery, social drivers of health and the infectious disease team together. Led by Dr. Gina, Team Health Equity is a proactive initiative aimed at addressing the root causes of health disparities within the community we serve. Team Health Equity comprises the Office of Recovery Capital, the Department of Social Impact (formerly Social Drivers of Health) and the Department of HOPE, which stands for Health, Outreach, Prevention and Education (formerly Infectious Disease).



“While Aspire was in the process of reorganizing our leadership structure, we wanted to dig into the roots of who we are with a more targeted approach to decreasing health inequities and helping those people who are trying to access care,” Forrest says. “These three areas have always been the boots on the ground and out in the community doing work, and to bring them together to be more strategically aligned will hopefully bring an even greater impact to those we are serving.”

One of the ways to create greater impact is through education, and Forrest says she will be encouraging those Aspire staff members in Team Health Equity to become certified community health workers (CCHW), proving they have a demonstrated foundational mastery of the community health worker (CHW) core competencies as defined both nationally and in the state of Indiana.

According to the [Indiana Community Health Workers Association](#), a CHW is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.



A community health worker also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

“Our team members already do so much work in the community – this additional education will support them with more knowledge, resources and training as they provide comprehensive services and advocate for individuals and communities throughout Indiana,” Dr. Gina says.

In addition, Team Health Equity will be conducting a community health needs assessment in each of the counties Aspire serves to more clearly identify the different health needs of each area.

“Each county has different needs based on their social drivers of health,” Forrest says. “One county might need more employment assistance, and another

might need more legal assistance. It's important for us to look at each county and community we serve from a strategic lens. Who are we not reaching? We know we aren't reaching everyone, so this assessment will help us better find the gaps and understand what we can do to help."

A survey will be sent to the zip codes throughout the counties; there will also be focus groups and interviews done with key Aspire stakeholders, partners and advocates. From the data gathered, Team Health Equity will create a plan to begin to reduce any health inequities present.

Another goal of Team Health Equity is to form an internal health equity committee at Aspire.

"We want to ensure we are listening to all different perspectives from across the organization," Forrest says. "Everyone has a role to play in helping decrease health inequities, and once we gather and review the data, we want to make sure whatever plan we put into place is evaluated by Aspire staff in all different departments with different voices and opinions. We want to be able to keep each other informed on our successes as well as where we might be struggling."



*We want to ensure we are listening to all different perspectives from across the organization, Forrest says.*



Forrest also plans to take the message of Aspire and Team Health Equity to external audiences, including media outlets and the general public through a podcast focused on health equity topics from intercultural perspectives.

"The content will be fun, engaging, and relevant to anyone! My goal is to bring education and awareness of these important topics to a wider group of people and lead them to actual systemic change."

# Welcome New Employees!

**Kathryn Beagle**

Medical Assistant  
Noblesville

**Sara Daggy**

Wraparound Facilitator

**Aires Degraphenreed**

Patient Access Specialist  
Carmel

**Maura Douglass**

Life Skills Instructor  
Carmel

**Corynn Drabek**

Infectious Disease Case  
Manager

**Erica Glenn**

Training Specialist

**Cortnie Hayes**

Patient Access Specialist  
Noblesville

**Hailey Hess**

Infectious Disease Case  
Manager

**Rachel Inman**

Housing Coordinator  
Madison County

**Rico James**

Supervisor, Crisis  
Response

**James Janes**

Supervisor  
Comprehensive  
Outpatient Services  
Noblesville

**Sydney May**

Infectious Disease  
Project Associate

**Lauren Miller**

Therapist, HCBS

**Meredith Moore**

Therapist, Assessment

**Edna Nichols**

Therapist, HCBS

**Marlisa Oatts**

Patient Access Specialist  
Noblesville

**Allison Parker**

340B Program  
Supervisor

**Jeremiah Rikken**

Employment Specialist

**Qiana Robinson**

Leadership Development  
Specialist

**Tommy Smithes**

Front Desk Associate  
Progress House

**Cassandra Strong**

Clinical Manager,  
Supported Living  
Services

**Brittany R Taylor**

Patient Access Specialist  
Willowbrook

**Holly Thompson**

340B Program  
Coordinator

**Shanika Thompson**

Certified Medical  
Assistant  
Carmel

**Delany Velez**

Certified Medical  
Assistant  
Carmel

**William "Tom" Wallace**

Staff Nurse

**Jade Williams**

Career Pathing Specialist

**Jamie L. Wilson**

Accounting Services  
Representative





by Tiffany Whisner  
video: Ben Rose  
photos: Ben Rose/Ce'Aira Waymon

Aspire Indiana Health showed up and showed our pride at this year's Indy Pride Festival and Parade on June 8! This was our third year marching in Pride, and it brought together more than 100 Aspire team members from all over the organization to march in the parade and staff the Aspire booth at the festival.

# A PRIDEful Experience



*Aspire's involvement in Indy Pride really reflects all the values we stand for. We hire all. We care about all. We accept all," says Vice President of Community Partnerships dianna Huddleston. "This helps our employees and the people we serve know that we get them and we care about them.*







*The environment and atmosphere were so uplifting — acceptance, hope, belonging, connecting to people and witnessing people’s excitement about what we do and how we can help,” the Aspire Community Engagement Team says. “Working together as a team was uplifting, allowing the freedom to be you, fun and love for one another. There was a lot of smiling and laughing with a variety of music, activities and resources. I felt like we were all there to work together and help the community.*



Click image to play video





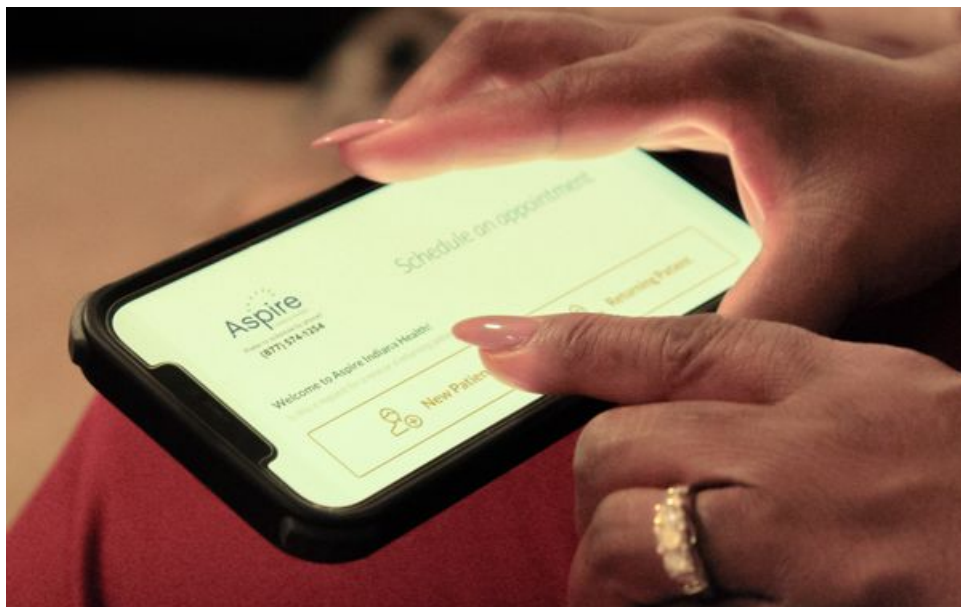




by Brandi Brewer

# Social Media Hits

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



**Being your *authentic* self, if safe to do so, is one of the best ways to protect your well-being.**

[MHANATIONAL.ORG/PRIDE](https://mhanational.org/pride)





by Tiffany Whisner  
photo by Ben Rose

# Unveiling the 2024 Top 15 Influential Women Shaping Global DEI

**DR. GINA FORREST TRANSFORMS DEI AT ASPIRE INDIANA HEALTH**



*When we can see ourselves as we truly are and accept ourselves, we build the necessary foundation for self-love... whether we learn how to love ourselves and others will depend on the presence of a loving environment. Self love cannot flourish in isolation.*

**– Bell Hooks**



(drum roll, please) Congratulations to Dr. Gina, who has been named one of the [Top 15 Influential Women Shaping Global DEI](#) by DiversityGlobal, a quarterly magazine for C-Suite executives and professionals responsible for driving change internally and across cultures. It is one of the most widely read diversity magazines in Asia, North America and Europe.



The 2024 Top 15 Influential Women in Diversity are “transformational leaders whose organizations recognize them as diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) champions and agents of change. As champions, they never miss an opportunity to have conversations with diverse supporters and non-supporters. As change agents, they design strategies with goals and objectives. In this era of interconnectedness and shared humanity, the contributions of these trailblazers extend across borders, transcending cultural, political and socio economic divides. Through their diverse expertise, impassioned advocacy and collaborative spirit, they navigate complex challenges, amplify underrepresented voices and champion the fundamental principle that diversity is not only a source of strength but also a prerequisite for innovation, resilience and sustainable growth in this increasingly interdependent world.”

Dr. Gina is “deeply committed to advancing the voices of Black and Brown women in professional spheres. Through mentorship and advocacy, she addresses issues such as colorism, leveraging her position to advocate for fairness and equal access to opportunities. Furthermore, Gina has crafted workshops focused on understanding neurodiversity, advocating for more inclusive policies and fostering supportive workplace environments.”



[Click image to view website](#)

Holding the vital role of Chief Culture Officer (and now Chief Culture and Health Equity Officer) at Aspire, “the cornerstone of Gina’s successful DEI strategies lies in what she terms the PEACE philosophy: patience, education, accountability, consistency and ease. Prior to her current role, Gina held the inaugural position as the Chief Diversity Officer of the Indiana Supreme Court, and she is currently a faculty with Indiana University, teaching and mentoring students each semester in the area of public health and health equities.”



by Tiffany Whisner  
photos by Ben Rose

# Recover, Recharge and Reconnect at the ADARA Conference

Sixteen Aspire team members, including five members of our Deaf Services team, attended the 2024 American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) Conference in Atlanta, Georgia – an opportunity for participants to gain new information, share experiences and identify new skills and training strategies.



"I went as the program manager for Deaf Services, attending different sessions that would benefit my knowledge and skills to apply with my team," says Deaf Services Program Manager Silvia Lopez. "One topic I enjoyed was on 'Community-Based Participatory Research and Deaf-MET.' This presentation was of particular interest to me because we use motivational interviewing (MI) at Aspire. The team is creating a deaf-friendly version of the MI a.k.a. motivational enhancement therapy (MET) that will work best for clients with alcohol addictions using Deaf-MET ASL Signs. They created ASL vocabularies for MI/MET concepts and created videos/flash cards. And all of these are done via community-based participation."



"As a hearing person, the conference was an amazing and sometimes overwhelming immersive experience that was so good for me to experience professionally and personally," says Vice President of Community Partnerships dianna Huddleston. "It really helped me experience what our Deaf colleagues experience on a daily basis. I think it helped me to have a better understanding of their culture and community, and I felt like I was able to further develop my understanding of my Deaf colleagues. We also had a lot of fun spending time together!"

The Aspire team did a poster presentation, "Aspire Indiana Health's Integrated Healthcare for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Population," that was both informative and interactive with the conference attendees. Aspire was also an event sponsor of the conference.

ADARA conference participants represent professionals in the fields of vocational rehabilitation services and behavioral health, including research, independent living, education, interpreting and transition.

ADARA also acknowledges services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind persons are scarce; therefore, networking is critical in sharing strategies and resources.

"Professional development and knowledge sharing with our hearing colleagues provide insightful understanding of how we can offer quality services to DHH clients," Lopez says. "Networking and collaboration with other professionals help us grow our expertise in the field. For Aspire, participating in the ADARA Conference demonstrates a strong commitment to advocacy and representation for the Deaf and HH community. It positions Aspire at the forefront of providing innovative and effective solutions when working with the Deaf team."

"I believe Aspire has created and continues to create a very unique model for providing integrated services for the Deaf community," Huddleston says. "I felt like it was important for us to highlight what we are doing. I was thrilled to be at the conference and for Aspire to be recognized as just such a leader. People from all over the country came to our booth during the week and our poster presentation and complimented us on our integration. Also, the Deaf community is a small, well-connected community, and when we recruit staff, we need to do that nationally, and this gave us a great opportunity to do just that."



by Christopher Lloyd

# It's About Alignment: Aspire's New Leadership Structure

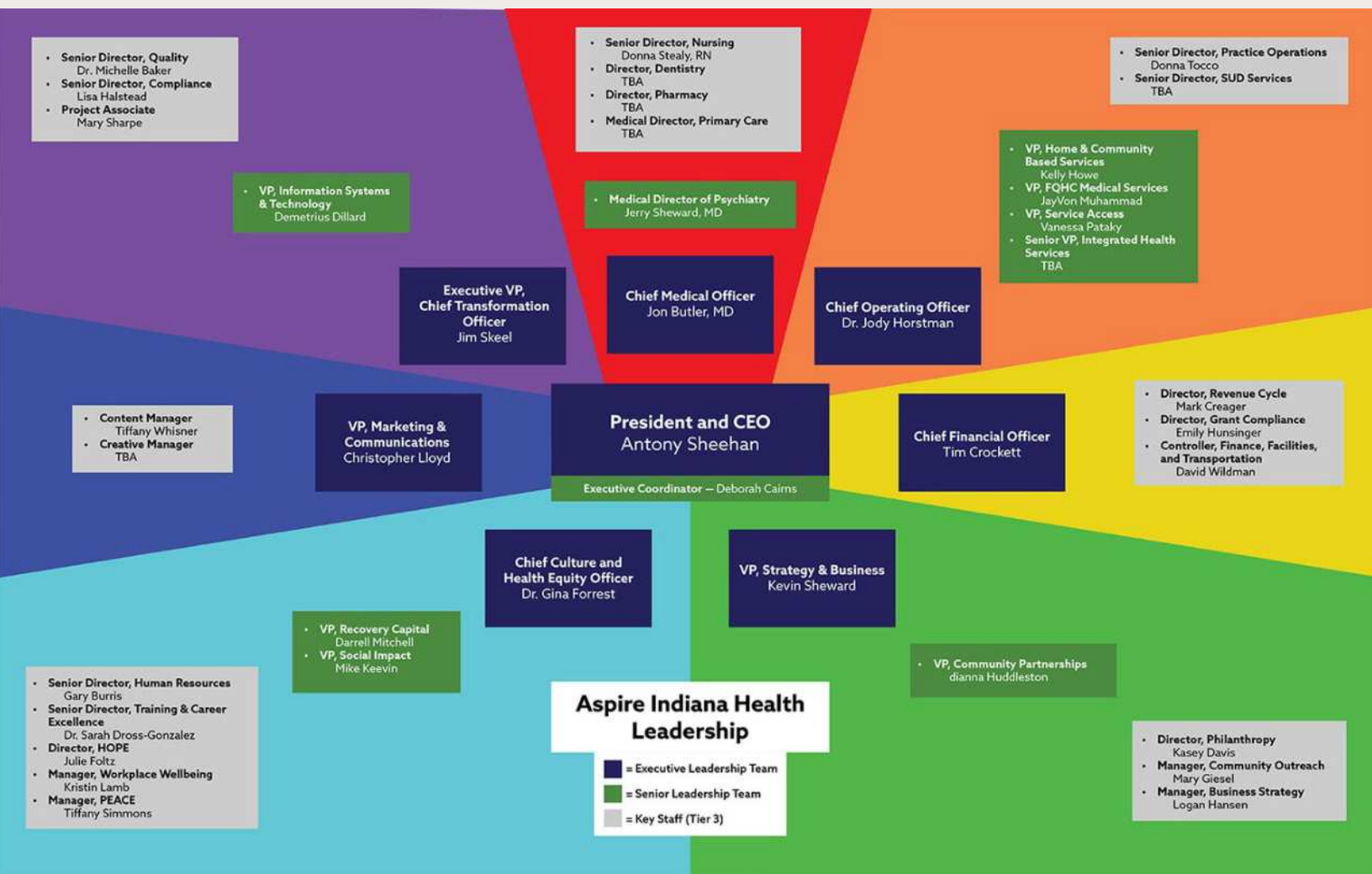
In June, Aspire Indiana Health completed a reorganization of its leadership structure to better align the organization as it continues to grow and serve more Hoosiers. It was the culmination of a process that began more than six months ago in consultation with [AlignOrg.com](https://www.AlignOrg.com), guided by the company's mission and values.

At the top of the new organizational chart is the Executive Leadership Team or ELT, consisting of Aspire President and CEO Antony Sheehan and seven executives, each leading core company functions. This group addresses the most crucial decisions for Aspire and ensures the effective execution of the strategic plan and priorities.

The next tier is the Senior Leadership Team, consisting of the ELT plus additional leaders of key service lines and teams. The SLT serves as a means of identifying, communicating, evaluating and strategizing within Aspire's mission, vision, values and strategic plan based on current agencywide issues and opportunities.

"The process focuses on a number of key themes including: ensuring we are clear how decisions are made and priorities established, how we report on our achievements and challenges, communication across Aspire and with partners, and most importantly, how we best support our colleagues in the critical work everyone does, every day," Sheehan told employees at the outset of the realignment.







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photo by iStock. Posed by model.

## CCBHC Demonstration for Indiana

Big news: Indiana was selected as a [demonstration site](#) for the next rollout of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)! The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced Indiana as one of 10 additional states that will now be eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursements under the Certified

**continued on next page**

# Aspire News

## Online Scheduling is Here!

Aspire Indiana Health is proud to announce patients can now schedule their medical appointments online! All it takes is a few clicks and filling out basic information on your computer or mobile device to manage appointments with a primary care provider of your choice. Follow this [link](#) to access Aspire's online scheduling tool.

Please note: this tool only works for primary care medical appointments. Behavioral therapy appointments are still handled by scheduling directly with your provider for existing patients, or by walk-in [Same Day Access](#) at any of our Central Indiana health centers for new patients. Get your medical appointment [scheduled online](#) today.

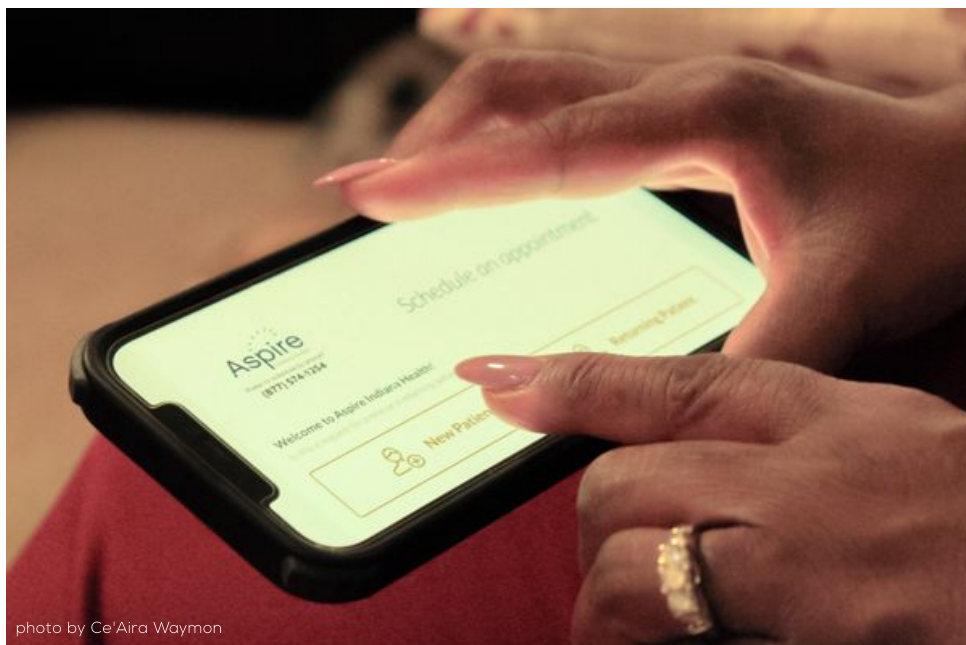


photo by Ce'Aira Waymon

# Mockingbird Hill Gets Social

CCBHC continued from page 18

Community Behavioral Health Clinic Demonstration Program.

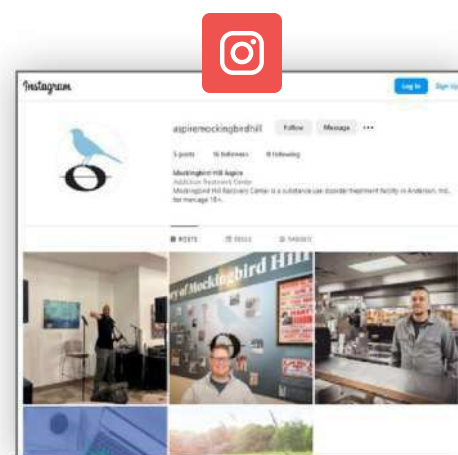
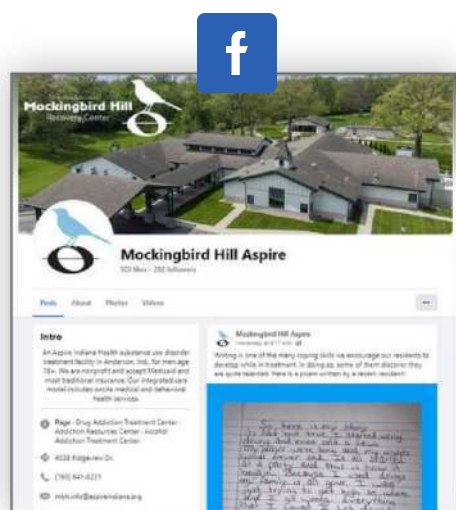
According to a news release from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), a CCBHC is a specially designated clinic that provides a comprehensive range of mental health and addiction services. CCBHCs serve all people, regardless of their diagnosis, insurance status, place of residence or age.

"Indiana has already made great strides in increasing access to crisis care for Hoosiers," FSSA Secretary Dan Rusyniak, M.D., says. "The move toward a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model will further increase access to quality behavioral health care across Indiana."

It's official! Mockingbird Hill now has its own [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages! We hope to continue to get the word out about Mockingbird Hill and share all the great work being done for men who are just at the beginning stages of recovery.

"Being just three years old, Mockingbird Hill is still young, and we have so much to offer those who are dealing with substance abuse disorder," says Mockingbird Hill Director Katie Dalton. "Having a place where people who have been through treatment can provide feedback and share their stories will help those seeking treatment better understand what to expect and find a safe place to get help."

The Mockingbird Hill Facebook and Instagram pages will share testimonials, articles and videos highlighting the treatment facility's services, staff spotlights and link to additional resources about Aspire's Whole Health Recovery Continuum. Like, follow and share today!





# Genoa's 2024 Art Celebration



Calling all artists! Genoa Healthcare's [annual Art Celebration](#), which honors Genoa consumers, their talents and the healing r of art, is now open! You are invited to submit one or more original art pieces – portraits, landscapes, still lifes and other forms of art – and share what making art means to you. Select submissions and consumer stories will be featured on Genoa's website, social media and 2025 wall calendar. The [deadline](#) for submissions is July 31.



image used courtesy of Genoa Healthcare





Antony Sheehan  
President & Executive Officer

In last month's blog post by Aspire Indiana Health President and CEO Antony Sheehan, he highlighted Simon Sinek's five principles for organizations to keep playing "The Infinite Game" and how game principles can be applied to leadership. [Read more here!](#)



- Maj Bippus
- Shelby Bradford
- Emily Ehrlich
- Vivian Hinders
- Kyree Nelson
- Johnnell Young

photos by Aspire Staff

This sweet boy is Reagan, and he's looking for his forever home!

**Wanting to adopt a puppy? APL is looking to find forever homes for them now!**

For more information visit APL at: [www.inapil.org](http://www.inapil.org)

Phone: (765) 365-0900

Address: 613 Dewey St, Anderson, IN

Adoption fees for dogs are typically \$150 for most animals and includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, deworming, microchip, heartworm testing and a wellness exam.



# Partnering with Pets for Mental Health

Pups With Purpose! A new partnership with Aspire and The Animal Protection League (APL) of Madison County is bringing together group home clients and current shelter animals to engage in interactive outdoor activities, emotional support and companionship.



Aspire group home clients are accompanied by staff twice a month to The APL facility in Anderson to cuddle and play with all the furry friends. It gives clients the opportunity to get outside with the animals, interact with peers and the community, develop social skills and get some physical exercise. The act of interacting with animals has been proven to lower blood pressure, provide relief for depression and anxiety symptoms, increase endorphins and even provide pain relief!





by Jaclyn Saunders  
photo/video by Ben Rose

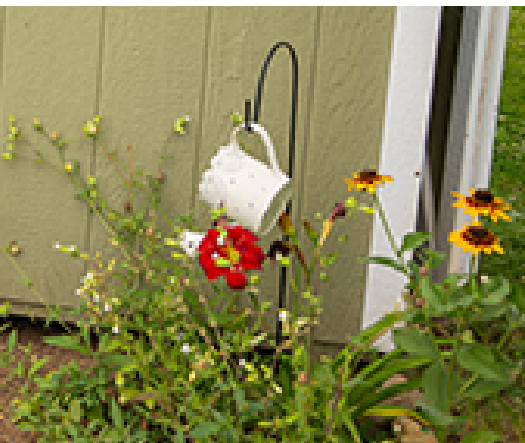
# Employee Spotlight: Christal Lee

**Supervisor, Accounts Receivable**

A transplant from Kansas, Christal Lee appreciates and understands the importance of strong roots. The Kansas native beams as she details the strong roots her dad had in Indiana, growing up in Madison County.



What really makes her face light up is when she starts to chat about her garden – a spring garden for a host of yummy summer veggies and a fall garden for a bountiful winter. But the gardening doesn't stop there. Christal and I compare our herb gardens; hers is a wonderful three-bed garden chock-full of herbs to be used for cooking or storing to use later. "I even prefer to weed by hand," Christal mentions. A task many gardeners dread, "weeding by hand is like solving a problem, digging it up by its root so it doesn't return." And problem solving so the problems don't return goes beyond gardening for Christal. In fact, it's her favorite part of her job as a supervisor in accounts receivable.







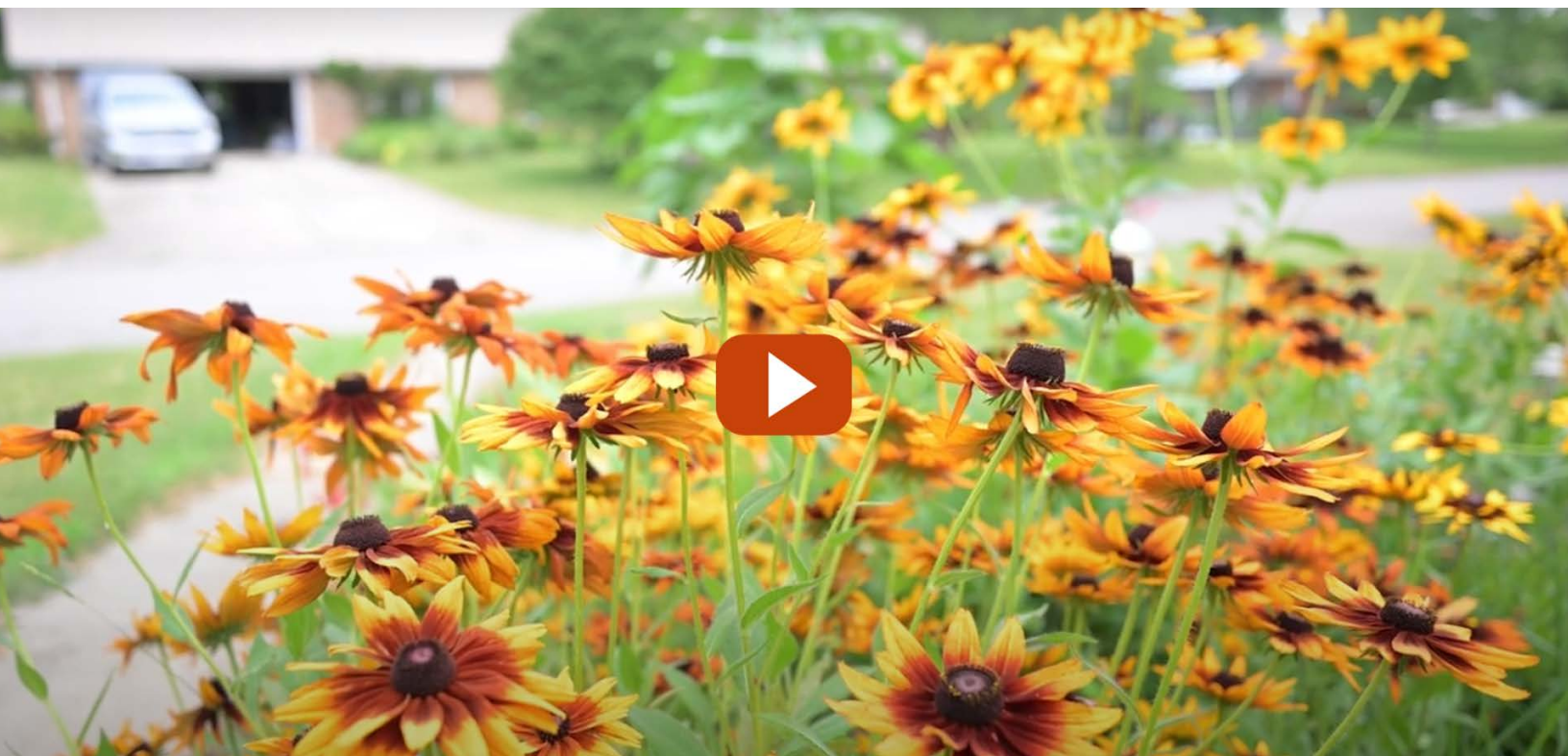
As the conversation transitions from gardening to Aspire, Christal talks about her love of problem solving, venturing down rabbit holes to find solutions along with training and mentoring new team members. "I love when you're training someone, and you can see their 'aha' moment," she says while discussing her joy for coaching.

Christal got her start in billing very early in her career and joined the Aspire team in June 2020. By 2022, she had quickly worked her way to a promotion. "I've witnessed Aspire grow and bloom so much since I started here." And that growth continues to inspire Christal in her daily work. "I thought the May All-Aspire Event was so cool – being able to see so much of the growth in person."

Click image to  
play video.



Christal Lee has long been passionate about watching her gardens, family and children grow; and that passion for growth is reflected in her role at Aspire. She has brought her magic gardener touch to her work, and that, in turn, encourages those around her to bloom even more.





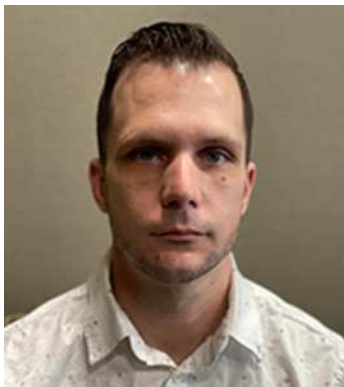
by Jaclyn Saunders

# 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.



**David Vest**, Recovery Coach, has been working very hard to coordinate care for both his outpatient and incarcerated clients. Recently, a citizen in the community on David's way back to the DeHaven office needed Narcan, and David was able to save the individual's life. He goes above and beyond to help his clients, and he even took the time to help a citizen who needed medical assistance. He also recently graduated – congrats, David!



**Andrew Hendricks**, Operations Manager - Mockingbird Hill, is focused, set to purpose, compassionate, wise for his age, and he really cares about the staff and our clients. He can multitask and retain information like no one else I've ever seen. He applies lessons learned from his personal experience while following company guidelines and policies. He has brought nothing but good things to Mockingbird Hill.



**Jaclyn Saunders**, Marketing Associate, has done an amazing job in the past few months. She's handled all the giveaways for the employee summit, ADARA conference (where she also had to ship the items down to Atlanta) and Indy Pride. Each of these events entail working with multiple staff and coordinating T-shirts, hats, banners and many other giveaways and booth items. Kudos to Jaclyn for an outstanding job!





**Lori Marley**, Office Coordinator, goes above and beyond to keep the Elwood Aspire team working toward the very best client care we can give them. She is always there to help out with any problems staff may have. We are very lucky to have her.



**Nathaniel Northington**, Master's Level Clinical Intern, has recently jumped into helping with intakes and independently writing DCS monthly reports. He has done amazing work, clinically and comprehensively documenting treatment needs and recommendations!



**Yvette Johnson**, Team Lead, is an incredible Team Lead. She has been so helpful getting new staff up to speed while continuing to run Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) group weekly and support multiple clients in the community. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, and I don't know what we would do without her in this role!



**Jenna Dougherty**, Assessment Technician, has gone above and beyond to help with extra projects for the team and helping our clients while also working to complete her practicum. Jenna shows so much drive and passion for her work and her clients.





**Natya Vertner**, Employment Specialist, has been diligently serving the most vulnerable of our clients since joining the Aspire team. She has developed very quickly into a very strong teammate, helping clients with very high barriers obtain many services outside of just employment. Her clients have been getting into primary care, obtaining vital documents, and of course, getting jobs.



**Donna Tocco**, Senior Director - Practice Operations, is a great leader. She listens and helps problem solve/troubleshoot as necessary. She allows her directors to be independent while still supporting them. Thank you, Donna, for all you do!



**Allison Nead**, Assessment Technician, has been working hard to support her clients who walk in for SDA. Allison shows her clients empathy, support and compassion on a day-to-day basis to ensure they receive the best care possible. We are genuinely lucky to have Allison at Aspire.



**Jenifer Williams**, Recovery Coach, has been doing an amazing job with Family Recovery Court clients in Madison County. She has been recognized in court for connecting with her clients and supporting them. She shows care and compassion for her clients and meets them where they are at. We appreciate Jenifer.



**Landon Kraft**, Staff Therapist, is one of our new therapists in office, but he has been such an asset to our team here at Elwood. He is a kind, caring person and deeply cares about his clients and his peers. He has such a bright personality and always has a smile.



**Sarah Padgett**, Supervisor, Supervised Group Living, is thoughtful, caring and considerate of everyone around her – both members of her team and her clients. She consistently goes above and beyond to make certain those who work closely with her feel appreciated and special, and her efforts provide a significant positive impact to her team.



**Laura Cagle**, Peer Specialist and **David Vest**, Recovery Coach. Laura was driving back to the office when she noticed someone was on the ground and appeared unresponsive. She pulled over to assist with Narcan if needed, and David was already on the scene and had given Narcan to the person. David came across this client on his way back to the office after providing group therapy in the jail and quickly jumped on the scene to help!



**Faye Beabout**, Licensed Eligible Staff Therapist, is a calm and steady presence with the clients and families she works with. She is very professional and a positive support to our team!



**Lesley Chodkowski**, Multi-Site Clinical Manager - Comprehensive Outpatient Services, does a great job supporting team members and providing encouragement. She is calm and professional.



**Kourtney Boak**, Patient Access Specialist, is a blast to be around; she's very upbeat and makes coming into work a little easier.



**Sheena Stevenson**, Certified Medical Assistant, always goes above and beyond as an MA here at Hoak. She is always happy and has a smile on her face no matter what type of mood she is in. She is one of a kind, that's for sure!



**Sandy Corbin**, Insurance Credentialing Manager, was hired as Aspire's Insurance Credentialing Manager to help bring insurance credentialing in house. While this new department still has a ways to grow, it is on a great foundation, thanks to the work Sandy has put in. Thank you, Sandy, for all your hard work and devotion!





**Melissa Walters**, Supervisor, Assessment Services, has been a great addition to the Assessment team. She makes client care a priority and is always thinking about how to improve the client experience. She is a support to the department as a whole and is available to staff and provide guidance when needed.



**Wendy Krupka**, Manager, Revenue Cycle Management, joined Aspire as the Revenue Cycle Manager with years of CMHC billing experience. That experience has been invaluable to Aspire as she has improved billing functions and helped set up new billing. Wendy has also been great at facilitating team camaraderie by organizing team-building activities. Thanks for all you do, Wendy!



**Chandler Lawson**, Assessment Technician, did the pre-intake on a crisis client at DeHaven and truly made a positive impact on this client. When getting the client on for the pre-intake, the client would barely make eye contact or sit up straight, and by the time the client came out from talking with her, their body language had changed; the client was standing up straight, talking with the family they brought with them, and even playing with the work badge he had with him. This change was amazing to see in the client and showed how much Chandler helped them.



**Leah Fisher**, Supervisor, Home & Community Based Services ACT, has had a great impact on her colleagues, even on the toughest days managing clients. She is dedicated to her role and to serving others.



**Barb Kiefer**, License-Eligible Addictions Therapist, started at Aspire in April, and since she started, she has jumped into help wherever she can! She has helped to cover so many of our SUDS groups when staff need to be out, either planned or unexpectedly. Her dedication to the clients we serve, ensuring they can engage in recovery services, and her willingness to support the team has been appreciated beyond words!



**Silvia Lopez**, Program Manager, Deaf Services, found her way back to Aspire a couple of months ago, and we are so thankful! Silvia has jumped right into her role as the Program Manager for our Deaf Services Team. She worked on the contract we recently received from the State, which allows us to provide service to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals across Indiana. At the recent ADARA Conference, she was networking with other agencies in other states, and they wanted to work with her to find out how she was able to secure services and support for DHH clients in their states. She did an amazing job representing Aspire at the poster presentations. She is such a valuable asset to our team and Aspire!



**Alyssa Yano Wier**, Director - Assessment Services, is an incredibly supportive and helpful teammate. She provides encouragement and guidance that continues to make a significant impact on myself and my role here at Aspire. Thank you, Alyssa, for always being willing to lend a hand and for fostering such a positive work environment.



**Haylie Will**, ASL Staff Interpreter, recently attended the ADARA Conference in Atlanta as the only interpreter for multiple hearing staff with Aspire. Haylie had so much interpreting to do, and she did it all with a smile, kindness and professionalism. The amount of work she did had to be exhausting, but she was very much appreciated. She was the connection we needed to help us network with other programs across the state, and, most importantly, connect hearing staff with our own Deaf staff to strengthen our relationship as a team! Thank you so much, Haylie, for your hard work; we appreciate you so much!

## A Hot Topic: Cooling Centers

As the summer continues to heat up, it's important to remember there are places you can go to stay cool and beat the extreme temperatures. Heat is the top weather-related killer in the United States. According to the National Weather Service, heat causes more fatalities each year than floods, lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes.

Cooling centers are open across the state for those in need of a safe and cool place to stay. Hoosiers can call 211 to find locations. They are also available here.

