

ONE YEAR AFTER

By CHRISTOPHER LLOYD, Director of Branding and Communications

This month marks one year after some of the biggest changes in the history of Aspire.



In late 2019 we merged with Progress House, the oldest and largest recovery residence in the state, and reorganized our corporate structure under a single name and identity: Aspire Indiana Health. The last vestiges of the separation between behavioral health, primary medical care and programs addressing social determinants of health were swept away as Aspire realized its vision of transforming into a fully integrated healthcare provider.

Of course, the past year has also been one of the most turbulent in our half-century legacy. The COVID pandemic was an existential crisis point that challenged us like nothing else. Not only did the Aspire family show their true mettle, continuing to provide services while other agencies barely clung on, we were forced to look ahead and boldly stride down pathways we had only considered before.

A year of change has taught us that change is something we don't have to be afraid of. Just as we have rethought the relationship of mind, body and environment in affecting a person's health, now we are witnessing a paradigm shift in how that care is delivered. And how the people who deliver that care work, and take care of ourselves. [more>>>](#)



Health appointments via video meetings, once something we barely dabbled in, are now a core part of our service model through Video in Person (ViP). This allows for much more flexibility for “where” care is delivered — both for patients and providers.

We are opening a major new recovery center in Anderson, and looking at plans for adding more, especially facilities for women — a critically underserved need. We completed a complete renovation of our Hoak clinic, have purchased the building in Indianapolis where we had long been just a tenant, and are about to begin a large-scale expansion of our Noblesville health center.

Aspire has grown tremendously in the last year, not just in terms of the size of our company but the number of Hoosiers we are serving. At a time when many nonprofit healthcare organizations have had to scale back or even reduce their employee rolls, our workforce is growing rapidly to serve the mental, physical and social issues that have grown worse for many people during the pandemic. What will 2021 bring? It’s hard for anyone to say, but one thing is sure: Aspire will be there to meet all challenges. ■



Embracing New Ways of getting help

Meet Tracey, an Aspire client who says she actually prefers having her therapy appointments through Video in Person (ViP) over her computer or phone rather than going into a health center.

TOP 5 HOTTEST JOBS!

Goodwill Excel Center Therapist

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=369398080>

Residential Support Associate

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=369391297>

Staff Nurse - Residential Facilities

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=369375560>

Home Based Therapist

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=369381956>

Certified Medical Assistant

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=352615398>





PrEP NAVIGATOR

Staff Spotlight

As a PrEP Navigator with Aspire, Jill Racer-Lewis interacts with some of the most vulnerable people who look to Aspire for help. She facilitates people with a medication designed to safeguard them from HIV if they come in contact with the virus. [more>>](#)

AS a PrEP Navigator with Aspire, Jill Racer-Lewis interacts with some of the most vulnerable people who look to Aspire for help. She facilitates people with a medication designed to safeguard them from HIV if they come in contact with the virus. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, is shown to be highly effective in contracting HIV.

"Many people have probably seen the commercials on television for Truvada or Descovey. These medications are designed to shield someone from contracting HIV if they come in contact with the virus as a result of having unprotected sex or sharing needles," Jill says.

"The medication works by building a barrier around the T1 cells. Education about medication and putting together the funding resources that allow for easy access are part of my job."

After earning her degree from Purdue University with a major in Communication and Psychology, Jill's professional background has been a mixture of social services and sales. She started her career as a case manager for those living with HIV and AIDS in 1994 while working for Project Aids Lafayette, at a time when many people were losing their lives to the disease.

"That job really opened my eyes to the magnitude of the epidemic. I can see now how far we have come and that is why I'm so passionate about my role now," she says.

Her greatest reward from working at Aspire is helping people protect themselves from HIV without having to endure a huge out-of-pocket expense.



Jill Racer-Lewis

Non-Medical Case Manager, 3 years

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Jill lives with her fiancé, daughter and two grandsons, and in her spare time enjoys playing her guitar, including playing with her daughter and now teaching her grandson the guitar. She is also helping him prepare for obtaining his driver's license.

"I enjoy downtime with family from family meals to taste-testing my fiancé's latest baking masterpiece. I'm so lucky to have a partner that not only likes to cook and bake, but he's awesome at it!" ■

Welcome New Team Members!

David Ables
Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor - HCBS

Jennifer Hathcoat
Employment Specialist

Cassidy Bestard
CCLSI Y&F HCBS

Angela Humphrey
Home Based Therapist

Michael Burke
Residential Recovery Assistant

Nicholas Jones
Front Desk Associate

Gary Burris
Lead Generalist, People Operations

Julia Kohl
Grant Writer

Matthew Carfagna
Recruiting Specialist

Christina Knosp
Supervisor, Home & Community Based Services

Ronald Charles
Front Desk Associate

Jessica McNeil
Life Skills Coach - SGL

Gretchen Cottrell
Manager, Home & Community Based Services

Shannon Moran
License Eligible Psychologist

Paula Earleywine
Recruiting Specialist

Jaleel Patterson
Residential Technician

Monica Grandovic
Grant Compliance Technician

Brittney Petrilli
Housing Coordinator

Julie Reynolds
Support Associate

Robyn Thomas
Residential Technician

Jennifer Rodriguez
Certified Medical Assistant

Brad Uebinger
Director, Supported Living Services

Caitlin Sesko
Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor

Kayli Wildridge
Clinical Training Specialist



Angel Brooks
Madison Pryor
Desire'e Greer
Shawna Chung
Angel Brooks
Katie Cuttrel

Luke Thompson
Olivia Winn
Melissa Dodge
Andrea Coahran
Allison Henderson