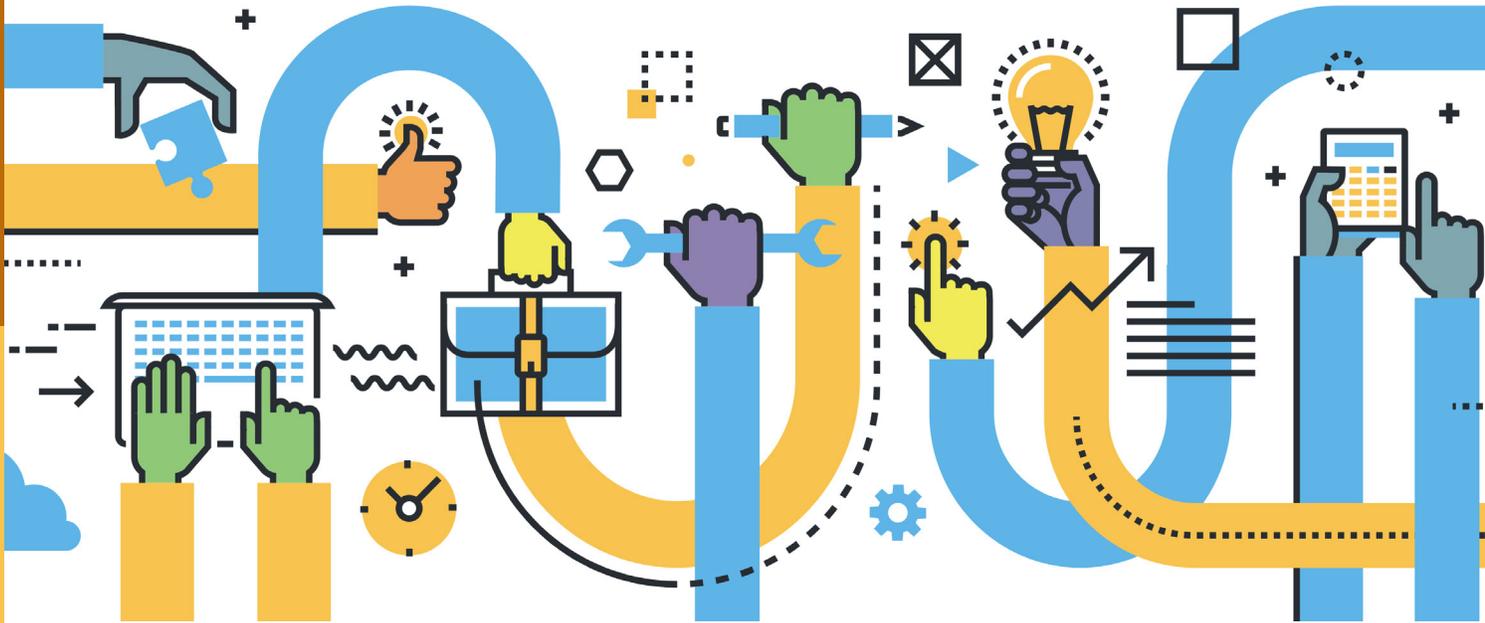


# HELPING HOOSIERS TO WORK

Even as many businesses closed down in the spring and summer — many of which may turn out to be permanent — Aspire Indiana Health continued to help Hoosiers to work.



Our Employment Services team works directly with people who have struggled with mental health or substance use challenges that have limited their ability to find and keep jobs. In some cases, it has been many years since they were gainfully employed and they lack the skills or confidence to try to get a job.

Through a combination of coaching, encouragement, skills training (including Vocational Rehabilitation) and a muscular referral partnership with area employers, our team connects people to the workforce, one success story at a time.

Currently, employment services is working with more than 200 clients — a number that has not dipped during the pandemic. They actually saw an increase in the number of referrals in May and June. Recently Aspire

has been able to make contact with all new referrals within 24 hours of receiving them. Clients who are qualified under Indiana's Medicaid Rehabilitation Option (MRO) are generally assigned to an employment services coordinator right away.

And our work doesn't end when a client's new job begins. Aspire continues to work with and support them in their new positions, often communicating with the employer to overcome any obstacles and find accommodations that make them more valuable employees.

"On average, all of our clients make significantly higher than minimum wage and none of our clients are placed into jobs that don't pay fairly," says Kathleen Bowers, Manager of Employment Services. ■



# Bringing Behavioral Healthcare to the Deaf

Did you know that as many as one in 20 Americans is Deaf or hard of hearing? For Indiana that translates to more than 300,000 Hoosiers who have difficulty communicating through regular means – and many of those struggle with their mental health.

Another thing you may not know: Aspire Indiana Health is the only state-certified Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) that has a Deaf outpatient office, headquartered at our northeast Indianapolis health center. This team of mental health interpreters is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and have been through specialized Mental Health Interpreting Training (MHIT).



They are experts in interpreting not just what is said or signed, but also the manner in which is communicated to reveal important clinical information. They are also required to be familiar with the patient's medication and diagnosis/evaluation, and have knowledge of any language dysfluency or deprivation that can affect their mental health and language production.

Our Deaf Services team is an amazing asset to Aspire, and they're not just limited to Indianapolis. Through our Video in Person appointments using a computer or mobile device, we can bring in an interpreter for mental health patients needing translation online or at our other clinics in Anderson, Carmel, Lebanon and Noblesville.

Learn more about the special challenges of bringing behavioral healthcare to the deaf by [clicking here](#). Find Indiana Family and Social Services Administration resources [here](#). ■

IT'S  
**EASY**  
TO PREVENT  
**HIV**

**POP**  
**THIS**



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Kateena Warren works with the Infection Disease team as a non-medical case manager with Aspire's Infectious Disease team.

As a child she remembers her family teaching that true success comes from helping others.

**SHE** has a lifelong passion for helping those in need, and before coming to Aspire Indiana Health she held roles working with families, seniors and people with disability.

"I am passionate about helping my clients overcome the barriers they face while living with and managing their HIV. The most rewarding part of my job is the success stories I get to share in. I have clients who went from being homeless to finding and maintaining stable housing. I have clients who have successfully

// I am passionate about helping my clients overcome the barriers they face while living with and managing their HIV. The most rewarding part of my job is the success stories I get to share in. //

completed substance abuse treatment. I look forward to my job because I am so fortunate to work with an amazing team that is supportive and shows they appreciate and value their team members," Kateena says.

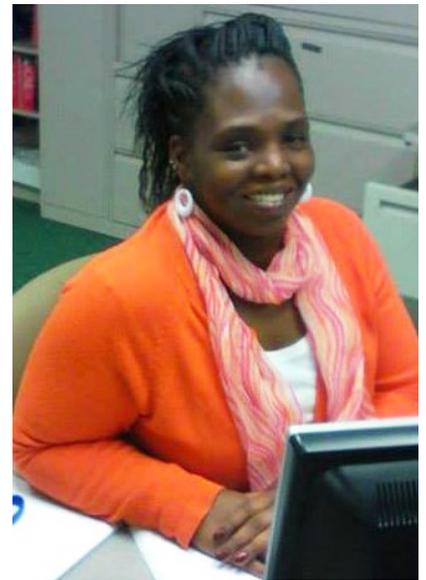
After raising her own children and becoming a grandmother, Kateena decided to go back to school, graduating from Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in social work in 2016. She has plans to begin working on a master's degree soon as well.

"I wanted to show my children and grandchildren that you are never too old to accomplish any goal you set in life!"

In her spare time Kateena enjoys reading mystery books and watching crime shows, especially unsolved mysteries. She frequently video chats with her eight grandchildren, and is currently teaching herself about investing in the stock market.

"I believe that no matter what life throws at you, you always have to find a positive in the situation," she says. ■

- Kateena Warren



Kateena Warren  
Non-medical Case Manager  
1½ years



"Pop This" is an Aspire ID ad campaign about preventing HIV by using PrEP.

The ads are running in Anderson on buses, bus shelters and billboards.

# WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

Bradley Bennett  
Front Desk Associate  
Progress House

Ray Morales  
DCS Recovery Coach  
Willowbrook

Benjamin Captain  
CC/LSI  
Elwood

Michael Smith  
CC/LSI  
Chase

Brittany Korando  
Clinical Intern  
Hartung

Mary Stites  
Accounts Receivable Representative  
Administration

Hailee Luszczynski  
Healthcare Mngmt. Software Specialist

Melissa Walters  
Recovery Coach  
Willowbrook



Val Anderson  
Lisa Birden  
Barbara Brands  
Shea Busch  
Katie Cutrell  
Christine Dragoo  
Emma Guy  
Michelle Hawn  
Melinda Hornback  
Juan Jaramillo  
Cindy Jeske

John Lairson  
Desiree Linderman  
Stacey McCauley  
Sally Mosko  
Vanessa Pataky  
Kathy Stewart  
Christina Stuckey  
Tina Reger  
Dr. Joanna Will  
Jodi Wilson