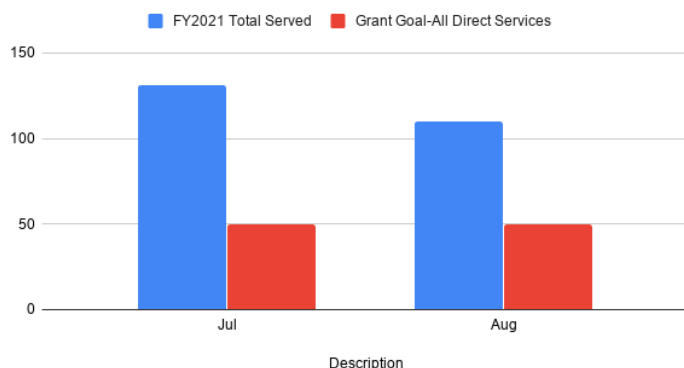




Reflecting on successes, looking ahead to an expanded mission

The Kids Talk team is at a watershed moment in its history of helping protect Madison County children from abuse and neglect. After seven years they are fully in sync with local government agencies, schools and law enforcement. And now they're looking ahead to an expanded mission that now also includes protecting elders and vulnerable adults.

FY2021 Total Served and Grant Goal-All Direct Services



It's an important job, though not always an easy one. Forensic interviews are not for the faint of heart. Cases are starting to come to light from COVID isolation, with many stories about the terrible ways people treat children. It seems that every case these days is a very serious case.

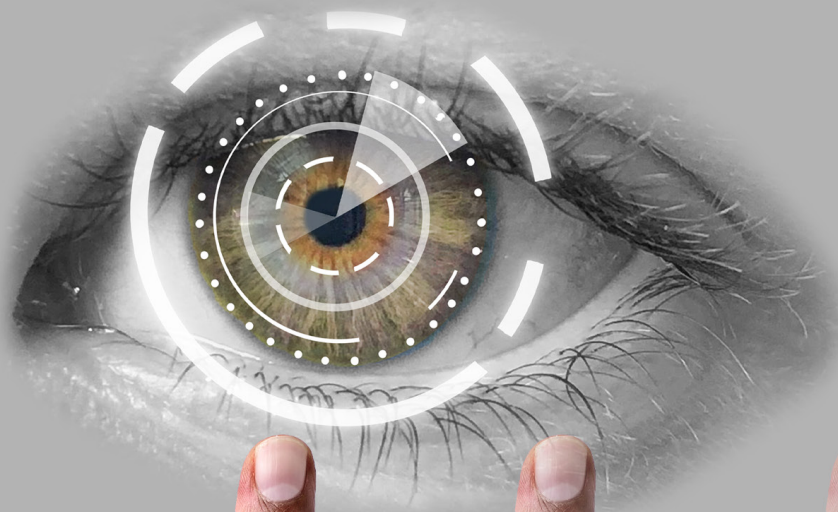
To illustrate, services increased dramatically with 241 clients served through victim advocacy and forensic interviews over the past two

months, whereas 50-60 a month is a normal caseload. Types of cases involved include physical and sexual abuse, neglect, drug endangerment, witness to domestic violence and commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC), which encompasses victims of sex trafficking, child pornography and sex tourism. The two-year Victims of Crime Act grant that helps fund Kids Talk ended on Sept. 30, with the goal of serving 1,200 people being exceeded by more than 50%. It is a Department of Justice grant administered through their Office for Victims of Crime and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, and comes solely from fines assessed to convicted criminals, and can only be used for victim services. VOCA funds are not taxpayer dollars.

Not only has this grant been renewed, it has been increased because Kids Talk has expanded its scope to add an elder abuse and endangered adults program.

Kids Talk staff have begun training for this new program, including ride-alongs with Adult Protective Services to build strong collaborative relationships and understand how each agency will serve these vulnerable clients. They have hired an additional forensic interviewer to assist with this program.

Unfortunately, due to pandemic restrictions the annual Stand Up for Kids comedy fundraiser event had to be canceled, though they are looking at other opportunities to raise money to help Kids Talk pursue its vital, and now larger, mission. ■



Staff Spotlight

"I don't know how I practiced all these years
without this training [EMDR]."

— Cynthia Condry

CYNTHIA Condry has had a varied career that includes work as both a provider and administrator. After graduating from college with her bachelor's degree in social work, she was immediately hired as a therapist at a Virginia hospital. Then, just six months later, she became director of the facility. During this time she earned her master's degree in social work, but yearned to obtain her LCSW credential. She quit her job to do so, but the hospital soon closed and she moved back to Indiana.

Over the last couple of decades since, Cynthia has held various roles — outpatient counseling for several agencies, private practice, and traveling around as a Military Family Life counselor working with service members and their families.

It was rewarding, but exhausting work. She needed a change. "Two years ago I took seven months off to reassess my career. I was tired and wanted to get off the road and work for an agency that was dependable and supportive. That's what brought me to Aspire," she says.

"Aspire has met my expectations of caring for their employees and clients. The staff at the Carmel office is professional, caring, supportive and the cumulative expertise has surpassed my expectations. I tell my family that Aspire is my retirement plan!"



Cynthia Condry
Licensed Clinical Social worker
2 years

// Every week there is a new success story, but for me being trained in EMDR is exciting and rewarding. I don't know how I practiced all these years without this training. My clients are having profound life changing experiences by resolving mild trauma. **//**

In addition to her degrees and LCSW credential, Cynthia is trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and has past certifications in bereavement, meditation and hypnosis. In addition to providing outpatient therapy to adults at Aspire's Carmel health center, she also co-leads the weekly Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) group there.

"Every week there is a new success story, but for me being trained in EMDR is exciting and rewarding. I don't know how I practiced all these years without this training. My clients are having profound life changing experiences by resolving mild trauma," Cynthia says.

continued...

One client, who often did not keep her appointments, tried EMDR and has been productive in therapy ever since, never missing a session. She says it's like reaching down inside herself, pulling out the bad stuff and throwing it out.

In her spare time, Cynthia is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Indiana Guard Reserve with the 19th Medical Unit, and volunteers at Symphony on the Prairie in the summertime. She loves hiking and camping, and plans to tackle the 485-mile Colorado Trail next year. ■



DEDICATION OF HOAK AND WARD BUILDINGS IN ANDERSON

Barbara Scott, Aspire President and CEO along with Rich DeHaven, retired CEO were on hand to dedicate two Aspire buildings in Anderson to long-time supporters Dr. Duane Hoak and Jim Ward. Retiring board members Sarah Neal and Donna Yancey were also honored for their services. Aspire staff members Jim Skeel, CQO and David Speicher, CTO were recognized for their hard work in accomplishing BHAG goals in their departments.



THE JOURNEY BACK TO EMPLOYMENT

Many people find themselves unable to work due to physical disability, but less known are the Hoosiers who can't obtain or keep a job because of mental health issues. They often fall through the cracks as a lack of current skills or long periods of joblessness become a liability to potential employers.

Emerson was one of those who fell into this category, struggling with anxiety and depression for decades. But when he heard about the employment services at Aspire Indiana Health for people like him, he decided to give it a shot. [Click to hear his inspiring story.](#)



WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

Rachael Dunn
Recovery Coach

Hannah Kummer
CC/LSI

Peggy Shook
Life Skills Coach Hartung

Sarah Fanwick
CC/LSI Youth & Family

Jaclyn Lang
Licensed Eligible
Home Based Therapist

Christy Sutton
Licensed Mental Health
Counselor

Kennedi Fields
CC/LSI

Andrea Martinez
CC/LSI

Shannon West
Recovery Coach

Colin Glass
CC/LSI Youth & Family

Liz Phillips
Licensed Eligible
Home Based Therapist Youth
& Family

Brittney Wheeler
Licensed Eligible Addictions
Therapist

Samantha Goltz
DCS Recovery Coach

Vivian Hinders
Licensed Eligible
Home Based Therapist

Chaia Richter
CMA





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Program Manager, Deaf Services

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=335856775>

Manager, Home & Community Based Services-Anderson

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Manager, Home & Community Based Services-Carmel

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=302253248>

Direct Care Coordinator/Life Skills Instructor - School Based

<https://secure4.saashr.com/ta/6147780.careers?ShowJob=335847104>



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