



aspire
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022

JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

To our community, stakeholders, partners, and Aspire Family:

Aspire is pleased to present our FY2022 Annual Report results. Despite continued uncertainty in the ongoing pandemic, we proved that remaining committed to our mission and vision led to positive change. This report shines a light on our accomplishments, and demonstrates that when we work together, we make a difference!

The past year has been a time of transition for our One Aspire Family. We were able to stabilize service delivery and begin important new programming like our Co-Response Team. This year will see the implementation of our new Integrated Care program, “Thrive”. I am also proud of the intentional ways we were able to take care of our employees as we moved forward with our internal commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion principles, implementation of a virtual EAP, in-house Wellness Coordinator, and workforce support incentives. Almost every initiative implemented was a direct suggestion from our workforce.

We are committed to ensuring that we are building an environment that supports the needs of all members of the community, regardless of age, gender identity or expression, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability level. We know that Aspire is not just a place where people can come to recover, but also a safe space where both the individuals we serve, and our employees feel a sense of belonging and inclusion. As we move into this fiscal year, leading our communities toward Health, Hope and Recovery. I truly believe if we hold ourselves accountable to do better every day, together we can achieve this!

We are proud to be an integral part of Southwest Georgia and thankful for all our employees and partners that help us do amazing things. Thank you for your continued support and believing in recovery and the power of possibility!

Dana P. Glass, LCSW
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to offer affordable, accessible, and quality Mental Health, Addictive Disease and Developmental Disability services by skilled professionals who are sensitive to the needs of individuals and families served.

OUR VISION

OUR VISION IS TO LEAD OUR COMMUNITIES
TOWARD HEALTH, HOPE, & RECOVERY.

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

- Commitment to individual and organizational efforts to: **Build Respect, Dignity, Fairness, Empathy, and Compassion.**
- Commitment to equitable treatment at all organization levels and throughout all programs.
- Committed to Recovery-focused, trauma-informed and person-centered care.
- Commitment to Care, Welfare, Safety, Security and Satisfaction of the individuals we serve and the employees who serve.
- We believe each person is unique and services should be based on needs and preferences.
- Commitment to engagement in community partnerships and whole health.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a public, non-profit organization, Albany Area Community Service Board dba Aspire BHDD Services is governed by a Board of Directors. Board members are appointed by the respective county commission, and each county has one representative. Counties are eligible for additional members if their population is 100,000. One additional member from Dougherty, Early, and Terrell Counties is also appointed by the Board to address the variation in financial contributions of those counties. The board members govern the provision of services within the boundaries of the community service board. Each board member is appointed by their county commission to serve a 3-year term.

MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDE:

Evera Moye (Baker)

Chairperson

Michael Fowler (Dougherty)

Dougherty County Elected Official

Richard Ware, Jr. (Dougherty)

Vice Chairperson

Dr. Eugene Sherman (Dougherty)

Board Member

Mike Sabot (Lee)

Secretary/Treasurer

Leonard Minter (Dougherty)

Board Member

Sheriff William Price (Early County)

Board Member

Dianne Wimes (Terrell)

Board Member

Dan Miller (Worth)

Board Member

Pam Conner (Calhoun)

Board Member

Judge Joe C. Bishop (Terrell)

GACSB Board Representative

Joyce Alexander (Early)

Early County

Darlene Cox (Miller)

Miller County

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Aspire BHDD (Albany Area Community Service Board) provides mental health, addictive disease, and developmental disability services to citizens of Dougherty, Baker, Calhoun, Early, Lee, Miller, Terrell, and Worth Counties.

OUR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM INCLUDES:

Dana P. Glass, LCSW
Executive Director

Lisa Oosterveen, LPC
Deputy Director

Lee Pavlik
Chief Financial Officer

Marlisa B. Nixon, CARES, CPS-AD
Director of Employee Experience &
Change Management, DEI Lead
Facilitator

**Daniel Fleuren, BS, CPS-AD,
CARES, FPM**
Chief Operations Officer

Caroline Chandler
Chief Clinical Officer -
Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Sandra Myers
Chief Personnel Officer

Edward Williams
Corporate Compliance Officer

STORY OF *Hope*

Elijah is a man of faith and believes the song, “I’m Looking For A Miracle” is his anthem. He grew up in Albany before moving to Mitchell County where he graduated from Pelham High School. After some family conflict, Elijah found himself without family, friends, or a place to live. He started walking toward Albany when a stranger picked him up and gave him a ride.

When arriving in Albany, Elijah was homeless before finding The Albany Rescue Mission. Through efforts of local and regional community partners, Elijah began receiving services from Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services. “Albany Rescue and Aspire are my family; I love them.”

Elijah attends church services at Albany Rescue Mission and shared that if he misses a week, the church leadership is calling or visiting to make sure he is alright. He is active in the church choir and frequently plays the piano and drums at church services. He also uses his musical talents to entertain his peers at Primus Day Services and his two roommates. Elijah placed in the top three of 2019 Aspire’s Got Talent with his keyboard rendition of “I’m Looking for a Miracle” by The United Voices.

Elijah is employed by the Aspire Terrell-Lee Janitorial crew and states that he likes having a job. “I enjoy cleaning and I like getting a paycheck. I like having extra money to buy Diet Cokes!” If he could do anything with his time, Elijah said that he would like to go to the gym and lift weights.

“Friends are important to me. Life is worse without friends.” Elijah shares a duplex with two other men who he considers friends and enjoys hanging out with. He also expressed gratitude for his neighbors who he sits and visits with on the front porch. “I hope to one day find a woman to spend the rest of my life with. I had a longtime relationship until she passed. We enjoyed talking. It was a wonderful love; I would walk to visit her and surprise her with a Coke, it was her favorite drink.”

STORY OF *Hope*

Elijah enjoys reading and collecting comic books. The Blue Power Ranger is his favorite action hero. In addition to music and comic books, Elijah enjoys baking and trying new recipes. “I like baking muffins best and strawberry is my favorite!” He shared his favorite meal is fried fish and baked beans. According to Caroline Chandler, “Based on the smile Elijah has while sipping the watermelon, strawberry, kiwi smoothie he’s trying for the first time today; I think he may have found a new favorite snack!”

Tabitha Minter, IDD Administrative Assistant has worked with Elijah in various capacities over the past ten years, “Determination is the word that I think of when I think of Elijah. He could have easily given up when he was homeless. But he came to Albany and found a place to live. He is determined to make things right when he has a problem. Elijah wants to talk things out and reach a resolution. And, if will offer an apology when he is wrong. If Elijah wants something, he finds a way to make it happen. Take his drum set for instance, he saved the money until he had enough to purchase the set he wanted.” Elijah smiled as Tabitha talked and then shared, “Sometimes I get nervous and upset. I usually walk away and go talk to someone I trust. I like to be asked and not told.” Elijah went on to say, “Aspire helps me to do everything I want to do. I feel safe!”

ELIJAH RANDALL

Story of Hope



AGENCY OVERVIEW & PROGRAMMING



Co-Response Team (R.E.A.C.H.)

RESPONDING ENGAGING AND CULTIVATING HOPE

The REACH program is a crisis intervention program that responds to mental health calls to the 911 system. The program is designed to reduce recidivism, connect individuals to resources, provide follow-ups after crisis, advocacy, and pair law enforcement with mental health professionals.

PURPOSE:

- Reduce Mental Health calls to 911 system
- Reduce recidivism
- Connect individuals to resources
- Provide follow ups after crisis
- Advocacy
- Pair Law Enforcement with Mental Health professionals

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Brief Crisis Assessment
- Suicide Risk Assessment
- Peer Support Services
- Coordination of Care and linkage to resources

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Officers respond to dispatch of 911 call
- REACH will be dispatched to scenes deemed safe
- De-Escalation of crisis
- Linkage to community resources and services
- Follow-up to ensure individuals get the services they need



Co-Response Team

In-Reach Jail Counseling

Jail In-Reach services are operated by Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability and are designed to provide support for prison/jail initiatives including re-entry services, service provision while incarcerated, and partnership between behavioral health teams and the criminal justice system.

Jail In-Reach program provides rehabilitative skill building and promotes recovery for incarcerated individuals who suffer from addictive disease issues. Individuals are equipped with necessary supports which build on strengths and resilience of the individual and are necessary to assist the person in achieving recovery and wellness goals.

Jail In-Reach Counselor provides substance abuse services to incarcerated individuals through specialized contracts. Services are provided for 20 hours per week in Dougherty County Jail, floating to Early and Calhoun counties in our service area for the remaining 20 hours. Our In-Reach Case Manager provides re-entry services as individuals are transitioning back to the community.

STORY OF *Hope*

It started simple enough, much like many other stories you hear. I grew up on a small 400-acre farm, two (2) older sisters and one (1) older brother. Both Mom and Dad were together and in my life. I came from a good family, a tight knit and very loving family. But like all families, we had our issues. My Mom and Dad drank and did other things occasionally, and naturally as a child my curiosity would get the best of me. I remember stealing whiskey, by the pint, from my dad around the age of 9. It became a regular thing for me and began a long road of addiction. By the time I was 23, there was nothing that I wouldn't try. I had no concept of recovery. I loved what I did and had no intention of ever stopping. However, by the time I was 28, the consequences of my actions had become too great for me to bear. After the loss of my wife, daughters, career, home, my family, EVERYTHING, all I could do was wish and pray for death. The drugs and alcohol no longer numbed the pain, they intensified it.

I had to have help! My only hope was to get help or die. No matter how miserable I was though I'd rather have help. I truly didn't want to die. So, I began a new career...rehab. For the next 8 years I would bounce in and out of rehab, a process of trial and error, long term program after long term program. I had a pattern. I would excel in a program, get out, and bomb, time and time again. I thought I could do it alone, on my own terms but I couldn't. I had no choice but to trust others and lean on those that had been there before me and find a way out. The last program I went to was Aspire's Touchstone Residential Program where I met a man, Daniel F., that I embraced as a mentor and friend. He showed me the way out that been shown to him and many others before him. . I've not had a drink or drug since and my sobriety date is 7/1/2020. I now have a new life that I thought a guy like me had no chance of ever having. I have my family back. My parents and siblings support me unwaveringly. After 8 years of alienation from my daughters, I've returned to their lives and am the Dad I always meant to be.

STORY OF *Hope*

I started a new career in land surveying and continue to excel there. I manage a men's sober living home called the ABOS House: All Because of Sobriety. My lengthy criminal history has been sealed and no longer plagues my future. I am now a productive member of society and live by the code "Love and Tolerance" (most of the time). God had given me a second chance at life. God has done for me what I couldn't do for myself and He did it in the form of the programs like Aspire and the many people who work there to help save castaways such as myself. And for that I am forever grateful.

MATHEW MAY

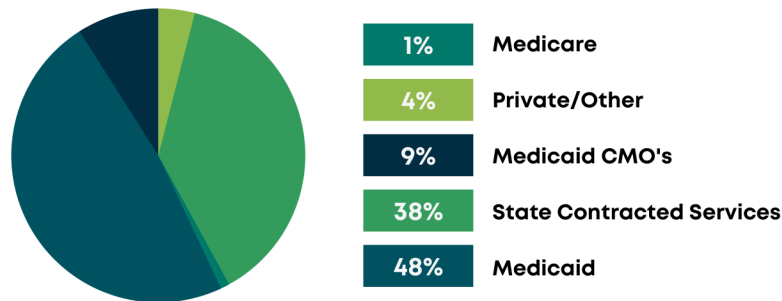
Story of Hope



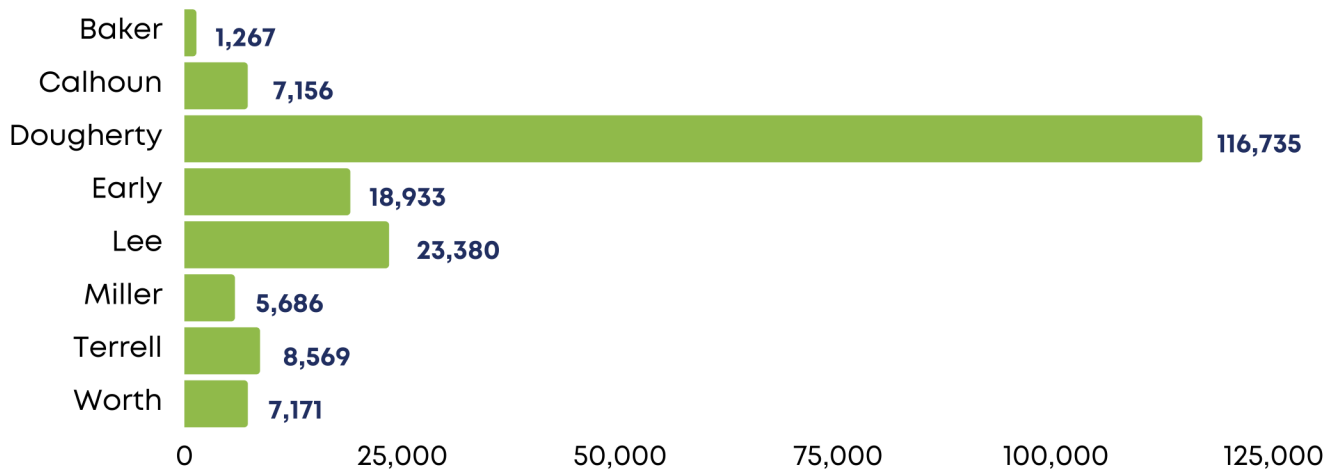
FISCAL YEAR 2022

FINANCIALS & INDIVIDUALS SERVED

PAYER MIX



INDIVIDUAL SERVICES BY COUNTY*

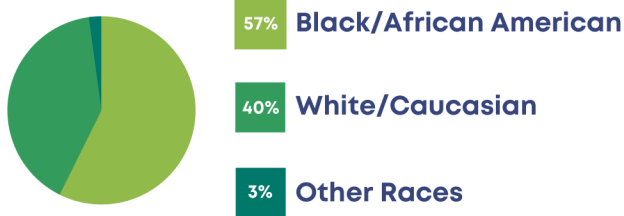


*Chart reflect services rendered to a total of 8,088

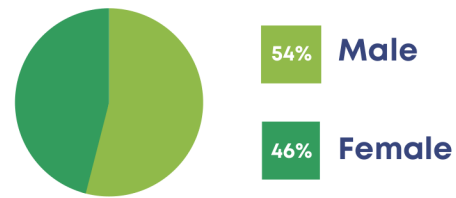
INDIVIDUALS BY AGE



INDIVIDUALS BY RACE*



INDIVIDUALS BY GENDER



*Chart reflect services rendered to a total of 8,088

INDIVIDUALS BY PROGRAM

| | | | |
|---|------|--|-----|
| Accountability Court Subset | 19 | DD Day Center | 131 |
| Adult Mental Health | 2414 | DD Residential | 41 |
| Adult Substance Abuse | 356 | Dougherty County Accountability Court | 30 |
| APEX | 93 | EMERGE | 91 |
| APEX 1 | 276 | Evolve | 41 |
| APEX 2 | 178 | Forensics | 9 |
| APEX 3 | 58 | Georgia Housing Voucher Program | 89 |
| Assertive Community Treatment | 109 | In Reach Addictions | 76 |
| Bridge Funding | 1 | In Reach Case Management | 318 |
| C & A Mental Health | 1357 | Intensive Treatment Residential | 5 |
| C & A Substance Abuse | 5 | Moderate Customization Care Coordination | 25 |
| Clubhouse | 120 | Peer Mental Health | 68 |
| Community Support Team | 69 | Psycho Social Rehabilitation | 22 |
| Crisis Respite | 23 | RISE | 102 |
| Crisis Service Center | 1139 | Shelter Plus Care | 49 |
| Crisis Stabilization Unit - Mental Health | 463 | Supported Employment Behavioral Health | 57 |
| Crisis Stabilization Unit - Substance Abuse | 456 | Temporary Observation | 157 |
| Crisis Stabilization Unit-Transitional Bed | 12 | Touchstone | 64 |
| | | Treatment Court - North | 20 |
| | | Treatment Court - South | 35 |

CONNECT - I/DD SERVICES

42

Primus

25

Residential

30

CEM

5

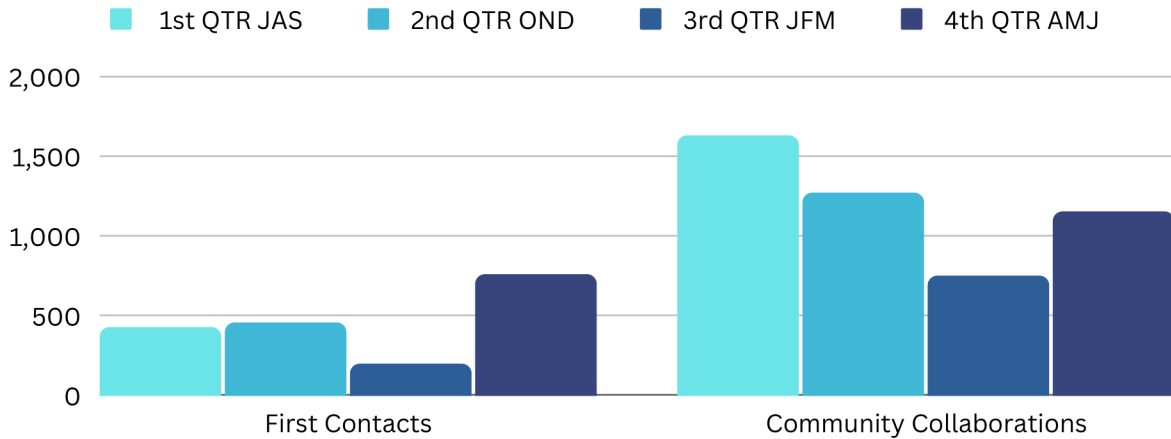
CEM
RESIDENTIAL

39

T&L

THE CHANGE CENTER

FY 2022 Quarterly Reports



Total First Contacts: 2,043

Recovery Support Meetings: 7,738

Community Collaborations: 4,798

Total Recovery Supports Provided: 26,377

- Had the Most Productive Year Fostering Relationships with Department of Children & Family Services
- Through Connections and Networking, we are Proud to announce Chief Michael Persley as the newest member of our Advisory Council
- Implementing a New Tracking Service Model for Greater Detail and More Accurate Data.

STORY OF *Hope*

My name is Javanese Williams, Ms. Javie to those that know me, and I became such on August 24, 1987. I am 35 years old, and I was born here in Albany, Georgia. In 2017, I was diagnosed with mental illness, specifically Schizophrenia and Depression. I felt broken. Like a broken toy that nobody wanted to play with. All the other toys were working fine but no not me. My lights and sounds wouldn't work because I was missing something, possibly batteries, or something like a factory defect, a reject, loner, outcast.

In 2016, my family was put in a state of panic and chaos when I started hearing voices and seeing things that others did not hear or see. In the beginning stages of my mental illness, I found myself working a lot of hours. My grandmother had just fallen asleep in death, my family was struggling financially, my mind was on overload, and it seemed like the stress was continually adding up. Finally, in March of 2017, I had my mental breakdown. It was a life changing event. During this time, the suicidal thoughts began. I remember driving down 19 going east to my home hearing. Hey Javie! Drive off the road. You'll be fine. No one will miss you. Are you scared? My depression became so debilitating that I soon stopped going to work. I felt helpless like a caged bird that was too depressed to sing. I tried telling my mother, but she did not believe me. I found myself staying in bed all day. My depression was beating me down, even though I was trying to ignore the hallucinations.

Finally, it was recommended that I go to a Crisis Center. What? Me? No? I was told "Don't nobody want to go to crisis." Okay, been here. Done that. I can leave right? Nope! As expected, the first visit was horrible. I did not want to spend the night in a place with mentally ill people. I didn't belong there. I fought with everyone that approached me until I ended up sedated. I woke up in my room cold and alone with no knowledge of how long I had been out. I still don't know.

STORY OF *Hope*

One day I was sitting on a bench in my light blue jumpsuit at Crisis and I remember someone sitting down next to me actually talking to me like an angel from God. Wow! She talked to me, asked me how I was doing, gave me hope, found out her name was Ms. Kathryn. She asked me to join her program and introduced me to others. I then met another nice lady, Ms. Angie. This was the happiest room I'd been in in a long time. I was transferred to a psychiatric rehabilitation center. It was there that I began to heal, I gained hope and knowledge of my diagnosis. I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, Psychosis, and Schizophrenia. I also suffered a great deal from sleep deprivation. Yet, while I was at the rehabilitation center, I was given the correct medicine which made me feel alive, coherent, and energetic again. I also enjoyed receiving therapy in a group setting and received plenty of rest. I meet people who were like me.

My recovery continued at home. In fact, my recovery was real, vivid, and had gone viral. My recovery included therapy sessions each week with Aspire and the Evolve Programs. At these sessions I learned about mental illness and how to manage it. I was also referred to a great psychiatrist Dr. Sun. I had a great Recovery Team. My recovery process was going so well that over the next few months I became a good source of encouragement to others. I lead groups. My recovery program created a testimonial video of me. I was invited to go to the Georgia Peer Support Institute in St. Simons Island, Georgia. I joined the Youth Leadership Academy in Atlanta. I was invited to the Respect Institute in Peachtree City. I was hired as a tutor in Albany at the Clubhouse, I was teaching kids like me who had behavioral health and mental health challenges and they were teaching me, and last but not least, I was also accepted to Albany State University and now I attend Kennesaw State University as a Preprofessional Psychology major with a minor in Entrepreneurship.

STORY OF *Hope*

I hope to start several businesses and have multiple streams of income that will benefit those in the mental health field that are in need. I even hope to become a child psychiatrist and own my own practice after attending medical school in Aruba and a possible study abroad trip to Vietnam to help more children.

Thank you for allowing me to stand up to be counted for not letting my diagnosis control me anymore and for sharing my story of hope with you today.

JAVANESE WILLIAMS

Story of Hope



SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

APEX

APEX Accomplishments

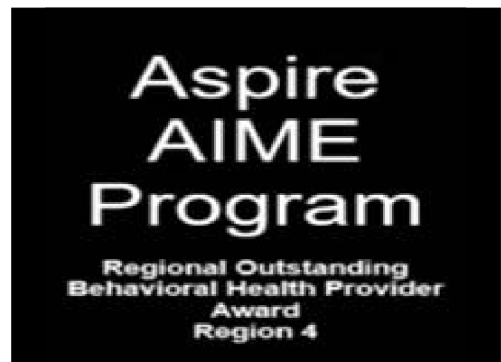
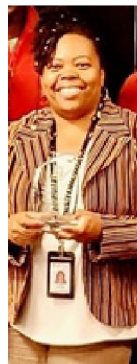
- Expanded with Apex 3.0 into 6 schools. We are now represented in all Lee County Schools and Miller County Schools as well as continuing to be in all Early County schools.
- Large turnout for Camp Apex with all Camp actives returning to fully in person.
- Successful Quarterly lunch and Learns for all our Apex schools.
- Working to expand Apex into Terrell and Baker counties for the upcoming school year!

EMERGE

Emerge got group up and running again through the barriers of Covid and our numbers for Emerge have more than doubled over the past year.

In FY22, our SAIOP Program celebrated three (3) graduation from the program. The graduates were Christina Lee, Judy Brennon, and Jodie Pope!

Angie Williams, SOC Coordinator received an award from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The A.I.M.E program was selected during the annual Behavioral Health Symposium as the Region 4 outstanding Behavioral Health Provider!



Science of Addiction and Recovery (SOAR)

About a year ago, we made a commitment to train all staff on SOAR. It was determined that our Peer Workforce would be trainers for this. Nine (9) of our Peer Workforce volunteered to become certified as Trainers to train all staff. Our first session was completed in August 2021 New Employee Orientation where Marlisa Bailey (Nixon) and Meagan Smith graciously volunteered to be our pioneers and provided the first training session. They received rave reviews for their presentation and engagement. This has continued as part of the orientation process.



Transformative Change - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Team

Our DEI Team continued to ramp up! We had a feedback session with the team with the results of the appreciative inquiry. This process is in line with our treatment mindset in that we started with what is right and where our strengths are. It is important for everyone to know that this DEI Transformation is something that we chose to do as an agency. Some of the feedback from the inquiry is as follows:

- History of providing great services
- Strong reputation in the community
- Peer Support and Recovery
- Guarded optimism
- Competent, passionate staff
- Openness, Vulnerability
- Amazing team - everyone loves what they do



Meet Aspire's DEI Facilitators...

The Facilitators established "DEI Team presents....."Speaks" incorporating monthly awareness themes to promote appreciation and raise awareness through virtual platforms agency-wide. Black History Month kicked off the series creating space for continued employee engagement and offered opportunities to reimagine the possibilities ahead! These have since been broadcast live on Aspire's Social Media platforms.

(pictured from L – R) Marlisa Bailey (Nixon) – Lead Facilitator (Administration), Sheshawn Miller (DoCo OP), Devin Williams (Y&YA), Alesha Burgman (Change Center), Andrea Kromminga (Y&YA), E. Williams (Administration)

Youth and Young Adults

Our Youth and Young Adults Program team wrapped around the family of Nigel Brown and each other to help get through the painful loss of Nigel Brown. They participated in a carwash fundraiser to help raise over \$23,000 in funds for the family.



In addition, on September 11th, the Youth and Young Adult Program is also hosting “United in the Community Family Event”, calling all Superhero’s to the Flint Riverquarium to wear their favorite “Superhero” t-shirt in celebration of Nigel Brown. This was a family event with tons of food, activities, and vendors.

CONGRATULATIONS to our outstanding Y&YA Staff selected for the Ellen Kagen Leadership Training:

- Angie S. Williams
- Marlon Jones
- Kamryn Purvis
- Malcolm Bynum
- Hollis Smith
- Andrea Kromminga
- Haley Rykard
- Carley Turner Watkins

Aspire BHDD Services Awarded \$2.5 million Grant from SAMHSA

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded Aspire Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Services (Albany Area CSB), a \$2,500,000 Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) grant to deliver services over the next two (2) years.

The funding, came from the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021 and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement (CRRS) Act of 2021, and reflects the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to supporting and expanding access to mental health and behavioral support as Americans continue to confront the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a CMHC, Aspire BHDD Services has enhanced ability to build on existing programs while developing new programs to address the needs of individuals in crisis more effectively.

Initiatives funded by the CMHC grant include:

- A Co-Response team (R.E.A.C.H.) alongside the Albany Police Department led by a licensed clinician, a police officer and a certified peer specialist.
- An additional licensed staff position to help cover individual and group services.
- In-Reach Jail Substance Abuse Counselor- time is split 50% in Dougherty County and 50% in Early and Calhoun counties.
- The establishment of the “Living Room Model” to help de-escalate and provide comfort in times of crisis.
- Implementation of an Employee Wellness Coordinator to the Personnel team.

Management Promotions

Adrienne Johnson – Good Life Peer Center Coordinator

Lisa Oosterveen – Deputy Director

Marlisa B. Nixon – Director of Employee Experience and Change Management

Ta’Lesha Brown – Outpatient Specialty Services Coordinator

Tiesha Howard – Co-Response Team Coordinator

Benita Barber – Residential Manager

Kelly Chavers – Administrative Billing Manager

Meagan Orndorff – Admin to CEO and Deputy Director

Melinda Barbree – Assistant Quality Assurance Director

Brenda Thomas – Administrative Ops Coordinator

Sonya Taylor – QA Director



Sheshawn Miller was an Honored Finalist for the 2021 GSHA Outstanding Staff Member of the Year Award and promoted to Outpatient Residential & Case Management Coordinator



Velvetta Parence, Billy, and Kenneth joined Mayor Dorough in Albany to Proclaim March IDD Awareness Month!



Lillian Tooley, Freddie Hall, Mae, and Caroline Chandler joined the Terrell County Commissioners in proclaiming March IDD Awareness Month!



Dana Glass, CEO, Caroline Chandler IDD Clinical Director and Richard Ware, Aspire Board Member attended the GACCP Winter Meeting. The agenda was jam packed with topics relevant to the state of IDD services and updates.

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

On March 16, 2022, Governor Kemp signed HB 910, the Amended FY 2022 Appropriations Act. Accordingly, agencies now need to submit an Amended Fiscal Year (AFY) amendment to OPB in PBCS that complies with the changes reflected in the approved bill. This provided an Amended Fiscal Year (AFY) budget for FY22.

The AFY 2022 budget included a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective April 1, 2022.

Community Service Boards (CSB) are not state employees, but thanks to advocacy for the CSB network done by the Georgia Association of CSB's, Aspire BHDD Services was included in the eligibility.



Our CEM group represented Aspire in the Peanut Proud parade in Blakely. They had a great float and great Superheroes to show the community!



Aspire Leadership Academy

Aspire Leadership began the Aspire Leadership Academy on March 2022. This is a series of monthly leadership training opportunities available for all staff. Thank you to Lisa Oosterveen for planning and implementing this. This has been a longtime goal for Aspire BHDD!

Aspire IDD Is On The Move!

The Aspire IDD Team was one of five (5) competitively selected in Georgia to partner with Sangha Unity Network, Inc. (SUN), with funding from DBHDD for participation in a six-month Learning Journey. This Learning Journey is designed for provider agencies who seek to further commit to a foundation of supporting self-advocates and person-centered practices. It is a 6-month commitment that offers an opportunity for personal growth for each individual participant and collective discovery for provider organizations.

The Aspire IDD Team applied for free technical assistance for competitive employment. The Advancing Employment team selected Aspire based on a competitive scoring of their application in response to the RFA. The technical assistance is individualized and based on Aspire's specific needs for provider transformation and increasing competitive integrated employment options among the individuals with disabilities we serve. In addition to receiving in-person technical assistance, our IDD team also has access to customized webinars, online trainings, and multiple resources related to best practices and research in employment for individuals with disabilities.



One of the personal goals for Dana Glass, CEO was to be able to hold a breakfast or lunch to celebrate staff anniversaries. July 2021 was our very first breakfast! There was approximately 55 years of Aspire experience in one room!

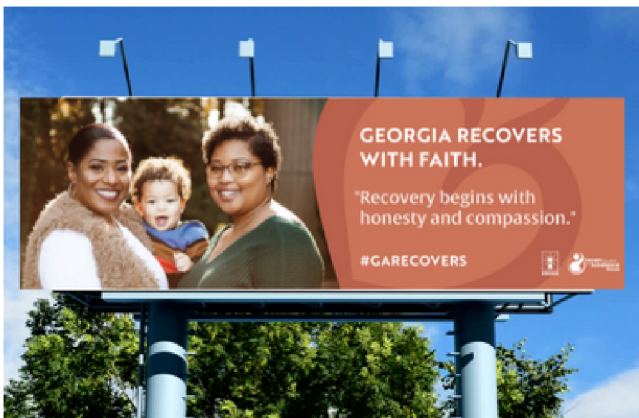
Western County Accomplishments

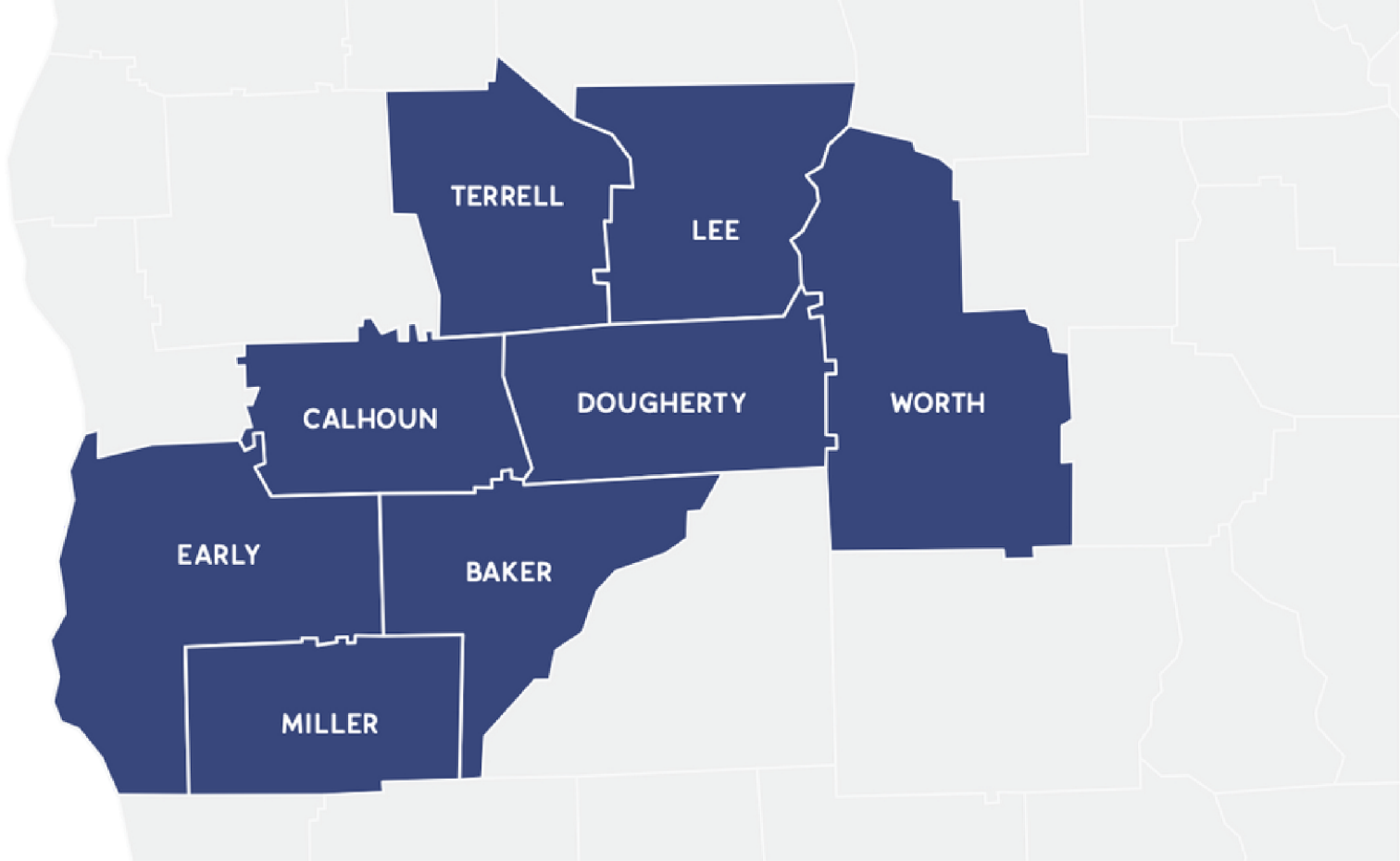
- No pause in services due to covid and staffing shortages
- Touchstone: 10 graduations, 2 GED graduates, 1 Firefighter certification, 7 employed (1 promoted to Assistant Manager)
- Treatment/Accountability Court: 9 graduates, 3 reinstated driver's licenses, 2 enrolled in college)
- CST hired a nurse
- Outpatient implemented jail in reach program in 2 western counties (Early & Calhoun)



Aspire’s own **Marlisa B. Nixon**, Director of Employee Experience and Change Management and **Daniel Fleuren**, COO (2022) were selected as two (2) of 16 peers to represent the State of Georgia, DBHDD and the Georgia Council on Substance as a 2022

Recovery Ambassador to the Georgia Recovers Billboard Project. They are both leaders in our community that speak up and speak out about their recovery to help reduce the stigma and discrimination that often follows mental illness and substance use disorders. They are representing the over 800,000 people in the Georgia Recovery Community with grace, hope, and love.





Walk-In Crisis Navigation Unit

601 West 11th Avenue
Albany, Georgia 31701
(229) 430-1842

Georgia Crisis and Access Line

1-800-715-4225 or dial 988

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Dial 9-8-8



Learn more at www.aspirebhdd.org



COUNTIES SERVED:

DOUGHERTY

BAKER

CALHOUN

EARLY

LEE

MILLER

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