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STAFF

Spotlight

Tara Bowlen, Supervisor

Tara is a case management supervisor for South Central Indiana. Tara provides case management for the FSW and CIH Waivers.



What led you to the social services field?

I began working for a Community Mental Health Center when I was 18. I started in the switchboard and worked as an office professional for two years, and then moved into a direct service role. I very quickly developed a passion for helping others and knew that I wanted to be in the Social Services field. I held several different roles within the company including Recovery Coach, Employment Coach, and Health Coach over the course of 7 years. During this time, I went back to school and obtained my Social Work degree online from Indiana Wesleyan University, while working full time. Following the completion of my degree I became the Service Coordinator for the local Housing Authority and was in that role for two years before transitioning to a leadership position as the Director of Social Services for a Long-Term Care Facility. I really missed being out in the community and decided that I really wanted to pursue something more in line with my previous direct service work, which led me to Case Management.

What is a random fact about yourself?

I have over 30 house plants!

What do you love most about your job?

I love being able to meet people where they are and support them in achieving their goals. It is my passion to help people achieve the life they desire!

Do you have a career success story to share?

Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to be part of so many grant programs, startups, and new ideas. I have worked alongside some amazing individuals, and I feel grateful to have those experiences. The social services field is always teaching me, and I am always growing. I can't imagine doing anything else!

Do you have children or pets?

I am married to my best friend, Andrew, and he supports me in everything I do! We have one daughter, Tatelynn, who is almost 11 years old, and are expecting a Baby Boy, Lincoln, this Spring of 2023. We have two beloved dogs, Sage (Lab/English Shepard Mix) who is 5 years old, and Izzy (Shih Tzu mix) who will be 13 years old this Summer.

~ Tara



STAFF

Spotlight

Steve Beach, Case Manager

Steve serves Johnson and surrounding counties for the FSW and CIH Waivers.



What led you to the social services field?

There were always people in my life as a child that helped me and my family out, so I wanted to be able to give back to others in whatever capacity I could. I started as a DSP back in 1998 working in supported living homes and have had a passion for this field ever since.

What is a random fact about yourself?

I love collecting and listening to vinyl records and I also play acoustic guitar.

What do you love most about your job?

Getting to know my individuals and their families. Being inspired by others who have overcome difficulties in their life. Also, being able to work with teams and collaborating to provide the best supports for our individuals.

Do you have a career success story to share?

When I worked in Community Habilitation services, I worked for a man who volunteered at the Indiana State Museum, and he relied on staff or myself to take him and stay with him. I worked with him and with small gradual steps, taught him the Indy Bus routes so he could take the bus system in Indianapolis to and from his volunteer job. He felt very proud and better about himself because of his increased independence.

Do you have kids or pets?

I have been happily married since 1998 and have 3 boys that are 22, 18, and 14. We also have 2 dogs and a cat.

~ Steve



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STAFF

Spotlight

Stacy Bettner, Case Manager

Stacy serves Johnson and Shelby counties for the FSW and CIH Waivers.

What led you to the social services field?

I think it's a natural transition from teaching into the social services field. A lot of the tasks are similar, and it's all about trying to maximize the experiences for each individual to ensure they're learning and growing while getting to live their best lives.

What is a random fact about yourself?

My hubby Dan and I just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in June 2022.

What do you love most about your job?

I have always loved connecting with my students to find out what's important to them, and I'm looking forward to doing the same with the individuals on my caseload.

Do you have kids or pets?

We have 2 adult sons and 2 furbabies.



~ Stacy



STAFF

Spotlight

Sally Ducharme, Case Manager

Sally serves Daviess and surrounding counties for the FSW and CIH Waivers.



What led you to the social services field?

I grew up with a father who was a teacher, principal, and coach. He showed me how helping others, both in and out of the classroom, is one of the most rewarding careers you can have. I followed in his footsteps, starting my career as a teacher and a coach. My favorite students to work with were those who had disabilities, because they were the biggest factors in teaching me how truly joyful life can be. I moved into working with adults with disabilities, both in their homes and communities. This is where I found my passion for advocacy for others. Being able to work with individuals and families makes my job at Connections not feel like a job at all.

What is a random fact about yourself?

I have a passion for cooking and baking. I love trying new recipes and sharing the things that I cook and bake with others. Seeing people enjoy the meals and treats that I make is my happy place!

What do you love most about your job?

The favorite part of my job is getting to know my people and their families. I love being able to share in their successes!

Do you have kids or pets?

I am married to my high school sweetheart (after 25 years apart!) and we have three children between us. Our oldest son and his girlfriend have 4 cats and rescue Great Dane, Winnie. Our middle son lives with his wife, 4 children, 3 dogs, and 2 cats. Our youngest is our only girl and is starting college this spring. We have 2 dogs, who everyone says I spoil too much. They like to follow me around the house, and will usually be in whatever room I am in. They like to participate in virtual meetings, too. Our grandkids and grand puppies love to come to visit, because of course they get spoiled.

~ sally



STAFF

Spotlight

Chrissy LaMar, Case Manager

Chrissy serves Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Harrison, Orange, Perry and Counties for the FSW and CIH Waivers.



What led you to the social services field?

My summer after high school, I worked at a factory in town. There was an individual that worked with me that I became friends with that had a job coach that would come in to see him on job. The job coach pulled me to the side one day and told me that she had noticed the advocacy that I had done for my friend on job and in his personal life and asked me to come in for an interview at her agency. Once obtaining my employment as a job coach, I quickly learned my passion was being in the social service field.

What is a random fact about yourself?

I love to be outdoors.

What do you love most about your job?

I am so grateful to have a job that aligns with my beliefs and goals. My favorite part about my job is being able to support others in obtaining the tools and services they need to become independent in their lives and seeing them accomplish their goals.

Tell us a favorite pastime you enjoy?

I enjoy spending time with my family whether it is spending time outdoors or just watching a movie.

Do you have a career success story to share?

When starting my job as a job coach, I received my first referral working with a young lady that had just finished her school career and was starting a job. When starting to work with her I was told that she would always need someone with her on job, she would never learn to read, and she would never obtain the daily life skills to live on her own. Twenty-two years later I still am a part of this individual's life. She has had successful community employment for 22 years and at this point with no job coaching, has learned how to read, and is very self-sufficient in her daily life skills.

Tell us about your pets?

We have 3 dogs Rocco, Lyla, and Luna. We have a cat, Tip Toe, a fish, hermit crabs and a guinea pig named Squeakers.

~ Chrissy