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Connections

Case Management, LLC

Spotlight

### Jen Priser, Supervisor

Jenn is a case management supervisor for East Central Indiana. Jenn provides case management for the FSW and CIH Waivers.

#### What led you to the social services field?

Growing up I always wanted to be a teacher. I went to school and got my degree in elementary and special education and taught for 5 years before taking a break to focus on my role as "mommy." I was then introduced to the world of case management and loved that I could still have the opportunity to work with the individuals I love and care so much about, so I took the leap and haven't looked back! I love being an advocate for those on my caseload and hearing about how they are living their best lives with the help of services that fully support their goals and passions.

#### Do you have a career success story?

I have many! I have worked with many of my individuals for multiple years, so I have gotten to see a lot of growth from them. One that comes to mind is a younger individual who started having a difficult time with walking and getting around due to severe back pain. His family had worked tirelessly to get him a wheelchair and to try and make his home as accessible as possible, but his bedroom was on the second floor. This individual made it very clear that he did not want to have to give up his private bedroom, so I got to help his family obtain a stair lift that allowed him to get to the second story of his home independently. When I went to the home after the install, he was so excited to show me the lift and how he could get to his room on his own. Seeing the smile on his face as he rode up and down was worth everything!

#### What do you love most about your job?

I love seeing the individuals I work with thrive and advocate for themselves. I strive to include them and their desires at every team meeting to ensure they are happy with their lives and the supports they receive. I also love collaborating with coworkers, individuals, and their teams.

#### Do you have kids or pets?

I am a boy mom through and through from the humans to the dog! I have two boys and a dog named Payton.







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# STAFF

# Spotlight

# Allison Judge, Case Manager

Allison serves Hancock and surrounding counties for the FSW and CIH Waivers.

#### What led you to the social services field?

When I was young, I had a neighbor who had muscular dystrophy. I honestly attribute having him in my life as a catalyst for my future in this field. I then studied early childhood and special education in college, but quickly realized teaching was not for me. I liked more of the 1:1 or small group situation. I worked a few different positions at a local service provider before I had my first child. After having my baby, I realized I wanted something more flexible. Ironically, our disability journey with her started the month I became a case manager. I bring a mix of parent perspective, empathy and waiver knowledge to my meetings with families, and I love it!

#### What is a random fact about yourself?

I've been to 14 different countries. I studied abroad in Austria for a semester and traveled almost every weekend.

#### What do you love most about your job?

Meeting other families who are going through or who have gone through the same experiences I have with my daughter. It's beneficial to both the parents and myself to have another person who "gets it."

#### What is a favorite pastime you enjoy?

I love to garden. But not veggies! I'm growing my cut flower garden next summer to take up about half of my back yard and I cannot wait! My favorite flowers to grow are dahlias, but I also am madly in love with cosmos and lisianthus. In the winter, I like to embroider and watch documentaries. You can also find me binging true crime documentaries or listening to podcasts on my way to and from meetings.

#### Do you have kids or pets?

We have an English bulldog, Dash. He was our first baby. We have two cats, Cooper and Frieda. And then we have three kiddos. Josephine, Walter and Ofelia. It's a noisy house. Also, fun fact, all three of my kids have used First Steps even though only my oldest has an actual diagnosis. I'm a huge advocate for First Steps and think it's such a great resource for families!

~ Allison





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Spotlight

# Olivia Ogden, Case Manager

Olivia serves Hancock and surrounding counties for FSW and CIH Waivers.

#### What led you to the social services field?

In college, I started with an Anthropology degree and worked towards a museum job. I also got a degree in Psychology and that is when I realized I wanted to work with people and not in a museum setting. I started as a DSP (direct support professional) in 2008 and worked my way up to Service Coordinator and Residential Director for 3 groups. I have always wanted to be a Case Manager, but I needed the experience first and found my passion. I am so happy to have made that decision started this journey with Connections!

#### What is a random fact about yourself?

I can play the piano and the clarinet. I grew up in rural Bargersville and enjoyed the country life. For fun and exercise, I love boxing and kickboxing.

#### What do you love most about your job?

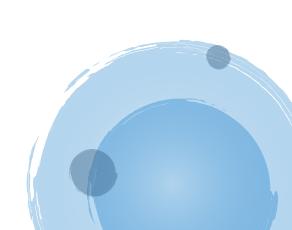
I love the flexibility and the ability to help others to advocate for themselves and help improve their overall quality of life. I love the support and resources that Connections gives, and without that, it is impossible to be an effective Case Manager. I love seeing people grow and be able to live their best lives!

#### Do you have pets?

We have one very spoiled chihuahua mix named Zoey, who runs the show. She is 9 years old but still acts like a puppy!









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# STAFF

# Spotlight

## **Aubrey Quinn, Case Manager**

Aubrey serves Hancock and surrounding counties for FSW and CIH Waivers.

#### What led you to the social services field?

I have always enjoyed volunteering and working with others in my community. Going into college, I didn't have a specific career in mind but knew Social Work would allow me to have options without having to immediately chose a path. I have several family members and family friends with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities which led me to love volunteering at a local weekend and summer camp for adults with IDD. I started working with the IDD population in college as RHS and PAC staff and it was an easy decision to find a full-time job doing similar work.

#### What is a random fact about yourself?

My favorite animal is the Orca Whale, and I would love to see them in the wild one day.

#### What do you love most about your job?

I love getting to know my individuals and their families; I love getting to see and hear about their successes. I love being able to build connections with them, talking about their interests, desires, and goals.

#### What is a favorite pastime you enjoy?

I enjoy spending time with my husband and our friends; it really doesn't matter if we're playing games, watching a movie, having dinner, or just sitting around talking. Recently, my husband and I have gotten more into board games and have been enjoying game nights with family and friends.

#### Do you have pets or kids?

My husband and I are expecting our first child in March 2023, a girl! I have a very spoiled 3yr old puppy named Moose. He is also very happy with my career at Connections because it means he can be always snuggled up with me when I am working from home.







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Case Management, LLC

Spotlight

### **Emily Smith, Case Manager**

**Emily serves Madison and surrounding counties for FSW and CIH Waivers.** 

#### What led you to the social services field?

I was led to the social services field because of my love for helping others. I have always been a people person, and I enjoying meeting and connecting with new people. It brings me so much joy to know that I've made a difference in someone else's life.



I was on the bowling team in high school.

#### What do you love most about your job?

I enjoy getting to know the Individuals and families that are on my caseload. The best part about my job is getting to see Individuals succeed and become more independent. I absolutely love seeing my Individuals excel and show the world what they can do! I also love the job flexibility, as it allowed me to be with my family when they needed me most.

#### What is a favorite pastime you enjoy?

I love spending time with my family. In the summer, we spend most of our time camping, boating, and swimming! We also love hiking trails at different state parks.

#### Do you have kids or pets?

My husband and I have a 5-year-old son and we are also expecting our second baby boy this year! We have a golden retriever who things that he is a lapdog. He is needy, loves attention, and has the best cuddles.





