

# RSHAPPENINGS

*The official newsletter of Richmond State Hospital*



<https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/3305.htm>

November 6, 2020

## Our Mission:

To provide individualized patient care as the center of all we do.

## Our Values:

Recovery  
Strength  
Hope

## Our Vision:

To be a Center of Excellence that meets the evolving public health and patient care needs through:

Community Partnerships  
Innovation  
Technology  
Evidence-based Practice

## In This Issue

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- New Employees
- Security Employee of the Month
- ERC Halloween Event
- Reminder
- Upcoming Years of Service Anniversaries & Birthdays



COTTAGE TWELVE, FOR WOMEN, EASTERN INDIANA HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

**State Hospital Wards 12 & 13 were on the East side of grounds, South of building 416. Photo is from 1906**

# What Is the Stigma of Addiction?



Stigma is defined in the dictionary as “a mark of disgrace or infamy.” The stigma of addiction, the mark of disgrace or infamy associated with the disease, stems from behavioral symptoms and aspects of substance use disorder. For example, symptoms of alcohol and other drug addiction, such as impaired judgment or erratic behavior, can result in negative consequences including legal, occupational and relationship problems. Understandably, these kinds of consequences cause embarrassment and shame among those afflicted and affected. They also create stigmatized attitudes and perceptions about addiction among the wider public, a response that perpetuates and exacerbates the private shame associated with drug addiction.

For generations, this combination of personal shame and public stigma has produced tremendous obstacles to addressing the problem of alcoholism and other drug addiction in America. Today, the stigma of addiction is seen as a primary barrier to effective addiction prevention, treatment and recovery efforts at the individual, family, community, and societal levels. Addiction stigma prevents too many people from getting the help they need.

The ultimate irony here? Many of the negative, stigmatizing behavioral symptoms associated with the disease of addiction tend to diminish and abate when appropriately addressed and managed in recovery.

At the individual and family levels, alcohol and drug addiction is traditionally considered a private matter, something only whispered about. Even when the symptoms of the disease are obvious to all around, individuals and families too often avoid seeking help for fear of even acknowledging the problem. This is one reason only one in 10 Americans with a substance use disorder receives professional care for addiction.

At the community and societal levels, the same undercurrent of addiction stigma keeps drug and alcohol addiction under-diagnosed, under-treated, under-funded and misunderstood by many, especially as compared to other chronic health conditions such as heart disease, asthma and diabetes.

While addiction is one of our nation’s biggest public health problems, insufficient public resources are dedicated to confronting the problem. Drug and alcohol addiction is too often seen as a moral issue or a criminal matter rather than a health problem. Many public policies and practices related to housing, education, jobs, voting rights and insurance discriminate against individuals who have addiction, even after they’ve established long-term recovery.

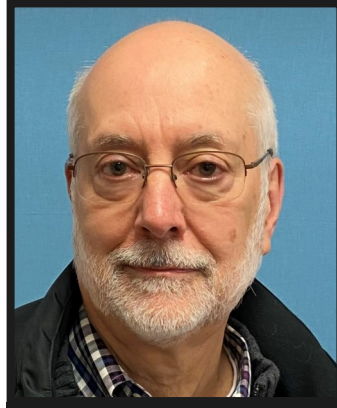
And despite advances in understanding addiction as a disease, substance use disorder remains largely marginalized by the mainstream medical field, starting with a lack of robust education on the topic in medical school. As evidenced by the devastating opioid crisis in our midst, our country is paying the price for years of neglecting the fiscal and educational investments required to confront the highly stigmatized disease of addiction.

**<https://www.hazeldenbettyford.org/recovery-advocacy/stigma-of-addiction>**

# New Employees



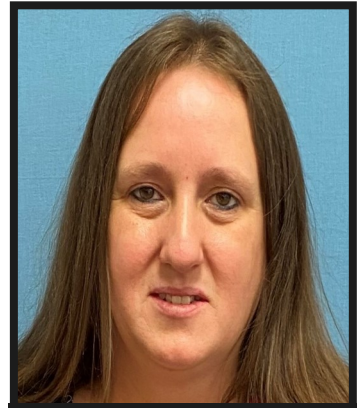
**Autumn Luster**  
BHRA



**Dr. Robert Rohs**  
Medical Director



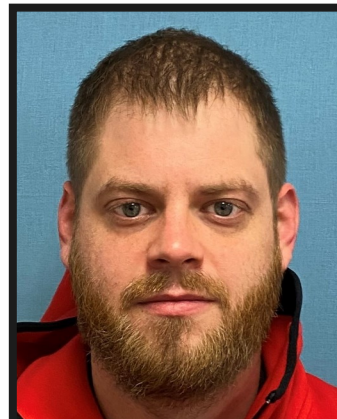
**Hailie Spence**  
BHRA



**Melissa Oakerson**  
BHRA



**Jerry Powell**  
BHRA



**Matt Parrett**  
BHRA



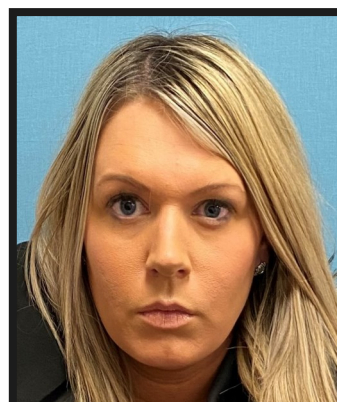
**Megan Huntington**  
BHRA



**Heather Christo-  
pher**  
Charge Nurse



**Shayla Shaneyfelt**  
BHRA



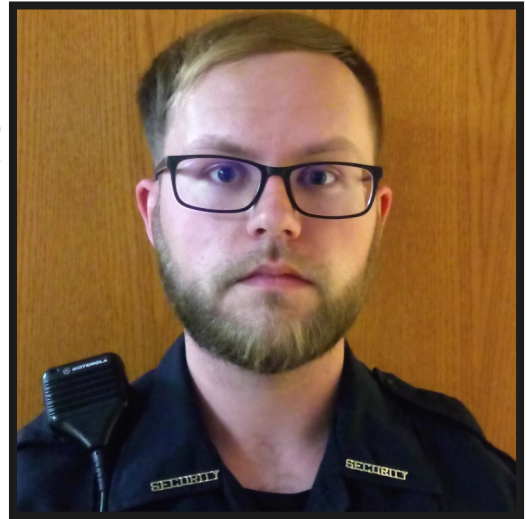
**Allison Walton**  
RN



**Angela Nichols**  
BHRA

# Security Employee of the Month

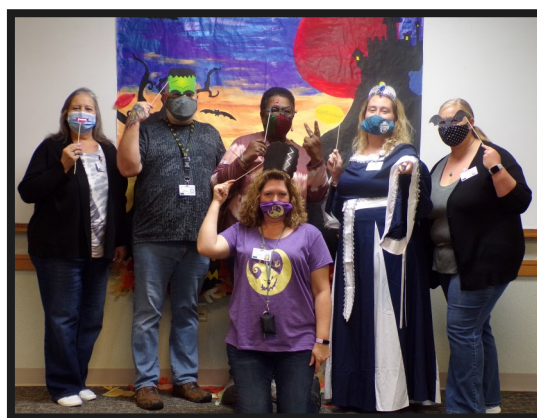
James Belt has been at RSH less than a year as one of our second shift security officers. James states the most challenging part of his job is dealing with all the different types of personalities. He really enjoys being able to help facilitate the change in others. James tries to be a mentor to the patients and works with them on goals, such as striving to do better and make better choices. He is learning to be more accepting of others' view points and also enjoys being apart of the uniform that helps the entire campus feel safe, including the patients. James' favorite part of history here is learning how the campus went from being originally isolated and self-sustaining to currently welcoming community partners. His hobbies and interests include working out, cuddling with his fur-babies, and learning sign language and Russian. His advice to new employees is to go with the flow. He states that every day is different and you should take what you can and learn from it.



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## ERC Halloween Event

Pictured is Halloween Fun Day from last Friday. Thank you ERC for your hard work on the backdrop and the delicious treats!



# Reminders

- ◆ Museum Open House for Staff: 11/10/2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Building 207



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## Upcoming Years of Service Anniversaries

November 9: Ricky Caldwell (38)

November 13: Kirsta Cela (4) and Philip Kuhens (14)



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## Upcoming Birthdays

November 7: Marlene Frame and Treivon Boyd

November 11: Tina Reece

November 12: Cathy Morris



If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact Kathy Clark ([Kathy.clark@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Kathy.clark@fssa.in.gov)).