

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March is National Social Work Month

Pensacola, Fla. (March 1, 2021) – March is National Social Work month. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 680,000 social workers in the United States help people reach their full potentials. Lakeview Center social workers help in many capacities. Three social workers share messages about how they met our community’s needs in a challenging 2020:



“Just like heart disease, addiction doesn’t pause for a pandemic. In fact, it can worsen. In 2020, we didn’t want to cause breaks in recovery plans by shutting down inpatient programs. During times of uncertainty, social workers are known for finding ways to meet the needs of those they serve, so we quickly shifted to a system of safety (i.e. screening, testing, quarantining) to keep everyone safe and in treatment. We lobbied for things like telehealth and financial support, and we embraced technology as an access point for services. Our staff and clients have remained safe, and our clients continue to successfully complete their treatment plans and transition back into the community.” – **Sandra Crawford, LCSW MCAP CET, Lakeview Center**



“One of the core values of social work is Compassion. The practice of social distancing is counter to the work we do as social workers, but it is necessary. We have been a lot more intentional in our relationships because of it. We’ve made sure people know that safety precautions are a necessary service to them, but using telehealth, we can still sit with them in times of pain and joy. We are our brother’s keeper, and the pandemic has made everyone weary, but we’ve adapted to balance physical and mental health to meet the emotional toll. Sustaining our relationships strengthens all of us.” – **Amanda Helm, MSW, LCSW, Lakeview Center**



“Social workers are known for being innovative, and 2020 was no exception. We shifted to meet new needs in real time to address social welfare, catastrophic weather, medical concerns, social injustice, political strife, and loss on a global scale. The

lack of physical connection was an adjustment, but that didn't impede support. A big lesson for many of us was that we aren't immune to stress, and self-care is important if we are to care for our community. The way we served in 2020 made me proud and showed me just how resilient our team members are." – **Shannon Massingale, LCSW, Lakeview Center**

For more information about help with behavioral health services, child protection services or employment for people with disabilities, visit eLakeviewCenter.org or call our main number at 850.469.3500.

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About Lakeview Center, Inc. Behavioral Health

The Mission of Lakeview Behavioral Health is to help people throughout life's journey. We specialize in providing effective, research-based services for children and adults with mental illnesses, drug and alcohol dependencies, and intellectual disabilities. Our services range from inpatient and residential treatment to outpatient counseling, psychiatry, case management, day treatment, and round-the-clock support for those with serious mental illnesses. Additionally, Lakeview Behavioral Health provides specialized trauma services, medication-assisted treatment for opiate dependency, and medically supervised drug and alcohol detoxification. In all, Lakeview Behavioral Health offers more than 60 programs and services for people in the northwest Florida area. To learn more, go online to eLakeviewCenter.org.

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