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Working with Deaf Individuals with Mental Illness

What's New at NDA

The National Deaf Academy was very excited and proud to host its second National Conference, Connections: Culture, Collaboration & Creativity. The conference was held at the beautiful International Plaza Resort & Spa in Orlando, FL and hosted a number of professionals from across the United States who specialize in working with Deaf individuals with Mental Illness.

Presenters from throughout the United States included Dr. Neil Glickman presenting on the importance for specialized services for Deaf individuals, Elizabeth Hill presenting on the behalf of the National Association for the Deaf and their position on Mental Health Care, and Dr. Robert Pollard presenting on the topics of psychological testing with Deaf individuals and issues of role, perspective and hearing status. Members of our own staff at NDA also made presentations, including our Medical Director, Dr. Maxine Minto, our Clinical Director, Melissa Watson, and therapists, Joseph (TJ) Murray and Mike Huffman. Presentation topics ranged from Creative Techniques in Counseling to Involving Parents in Building Connections with Child with Autism.

We at NDA would like to thank all those who were able to present and share their knowledge of Deafness and Mental Health issues, as well as all those who were in attendance at the conference! It was a great opportunity for the community of providers to come together and share in our hard work.

NDA will continue to publish updated information in monthly newsletters, please check back often for What's New at NDA! Also be on the look-out for upcoming V-Logs featuring NDA professional staff members.

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Employee of the Month

Deborah Williams

Deborah Williams is National Deaf Academy's June Employee of the Month. Deborah started at NDA on August 5, 2008 as a per diem Registered Nurse. At the time she was working at Florida Hospital full time on their Psychiatric Medical Unit; however she soon fell in love with our program and residents, resigned her full time position at Florida Hospital and accepted a full time night charge position here at NDA. Her leadership skills and independent thinking are key to her success on the night shift.

Two years ago Deborah learned to ride a motorcycle and got her own Harley Davidson cycle. Deborah and her husband spend some of their free time "crusin" on their Harleys throughout the state of Florida. Their longest trip has been to North Carolina and they hope to plan an even longer trip in the future. She also plays the piano and sings.

Congratulations on becoming National Deaf Academy's June Employee of the Month!

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Inner Views: A Resident's Perspective

How do you feel there is a difference between receiving treatment at NDA, fully focused around Deafness, vs. receiving treatment in a facility where Deafness may not be totally focused on?

"I appreciate receiving treatment and support from staff members who are Deaf themselves, and having the ability to go through treatment with other Deaf residents. I have been in treatment that wasn't centered on Deafness and communication was very difficult, I felt at times I wasn't able to communicate using sign language, and therefore truly express myself."

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Job Postings

Mental Health Technicians

Individuals holding the MHT position are responsible for implementing and assisting in the daily management of our resident population. MHTs work on an ongoing basis to

improve the residents' social, communication and personal hygiene skills. They engage the residents in activities, help implement their treatment programs and maintain a safe living environment while providing close supervision and observation.

This job is often referred to as Psychiatric Assistant, Group Advisor, Dorm Counselor, CAN, or Youth Leader. Prefer the candidate to be fluent in American Sign Language, however will train the right individual.

Working at National Deaf Academy

National Deaf Academy offers a wide range of deafness and mental health employment opportunities. More than 60 percent of our direct-care staff members are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. Though we actively seek individuals who are fluent in American Sign Language, many of our current employees have developed fluency both on the job and through classes available on campus. Employees enjoy an excellent benefits package that includes medical, dental, vision and a choice of electives such as short- and long-term disability. We offer a paid-time-off (PTO) plan that is generous and allows for flexibility. In addition, employees can participate in NDA's 401(k) plan and enhance their professional growth through tuition reimbursement. National Deaf Academy also serves as an internship site for therapists, social workers, educators, interpreters and other professional disciplines.

How to Apply

Send resume to:
Director of Human Resources
National Deaf Academy
19650 US Hwy 441
Mt. Dora, FL 32757
Email: btashlein@nda.com
Phone: 352-735-9500
Fax: 352-735-4939

Quote of the Month

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved."
- Helen Keller

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www.nda.com

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