

New Pathways Coordinator



Carrie Price,
New Coordinator of Pathways.

Carrie Price has been promoted to Coordinator of Pathways, Portage Path’s partial hospitalization program. Originally coming to Portage Path as a practicum student in 2009, Carrie completed her internship in 2011, and soon after joined Pathways, then called I.T.S., as a counselor. Carrie has a BFA in Ceramics and Art History from Wittenberg University, a Master’s in Community Counseling from the University of Akron, and is currently a doctoral candidate in Counselor Education and Supervision at Kent State University.

“I have witnessed and been a part of the various iterations of the program throughout the years as well as multiple team members who have stayed or moved on due to their own career aspirations. I currently am researching group work for my dissertation, have presented on the topic, have taught it, and am involved with both the state and national professional bodies for group work. I really believe in it.”

Pathways uses a dynamic, goal-oriented approach, including open group therapy, intensive outpatient care, medication monitoring, interpersonal skills training, and crisis intervention as an adjunct to Individual therapy to facilitate skill-building and aid the healing process.

Pathways is designed to help individuals feel better and be better prepared to participate in outpatient therapy. In addition, Pathways helps develop self-reliance, problem-solving skills, and a sense of hopefulness about the future.

“It is my hope that our clients continue to want to come to Pathways and to leave Pathways in a better place than where they started. In order for clients to continue to want to engage in such an intensive program, they need to trust and have a rapport with the staff. Staff is an integral piece of any partial hospitalization program and it is my intent to build an environment in which our staff chooses to remain and develop.”

To assist in that goal of development within Pathways is new team member Brianne Markley. Brianne has joined Portage Path from Akron Children’s Hospital, where she worked as the Family Services Coordinator. Brianne will make a great addition to the Pathways team as they continue to build a safe and trusting space for clients.



Brianne Markley, LPC.
New Pathways Clinician

As the Pathways team works to keep Pathways successful, they are looking to remove barriers to treatment and provide the clients with a space to receive it or to determine a different method of treatment that may be more appropriate.

“A client whom a clinician believes can benefit from the program is most likely appropriate. Research indicates, though, that there are clients who are better suited for group work than others. For instance, people who are diagnosed with antisocial symptoms, are actively psychotic, paranoid or delusional struggle in an open group. But our intent is to work with anyone who is referred to integrate them into the group. We take each case individually and assess making decisions in the best interest of both the group and the client.”

Some characteristics of people who may benefit most from Pathways include clients with past trauma, feeling like they don’t belong, feeling like bad things keep happening to them, sleep much more than normal, lack motivation, feel stuck or alone.

One of Carrie’s goals for the future of Pathways is to see the program regularly offer services to anyone inside and outside the agency that needs help. She also hopes to continue to help the Pathways clients advance in their individual treatment and gain the knowledge of their illness they need to better manage it day to day. This is done through processing and psychoeducation to help clients honor their narrative and take control of their illness. The Pathways staff are committed to helping each person identify and develop these goals individually.

Pathways is 5 days a week, 3 hours a day for approximately 13 weeks. The length of time in the program can give or take depending on the needs of the client. There are currently two programs - one in the morning from 9am-12pm, and one in the afternoon from 1pm-4pm.



PATHWAYS

The process for Pathways referrals from a non-mental health provider go through the usual process of a phone call to admission, fax or online referral, followed by a full intake assessment to then be referred for the Pathways evaluation.

For referrals from a current mental health provider in which the client will remain under the care of this provider, the provider can contact Carrie Price and she will process the referral as a Direct Admit. The client will then be contacted by the intake schedulers and complete intake assessment as usual but will bypass the Pathways evaluation and be directly admitted.

If you have any questions about the Pathways Program, please call Carrie Price at 330-253-3100 EXT. 1262.

October - A Month for Awareness

Nearly every month is dedicated to raising awareness for a cause. October happens be a big month in terms of bringing awareness. Are you passionate about mental health awareness? Maybe you want to help shatter the stigma surrounding OCD? Or you want to help promote the importance of mental health screening? This month, we encourage you to find a cause you are passionate about, and help any way you can. Here are the awareness topics for October:

National Depression & Mental Health Screening Month

Bullying Prevention Month

Mental Illness Awareness Week (1-7)

National Depression Screening day (5)

World Mental Health Day (10)

OCD Awareness Week (8-14)

A Big Thanks to KJ’s 5K Sponsors

On October 7th, Portage Path will be hosting the first annual 5K in honor of KJ Hamblin and all those lost to suicide. Online Registration has ended, but if you are still interested in attending the event, day-of registration is \$30. We would like to give a big thank you to our sponsors.



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