



## **Southeast Health Group Now Hiring....and hiring....**

By Nancy King, Southeast Health Group

Southeast Health Group, the area's only full-time, fully-integrated health care provider, now employs 106 full- and part-time employees, and has five current openings. "It's been unbelievably busy!" said Jeannie Larsen, SHG's Human Resources Director, who has been interviewing, hiring and providing orientation non-stop for the past several months.

The larger staff is the result of several new projects and events that came about in 2014. "The biggest impact we've seen is from Medicaid expansion," said Becky Otteman, CEO. "Across the six county region we serve, we've seen a 35% increase in the number of people eligible for Medicaid coverage. Many of those folks have avoided going to the doctor or accessing medical services because they had no insurance coverage. Now that they have coverage, they are taking care of themselves and we are seeing the pent-up demand."

The second wave of hiring came on the heels of the state legislature's new funding for statewide Crisis Services. SHG opened a house on Barnes Avenue called "Peer 613," where people experiencing a mental health crisis can drop-in for support. The agency hired eight new positions for Peer Specialists to staff the house, and help with transports to hospitals and rehabilitation centers.

A third wave of funding is coming to fund substance use disorder prevention and treatment. "We're putting together a program that will allow us to provide services in the county jails across the region," said Paul Sedillo, Executive Director of Partnership for Progress and Wellness Works. "People often end up in jail instead of getting the treatment they need. This is a huge opportunity to help people turn their lives around and get on the right track." SHG will also be able to access the recreational marijuana tax monies from the state to provide substance use prevention in the schools. "We hope to reach children and educate them before they have the opportunity to try drugs," said Sedillo.

Sedillo says recruiting for these positions can be tough. "We're competing with behavioral health providers all across the state to find people with Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC) credentials, and they're rare. The good thing is that you don't need a bachelor's degree to do this work. Anyone with a high school diploma or GED can take the CAC classes and get into this field. We need more people from the local area to pursue this kind of training."

In addition to the CAC positions, SHG is also recruiting for full-time mental health therapists (Master's degree required) to provide Jail-based and Outpatient services, a full-time Intake Clinician (Bachelor's degree required), and a full-time Customer Service Rep (HS diploma or GED required).

"We're excited about all of these opportunities, despite the growing pains," said Otteman. "Our staff has almost doubled in the past five years and it's great to have the resources to meet the needs of our communities."

For more information about career opportunities at Southeast Health Group, go to [www.southeasthealthgroup.org](http://www.southeasthealthgroup.org) or call 1-800-511-5446.