

PRESS RELEASE

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SUNSERVE PROMOTES SIX INTERNAL CANDIDATES DURING REORGANIZATION

Wilton Manors, FL - December 8th, 2020 — We know it has been a while since you last heard directly from us at SunServe, but we have been hard at work responding to the many changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, we have been able to continue offering vital mental health and social services to some of the most vulnerable members of the LGBTQ+ community. SunServe is proud of the tireless work our dedicated team of caring professionals has done in order to maintain our programming through innovative practices in our new virtual world. With direction from our Board, SunServe reevaluated our structure with an emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness. Our top priority was to identify individuals that would best serve our clients and further the agency's mission. After a thorough review of qualified candidates, we are pleased to announce the following internal promotions.

Gary Hensley (he/him), the former Director of Quality Assurance, has been elevated to the position of Executive Director of Operations. Gary has been with SunServe for eight years and began working in our Housing Case Management program. Gary was instrumental in helping SunServe obtain its CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) certification. Gary's experience, attention to detail, organizational skills, and dedication to our programs make him the ideal person to oversee the operations of our organization.

Tori Bertran (she/her), the former Director of Youth Services, was promoted to fill the vacant Director of Quality Assurance position. Tori was previously promoted from Lead Life Coach to Director of Youth Services two years ago. Her analytical method to problem solving, combined with her results-oriented approach, make Tori the perfect fit to lead our Quality Assurance efforts.

Sobourney Barns (she/her), the former Lead Life Coach in our Youth Services Program, has been promoted to Director of Youth Services. Sobourney has been an integral part of the Youth Program for more than six years and has demonstrated the ability to truly engage our young clients, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her positive attitude and genuine caring nature will prove invaluable in her new endeavor.

Robert Scardino (he/him), the former EmPowerMe Program and Student Intern Coordinator, has been promoted to Director of Clinical Services. He brings years of practical experience with LGBTQ+ folks that he will impart to our interns, therapists and social workers. Robert's dedication and commitment to the SunServe mission make him an excellent candidate to best support our clinicians.

Michael Alexander-Luz (he/him), the Lead Therapist in our Youth Services Program, will now also serve as Assistant Clinical Director. Michael's leadership qualities have delivered tremendous results for our young clients in therapy. Michael's passion to enrich the lives of individuals in our care and ability to provide steady direction to our youth therapists, made this such an obvious decision.

Mario DePedro (he/him), a former Life Coach, has been promoted to Lead Life Coach. Mario first began his journey at SunServe - Youth as our Gay Straight Alliance Outreach Coordinator. He has had much success in introducing outside-the-box activities that capture young folk's attention. We are more than confident that Mario will excel in this new position.

We couldn't be more pleased that we were able to identify such amazing candidates for these positions from within our existing team. It simply goes to show that we've always been fortunate to have some of the best talent in our industry right here at SunServe. Please join us in wishing all of these individuals continued success. Congratulations to you all!

As SunServe continues to meet existing and new challenges in the LGBTQ+ community, we need your help more than ever. Due to economic hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, philanthropic giving has decreased. There has also been a shrinking of grant funding available to community based organizations. While this is occurring, the demand for mental health and social services continues to increase exponentially. Please consider making a donation to help fund SunServe's life-changing programs. Your gift goes directly into services we designed to help the most vulnerable people in our community. To donate today, visit: www.SunServe.org/Give Please also follow our events page for upcoming fundraising activities for the new year: www.SunServe.org/Events

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support and generosity. Remember, at SunServe, the slogan "We Help People" would only be words without the everyday champions here that bring our programs to life.

Interview requests with any of the newly promoted individuals named above or members of our board of directors, can be made using the contact information in the header.