

# Employee Spotlight

Meet Leanne Craven, MSW, LICSW, LCDP - Emergency Services Clinician

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From the time she was a teenager and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, Leanne Craven knew she wanted to help make a difference in the lives of people in need. "I enjoy helping people. Providing them with support and connecting them to important resources and community services," explains Leanne. Since beginning her career at EBCAP in 2012, Leanne has done just that! Her first position was as a Community Support Program (CSP) case manager working with Severe Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) clients. "Leanne excelled in the CSP program," states Amy Lagasse, Director of EBCAP's Outpatient Emergency Services. "She was known for her excellent and timely documentation, ability to manage challenging clients, and willingness to help her teammates."

It's obvious, when speaking with Leanne, that she is truly committed to caring for individuals in crisis. "Connecting those in our community with the resources they need to succeed and live the healthiest life they can, is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job," states Leanne. "Emergency Services assists clients who are in crisis and connects them with the services they need and provides them the most appropriate level of care to ensure safety and facilitate various therapeutic interventions," she explains. Interventions include referrals to EBCAP's wide range of integrative services from social services to comprehensive behavioral health to Recovery Center

support services. If needed, intervention also includes connecting clients with EBCAP's community partners. "We act as a liaison between EBCAP and several community partners including other community mental health centers, inpatient hospitals, police departments, problem gambling services, and local schools," Leanne further explains.

In talking with her colleagues, it's apparent that Leanne has proven to be a valuable asset to the Emergency Services team, which includes Amy Lagasse and Kimberly Epler, Manager of Emergency Services. According to Amy, "Prior to even getting her professional qualifications, Leanne was offered an Emergency Services position due to her substantial experience with the SPMI and SUD populations."

In her pursuit to further her career, Leanne relied on the advice of Amy, whom she refers to as her mentor. "She told me what road I needed to take to fulfill my career goals," Leanne recalls. This road included a five-year stint as a full-time EBCAP employee and part-time student pursuing her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Rhode Island College. And Leanne didn't stop there. Her list of credentials is a long one. Simply looking at the number of acronyms after Leanne's name is evidence of her extensive professional accomplishments. Besides her MSW, Leanne is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Licensed Clinical Dependency Professional (LCDP), and a Qualified Mental Health Practitioner (QMHP). Additionally, Leanne is an Overdose Prevention Trainer, a Urine

Toxicology Trainer, and holds a Problem Gambling certification. She collaborates with the R.I. Problem Gambling Services and the Lottery Commission to help individuals with gambling addictions. "We assist individuals struggling with addiction and also increase the public's awareness about this issue and the types of services available," states Leanne.

Leanne speaks of her role as an Overdose Prevention Trainer in which she provides education about EBCAP's Suboxone Program, a medication-assisted treatment program for those with opioid addiction. She explains the program's effectiveness and its ability to offer same-day induction to clients that are in crisis. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, suboxone is part of a comprehensive treatment plan that includes counseling, education, and participation in social support programs. "It has proven to be an effective treatment, helping to improve an individual's quality of life," adds Leanne.

In reflecting on the past eight years, Leanne acknowledges the impact EBCAP has had on her life. "Starting here as a behavioral health case manager and having the opportunity to grow my career to now being a dually-licensed independent clinician has been a tremendous feat that I could not have accomplished without the support of my EBCAP family. I have felt 100 percent supported and have been able to grow both personally and professionally," she concludes.