

# SHANEQUA McCRIMMON



Shanequa McCrimmon is a Program supervisor with the Older Adult Service Team (OAST) at Felton Institute. She has been with Felton Institute for 3 years but has worked in behavioral health services for over 10 years. Utilizing evidence-based practices, OAST's work with clients involves screening and assessments, treatment plans, case management, psychiatric service, and care coordination. Shanequa engages with clients both in the office and in the field, including home visits and community outreach. She is part of a team that offers comprehensive, specialized, intensive clinical case management for older adults with mental health concerns, which includes substance abuse, to support them in aging in place while preserving their dignity and independence.

**We honor you, Shanequa as a phenomenal woman in Behavioral Health!**



***What motivated you to pursue a career in behavioral health?***

When I was growing up, behavioral health was one of those contentious topics that no one in my community ever talked about. My motivation to work in behavioral health was sparked by my innate empathy for many of the issues affecting my community. My goal was to use my compassion and empathy to support others in overcoming some of life's obstacles.

***How has the behavioral health culture changed for women in the field during your time in the profession?***

Women's perspectives on behavioral health have evolved significantly. This field was heavily male dominated when I first started, but over the years, I've seen a transition and seen many women assume leadership positions while garnering the acknowledgement and recognition they deserve.

***Was there another woman/mentor/figure that inspired you in your work? If so, who was it and why did she inspire you?***

As an advocate for the homeless, I was initially introduced to the field of behavioral health. I learned the value of "meeting an individual, where they're at" from my supervisor at the time, a licensed African American woman, who inspired and supported me through many obstacles. I truly learned about a client-centered approach due of her.

***What impact have women had on behavioral health in the way we provide service?***

Women, in my opinion, have had a tremendous influence on the way that behavioral health is now seen, emphasizing that there are multiple contributing factors rather than just one and that the complete person must be supported and treated.

***The year is 2124. The leadership at ACBH is opening a time capsule that was created and filled in 2024. What did you place in it?***

I would include – advanced health information technology, peer support, reducing stigma, overdose prevention, access and quality of care, self-directed treatment, and integrated health care.