

JULIENE SCHRICK



Juliene Schrick is new to the position of Division Director of Older Adult Services in ACBH. She joined ACBH in 2019 as a Program Specialist in the Adult/Older Adult System of Care and has spent the last three years as the Division Director of Utilization Management.

Juliene is a licensed Clinical Social Worker with over twenty years of experience in the community behavioral health field. She spent most of her career working in the community directly with individuals living with serious mental illness as a clinician, supervisor, and program director across inpatient, outpatient, residential and forensic treatment settings. She also has years of experience in quality management. In her spare time Juliene enjoys hiking, camping, and spending time with her family and friends.

We honor Juliene as a phenomenal woman of ACBH!



JULIENE SCHRICK

What motivated you to pursue a career in behavioral health?

I grew up surrounded by mental illness and that probably is what led me to wanting to work with abused and neglected children when I found myself in college. I had to get a job rather quickly because of life circumstances and the first one I got was at a locked subacute psychiatric facility serving mostly older adults who were conserved. I fell in love with the population and found that many if not most of the clients experienced abuse and neglect in their childhoods. I felt like I ended up doing what I initially aimed for, but in a way that I could not have imagined at the time.

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

Terry Rubin-Ortiz was the Clinical Director of Bonita House for a very long time. I worked under her while I was working at an FSP that Bonita House operated in the 2010s. Terry inspired me because she worked in community mental health for her whole career and maintained a bright outlook with a deep love for the people she served. Terry continues to live what she taught daily. I learned many sayings from Terry that I use in my work and personal life on a regular basis including everything has a beginning, middle, and end and striving to be a calm, non-anxious presence for the people around me. She leads with love openly while also having strong boundaries and she is one of the most hilarious people I know.

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

Behavioral health culture itself has changed a lot. The field has moved significantly from being more paternalistic and controlling to valuing client voice and choice and centering an individual's lived experience as a whole person rather than just focusing on symptoms or problems. At the same time, we still have a long way to go there. How the field has changed for women is harder to answer. I do see more women in positions of leadership than when I started but the top of the field is still male dominated especially when we look at how most people doing the actual work of delivering services is still predominantly women. I think our changing understanding of gender as a construct has impacted behavioral health culture and leaves me with greater respect around how intricately intertwined the personal and political truly are. This leads me to question if I am doing enough in terms of social justice work in my own practice.



JULIENE SCHRICK (continued)

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

I think we provide service from a more humble place than when I started in this field and I think that is largely due to women and gender expansive people.

What changes have you seen in behavioral health because of women “shaking the table”?

When I think about shaking the table, I think about changing systems so that people have the power and resources to make decisions that impact their lives. In my career I have seen women who are amazing at knowing how systems work in order to bend them and stretch them in order to come closer to meeting our communities’ needs. They have taught me that systems operate as they are intended to and it is our role to disrupt them in order to reduce the violence they cause and increase the healing that is possible in this world.

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?

The SmartCare manual

