



NEWS

Date: 03/09/2009

Three Human Service Professionals Join Unity House



QA Director Rhonda Lattimore

AUBURN – Unity House of Cayuga County Inc., a leading provider of residential, rehabilitative, and employment programs and services in six Central New York counties to more than 700 individuals a day with developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those recovering from chemical dependencies, has recruited and hired three new human service professionals for its Quality Assurance and Nursing Services departments and Tompkins County Day Habilitation program.

Effective March 2, 2009 Rhonda Lattimore assumed the position of Director of Quality Assurance at Unity House. Lattimore's human services professional experience spans the past 15 years.

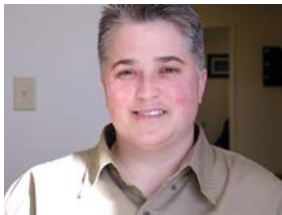
A native of Albany and Syracuse, N.Y., Lattimore from 2002-2008 served as the Director of Quality Assurance (QA), Contract Management, and Corporate Compliance at ARISE in Syracuse, where she developed that agency's QA and corporate compliance plans, chaired for seven years its Incident Management Committee, and helped process and execute responsibilities related to its funding contracts. Lattimore also was the manager of ARISE's Department of Support Services from 2000-2002 and a service coordinator for that organization's consumers and families, from 1997-2000. Her human services background also includes experience in residential support at Toomey Residential Services, in Syracuse.

Holder of a BA Degree from Alfred University and a JD Degree from S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo's School of Law, Lattimore was co-founder of and currently co-chairs the Central New York Quality Assurance Coalition, which includes about 50 participating agencies operating in the region. The organization is a strong and active leader in agency collaboration and solidification of regulations, standards, and compliance issues pertinent to the developmental disability population. A 1999 graduate of Leadership of Greater Syracuse, a participating mentor for Youth Leadership of Greater Syracuse, and a Board member of Branch's Driving School in Syracuse, her avocations include reading and music.



Nursing Services' Cindy
Massicci, RN

Cindy Massicci, RN joined Unity House's Department of Nursing Services on February 9, 2009. Holder of a BS Degree from Cornell University and a graduate of the School of Nursing at S.U.N.Y. Binghamton, she will oversee care for Unity House MRDD Residential Services' consumers in Tompkins County and at the agency's New Life IRA at Half Acre in Cayuga County. A past volunteer for the Tompkins County chapter of the American Red Cross and volunteer fundraiser for that county's American Cancer Society and ASPCA, Massicci's previous experience includes working as an office manager for the Learning Strategy Center and Student Disability Services at Cornell; as a private duty nurse; as staff RN and supervisor at Lakeside Nursing Home and staff RN at Cayuga Medical Center, both in Ithaca; and as nurse manager at Ithaca's Kendall Retirement Home.



Tompkins County Day Hab
Manager Karen Walls

Karen Walls assumed her position as co-manager of the agency's Tompkins County Day Habilitation program on March 3, 2009. She earned a BA Degree in Child Studies from St. Joseph's College in Suffolk County, N.Y. and worked as a fourth grade teacher at Long Island's South Country school district for ten years. She also brings nearly six years of experience as an adult residence assistant manager at the Developmental Disability Institute in Smithtown, N.Y. to her new position.

Walls enjoys spending time with her two pet dogs and learning about computer hardware and software.