

### 317 Board 2024 Annual Meeting Nominations-Athens County

<b>Name</b>	<b>I am nominating:</b>	<b>I recommend this person for an award</b>	<b>This person is a contract provider employee</b>	<b>If Yes, Provider Name</b>	<b>Nominee works in</b>
Marissa McDaid	Jane Riley and Lori Brown	Lori and Jane are social workers at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare who not only do exemplary work at their jobs but do tremendous work in their free time in the areas of suicide prevention and postvention. Lori and Jane have been longtime members of the Athens County Suicide Prevention Coalition and LOSS Team. They have also worked with the Southeast Trauma-Informed Care Collaborative to develop a LOSS Team training that can be utilized by other surrounding counties. Lori and Jane also host a monthly Survivor of Suicide LOSS support group outside of work hours.	Yes	Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare	Athens
Katherine Spreacker	Cathye Williams	<p>Cathye goes above and beyond to maintain and support a client first service in our agency. She works day and night to find funding and solve problems. She has the kindest heart and is always there to give unsheltered persons a warm cup of coffee or some other small comfort. She is the backbone of Athens, Vinton and Hocking. She spreads herself to thin and she never receives ant recognition.</p> <p>She would hate to know she was even nominated. For her, it is all about really helping people and that is always her goal. This lady not only manages 5 counties, but she also makes the time for client care and advocates fiercely for clients to receive adequate and appropriate health care, mental health care and housing. I have never worked with anyone as selfless as this lady. She is Social Justice.</p>	Yes	ISBH	Athens, Hocking, Vinton

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Sherri Tyree	Dan Brozak	<p>Dan is well known across behavioral health agencies throughout southeast Ohio, and behavioral health hospitals across the state, as an advocate for clients’ rights. His role as hospital liaison makes him the official point of contact for individuals being discharged from the hospital to ensure continuity of care in their return to the community. In this role he shoulders a heavy set of responsibilities with extreme compassion as he assists individuals in navigating the system and addressing their barriers to care. Unofficially, he is known as the can-do contact for clinicians, case managers, staff, and administrators throughout the region for his thoughtful interactions that have fostered cross-system care collaboration and his ability to think “outside the box” to problem-solve the most challenging situations.</p> <p>Personally, I have known of Dan to pay out-of-pocket for food, lodging, and transportation in urgent situations knowing reimbursement delays or denials are possible but always willing to err on side of doing what is right for each individual he aids. When I worked with Dan at Hopewell, and during my interactions with him at the Board, I have never heard Dan utter the word ‘no’ when it comes to work-related tasks. Not only do I have Dan’s contact in my favorites list (aka, speed-dial to those not as young and hip as me 😊), I know of clinicians at multiple agencies and programs who do the same. Others at agencies outside of Hopewell have said to me things like, “We all want a Dan!” Cathye Williams, Regional Manager for ISBH, recently said this about Dan:</p> <p>“I think that Dan has a legacy of going above and beyond not only for clients but his peers and community partners. Dan’s ability to coordinate care before and after hospitalizations is priceless to our agency. Dan has worked tirelessly to support and coordinate CTP and has always been such a positive pleasure to coordinate with. I cannot say enough amazing things about Dan and the amazing human that he is.” In addition to his regular duties, he stepped up to fill leadership roles during Hopewell’s six-month vacancy of a crisis director in 2023. Such duties included, but I doubt were limited to, providing monthly crisis statistics to the 317 Board and leading the weekly Hospital Utilization &amp; Review Committee (HURC) –a group of directors, case managers, payee representatives, and resident managers who review applications for resources and services provided by Hopewell and supported by the 317 Board to support housing needs of individuals with severe and persistent mental health diagnoses and receiving services. I work with some extraordinary people doing very important work in our communities, but Dan truly rises to the top. I know of no one who embodies more selfless characteristics nor displays more passion and commitment to serve others than Dan Brozak. It is with great pleasure that I respectfully submit this nomination for Dan to be recognized as an individual who positively impacts behavioral health in our communities.</p>	Yes	Hopewell Health Centers	Athens, Hocking, Vinton

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Avery Hess	Andrea Horsch	<p>Andrea is a dedicated behavioral health professional who has cultivated an excellent group of people in her time as team leader on the Geriatric and Medically Fragile case management team at Hopewell Health Centers. Her compassion, clear-headedness, and ethics are above and beyond. She is both decisive and empathetic in crisis situations. She makes herself readily available to her team. She displays tremendous, indispensable insight about the people she serves. She is a tireless advocate for people with mental illnesses.</p> <p>I worked with her for a time and found working with her to be inspirational. Her dedication to the people she serves is unparalleled. I can't think of anyone I know who might deserve such recognition more.</p>	Yes	Hopewell Health Centers	Athens

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Meloney Sturgill	Natalie Hoffman	Natalie goes above and beyond to help anyone with substance use issues. She is very compassionate about her job and sharing her love and personal experience. She is exceptional at what she does for her clients and the recovery community.	Yes	TASC	Athens
Amanda Douglas	Ashly Woodrum	Ashly is one of the most caring and passionate person that I know . Ashly devotes herself to her clients and the recovery/mental health community. She resides on - few boards in Athens county . Ashly is a CDCA 2	Yes	The Carlson Center	Athens
Ellen Martin	Judge George P McCarthy, Athens County Common Pleas and Veterans Court	I am nominating Judge McCarthy for his initiative to establish the first Veterans Court in socio-economically disadvantaged, rural, Appalachian Southeastern Ohio. His grant proposal was funded first in 2016 and since then he has kept the court continuously operational, receiving 3 grants that insure sustainability for this successful program that is saving the lives of Veterans and helping them become productive members of our communities. His court has been committed since the beginning to promoting treatment and recovery instead of incarceration.	No		Athens

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Michele Papai	The Staff of the Gathering Place and Mike's Bridge House  <b>5 Staff</b>	As president of the Board, I have witnessed this small staff over the past 4 years provide services to some of the most vulnerable in our communities. They have been there to offer meals and support services during very difficult times such as COVID, death of members, vaccination services, homelessness outreach etc. Their service and commitment to their members occurred during very difficult times and they always showed up and went the extra mile to help. The mentorship and level of professionalism merits recognition and an award.	Yes	The Gathering Place	Athens
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JAYNE M DARLING	George McCarthy	<p>I am submitting Judge George McCarthy for the Valeria “Taffy” Marks Substance Abuse Prevention Advocacy Award.</p> <p>Judge McCarthy is the founder and presiding judge for the Athens Veterans' Treatment Court (VTC). The VTC program is designed to recognize veterans in the criminal justice system who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues and help them achieve/maintain sobriety, address mental health issues, avoid recidivism, obtain permanent safe housing, and remain out of the criminal justice system. The program lasts typically one to two years and veterans must complete a rigid set of requirements to graduate.</p> <p>Judge McCarthy began work on bringing VTC to Athens County in 2013 and recruited community service providers and government agencies interested in being part of the program. In 2016, Judge McCarthy applied to the Ohio Supreme Court and was granted certification for this specialized docket. Since 2016, Judge McCarthy has graduated 27 veterans and just recently the program received its third certification by the Ohio Supreme Court to operate through 2027.</p> <p>Judge McCarthy’s passion for supporting veterans goes well beyond the VTC. He is also on the The TBI Foundation in Nelsonville. The foundation’s goal is to bring awareness, education, support and connection to families and TBI patients. Judge McCarthy also recently joined the board of the new foundation Boots on the Trail, an organization dedicated to helping veterans heal through ecotherapy. ( I listed the websites below for the VTC, Boots on the Trail, and The TBI Foundation if you would like more information.)</p> <p>I have had the honor and privilege of serving as a mentor in Judge McCarthy's VTC since October of 2023. During that time, I have watched a man of kindness, dedication, and determination guide veterans to healthier lives.</p>	No	Athens

Judge McCarthy is a person who genuinely cares about each veteran that comes through his court. He treats them with dignity and compassion; and the veterans love and respect him.

It is a long and detailed process to receive certification for a VTC. Only 13% of Ohio Counties have a court that serves veterans in this way . His determination to establish the Athens VTC is a tribute to Judge McCarthy, his love and respect for veterans, and his unwavering desire to help our veterans receive the respect and health care they deserve for their service to our country. Veterans' lives have been saved through the benevolent actions of Judge McCarthy and his VTC. He manifests the same passion to help heal our veterans as Valeria "Taffy" Marks exhibited in her struggle to help nurses with addictions. Please honor him with this well deserved and prestigious award.

Thank you,

Jayne Darling

[https://www.co.athensoh.org/departments/athens\\_county\\_veterans\\_court.php](https://www.co.athensoh.org/departments/athens_county_veterans_court.php)

<https://www.bootsonthetrail.net/>

<https://thetbifoundation.com/>