

A newsletter for and about AltaPointe Health's Employees

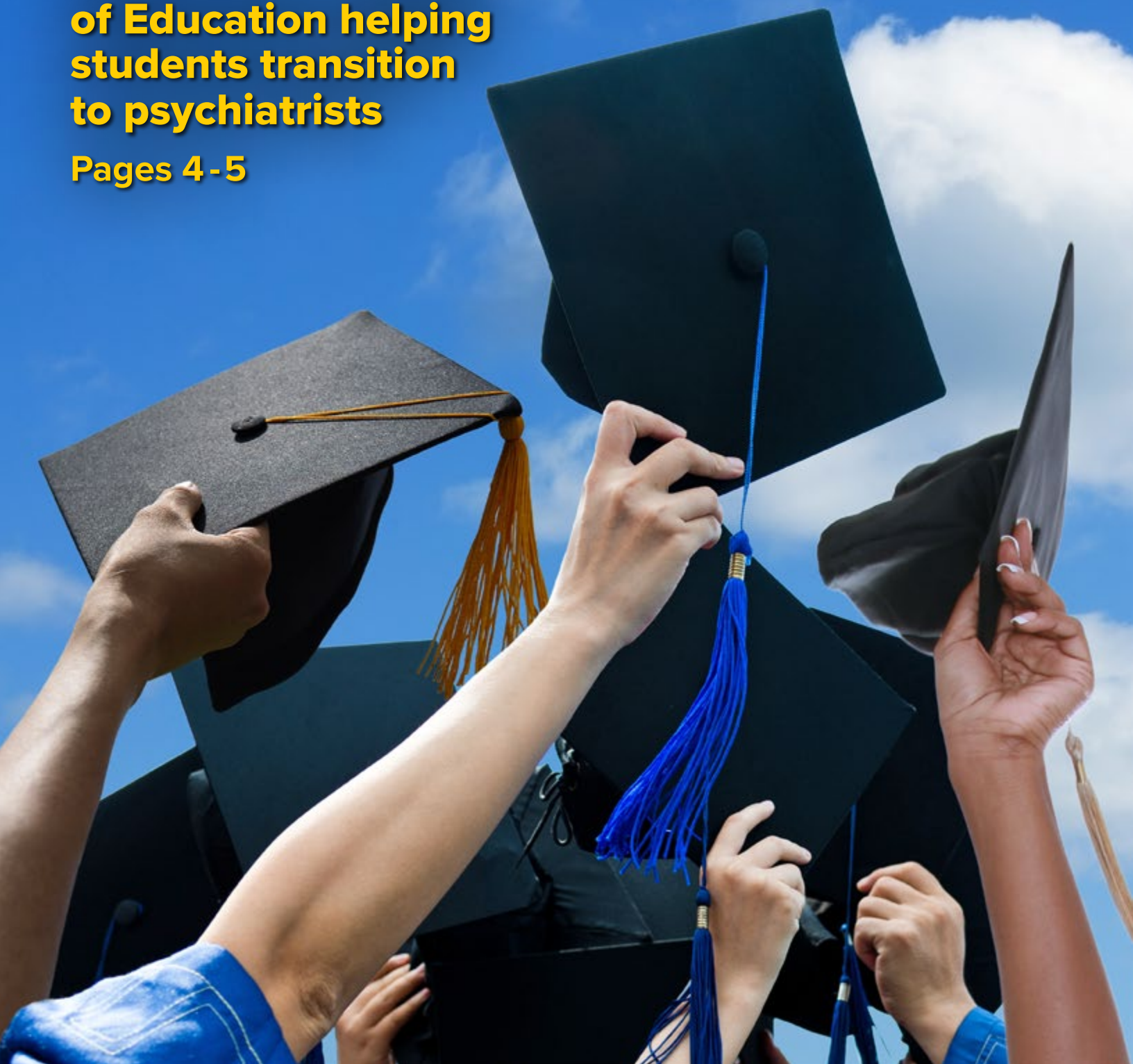
# AltaNews

Summer 2018

[AltaNewsOnline.org](http://AltaNewsOnline.org)

**AltaPointe's Division  
of Education helping  
students transition  
to psychiatrists**

**Pages 4-5**





From our CEO...

Research shows patients have better outcomes when you treat the whole person by addressing their behavioral and primary health care needs. Accomplishing this patient-centered integrated healthcare approach requires building and maintaining community partnerships.

AltaPointe Health has been in business for six decades. I am fortunate to have been its CEO for the past 20 years. At AltaPointe, we understand how important it is to be involved in the community and with other providers. Through our alliances with other behavioral and primary healthcare entities, we believe that close collaboration will improve the quality of life that our patients so deserve.

We have strong relationships with most the hospitals in our southern three-county region including University of South Alabama Medical Center, USA Children's and Women's Hospital, Springhill Medical Center, Thomas Hospital, Washington County Hospital, Providence Hospital, and South Baldwin Regional Medical Center. We look forward to forging new relationships with hospitals in our northern region in the same way.

AltaPointe's continuum of care often begins in one of these acute care hospitals. When patients are admitted with behavioral health-care needs, we support the hospitals through ConsultPointe, our psychiatric consultation service. To improve response time and lower cost to the hospitals, we will be introducing a telepsychiatry platform soon that employs the latest in state of the art technology.

AltaPointe recognizes the impact of medical conditions on psychiatric and mental health disorders and encourages patients to seek a primary care physician to attend to their physical health. In this regard, we've partnered with Franklin Primary Health Center where we enjoy the opportunity to insert our clinical staff among its primary care team to better coordinate care delivery. Our corporate mission to deliver the best possible care also led us to launch *Accordia Health*, AltaPointe's new division of primary care, which allows us to integrate primary and behavioral healthcare, increasing patient satisfaction and improving their overall health.

As we continue to address the healthcare needs in our northern region, we have met with local chambers of commerce and the hospitals in Clay, Coosa, Randolph and Talladega counties to strengthen relationships and take the pulse of community healthcare needs. Our strong partnerships have led to impressive growth in the four-county region of east-central Alabama, where in 2016 we merged with the former Cheaha Regional Mental Health Center. In fact, the number of people served in that region has almost doubled since we joined forces with CRMHC, and we anticipate that this trend will continue as we develop more programs and services to meet the community's needs.

AltaPointe is on the front lines of the move toward "whole person health." By cultivating relationships and working alongside our community partners, we bolster our commitment to care for patients' mental and primary health needs.



*Tuerk*

Tuerk Schlesinger, CEO

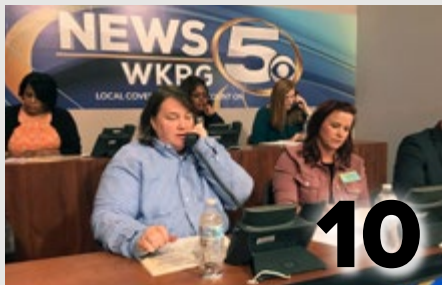
# Contents



Working to strengthen African-American families



Meet the 2017 AltaPointe Stars of the year



AltaPointe staff participates in WKRG suicide prevention hotline

8 Bravo!

9 People & Positions

10 AltaPointe in the Community

## On our cover

The AltaPointe Division of Education is creating a culture of mentoring and a dedicated track designed to attract and prepare psychiatric residents.

## AltaPointe Health is “ahead of the game” when it comes to embracing a “patient-centric, integrated care model” to serve its consumers in seven Alabama counties, according to the guest speaker at AltaPointe’s annual meeting.

John M. Sheehan, president and CEO of Harbor Behavioral Health in Toledo, Ohio, told guests that AltaPointe’s leadership team is wisely partnering with other agencies and organizations to expand its services to meet future challenges.

“You’re ahead of the game, I think,” Sheehan said. “You have all of the components. Organizations that understand and embrace change are the organizations that are going to be successful.” After his introduction, Sheehan joked that “Harbor aspires to be AltaPointe when we grow up,” but then added more seriously, “AltaPointe is an incredible organization.”

Also at the annual meeting, AltaPointe CEO Tuerk Schlesinger presented an overview of 2017, calling it a year of progress and crediting AltaPointe’s leadership team, support from its board of directors and the commitment of its staff members for the organization’s growth.

The year’s highlights included continued growth of AltaPointe’s northern service region after the 2016 merger with former Cheaha Regional Mental Health Center. Schlesinger noted that since the merger, the number of consumers served in those four counties has nearly doubled and AltaPointe is now providing



John M. Sheehan, president and CEO of Harbor Behavioral Health in Toledo, Ohio, served as guest speaker for AltaPointe’s Annual Meeting March 15.



AltaPointe CEO Tuerk Schlesinger presents an overview of fiscal year 2017, calling it a year of progress.

school-based therapy to children in several of the region’s school systems.

2017 also meant growth for AltaPointe’s in-house Integrated Healthcare Pharmacy. It is filling more than 7,000 prescriptions each month. AltaPointe launched Accordia Health, behaviorally-led primary care integration, in the fall of 2017. The hope is by integrating a full-scale pharmacy and primary care into behavioral health-care it will improve patient outcomes, increase patient satisfaction and drive down healthcare costs.

Telehealth capabilities expanded in 2017.

Schlesinger pointed out, clinicians can communicate with patients wherever they live. Schlesinger added, ten AltaPointe locations offer telehealth, and clinicians provided nearly 7,000 telehealth services in FY 2017.

Other highlights of 2017, he said, were AltaPointe’s continuing relationship with the University of South Alabama College of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry, a substantial increase in the number of calls to CarePointe, AltaPointe’s access-to-care department, and the stabilization and growth of BayView Professional Associates.

Before the meeting drew to a close, guest speaker Sheehan reminded annual meeting guests that nearly a quarter of American adults have a “diagnosable mental health issue.” That fact, he said, is what drives Harbor Behavioral Health to focus on “building a patient-first ecosystem,” which is what AltaPointe strives to accomplish. “Organizations that aren’t like Harbor and aren’t like AltaPointe aren’t going to make it,” Sheehan predicted.



Tuerk Schlesinger, AltaPointe CEO, pictured with Dr. Regina Benjamin, former U.S. Surgeon General, at AltaPointe’s Annual Meeting March 15.

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# AltaPointe is working with its community partner, LifeLines, to strengthen families' ties through the Strong African-American Families program.

SAAF is a seven-session, family-centered program designed to enhance the well-being of African-American families. It strives to increase pride in families and to help caregivers build nurturing skills that support their youth as well as strengthen skills for disciplining and guiding them as they grow into young adults. The program teaches children coping skills for dealing with temptation and peer pressure and promotes self-pride in an ever-changing world. "SAAF offers a message of hope, belonging, empowerment and encouragement to all of the families participating," said **Leslie Stinson**, coordinator for in-home intervention and case management services.

When asked to describe what the program provides in one word, Stinson said, "Unity." She added, "The program encourages these families to embrace community, to support each other and to work together to reach their goals."

Unity is shown throughout the program and spoken of within the family creed used in every session. It states, "African-American families care about each other and have fun working together. We are making a difference in this world."



AltaPointe hosted training for the Strong African American Families program for members of its staff, the Mobile County Public School System, Lifelines Counseling, and the Mobile Area Education Foundation.

AltaPointe had seven patients with their caregivers participate in the first cycle of SAAF. The families were enthusiastic about the program, and most remained consistent with participation. In a survey, one patient stated, "I learned that I could actually reach the goals I have set; it's something I never thought would be possible before starting this program."

Stinson said AltaPointe is looking forward to facilitating the next cycle of the SAAF Program and is excited about the positive changes the program will bring throughout the organization and surrounding community.

AltaPointe Health held its first cycle of the Strong African-American Families program in March 2018. Nine AltaPointe staff members have been trained and certified to facilitate the program. The grant also provided AltaPointe with program materials to ensure success as a certified SAAF site.

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# Summer camps help AltaPointe children maintain therapeutic progress

When the final school bell rings for the year, students are filled with excitement and relief that the summer break has arrived. However, for the children in AltaPointe's care, summer can cause a gap in treatment.

"When children are not in school, they may have more inconsistency in schedules and accountability, and it causes them to step back in the progress they are making with their school-based therapist," said BayPointe Hospital Assistant Director **Nicolette Harvey**. "To continue their success, we hold camps throughout the year to make sure the children are receiving the therapy they need and that they continue with their programs even when school is out."

Following successful Mardi Gras and spring break camps, Harvey and the staff at BayPointe planned an exciting summer camp that kicked off May 30. It offered eight weeks of all-day care, at no cost to the parents of children who meet the mental health requirements. Similar to other summer camps, the children will participate in activities like swimming, sports, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts and other outings, in addition to having the structure and therapeutic component to support their progress.

"We try to make sure the kids are having fun and are eager to come back each day. And at the same time, we are incorporating therapeutic elements like positive communication, anger management or social skills building into all of our activities," added Harvey.



Children enrolled in BayPointe's summer camp enjoying a dip in the pool on campus.

In addition to summer camps, other special camps are held throughout the year during regularly scheduled school breaks to help bridge the gap and provide continuous reinforcement for students. Many of the camps are hosted by AltaPointe's children and adolescents outpatient programs as well. For more information regarding children's camps and other programs, contact CarePointe at (251) 450-2211 or (888) 335-3044.

For additional content visit [AltaNewsOnline.org](http://AltaNewsOnline.org)

# NAMI Mobile taking steps to help local patients and families

In 2014, NAMI Mobile began a program, NAMI Care Funds, dedicated to assisting people residing in Mobile County who are living with a mental illness and a family member with a financial need. The program and the requests for financial assistance have grown steadily. Since January of this year, the financial requests have surpassed the total requests received in all of 2017. So far this year, more than \$20,000 in grants has been awarded to aid 21 people and pay for two vans to transport peers to a recovery conference. The majority of money raised from the annual NAMI Walks is used to support the NAMI Care Funds program.

There are four areas of need for which someone can apply. The first two areas are available only to aid people living with mental illness: the dental fund, which is to assist with dental care expenses, and the general fund, which is to be used to provide for clothing, personal care items, household goods, food or special needs as recommended by a clinician. The other two areas are the



The majority of funds raised from the annual NAMI Walks are used to support the NAMI Care Funds program.

transportation and lodging fund, which provides financial assistance with travel or lodging expenses for families wanting to visit a relative receiving psychiatric treatment in an inpatient treatment facility, and the educational grant fund, which pays for a patient or family member wanting to attend an educational workshop or conference related to mental illness.

"Having these funds available for things like dental expenses can be life-altering for people. We have had requests from people who could eat nothing more than baby food because

of dental issues. After they've had teeth extractions or dentures properly fitted, they are like new people," said Connie Ewing, treasurer of NAMI Mobile.

The application process is the first step to receiving NAMI Mobile Care Funds. Visit [NAMIMobile.org](http://NAMIMobile.org) for more information on this and other local programs. AltaPointe Health is a major sponsor of the NAMI walk. Check out "BRAVO!" on page 8 to learn more.

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# AltaPointe's division of education



AltaPointe Health is Alabama's largest behavioral healthcare provider, treating more than 30,000 individuals each year across seven counties. Its continuum has expanded to include a full-service pharmacy, primary care and, now, a division of education to tackle the ever-growing shortage of such providers, especially psychiatrists, across the nation.

In 2003, AltaPointe Health took on the task of training students enrolled in the psychiatric nurse practitioner program at three universities across Alabama: University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of South Alabama.

Over the course of 15 years, AltaPointe physicians and nurse practitioners have trained about 100 psychiatric certified registered nurse practitioners (PCRNP), and AltaPointe has hired a large percentage of those trained. **Sandra Parker, M.D.**, AltaPointe's chief medical officer, said most of the other PCRNPs continue to work in Alabama.

That program laid the foundation for what is becoming known as the AltaPointe Division of Education, which is creating a culture of mentoring and a dedicated track designed to attract and prepare psychiatric residents.

In 2004, third-year medical students at the University of South Alabama began a doing a psychiatric rotation with AltaPointe Health. Out of that collaboration, a partnership between USA and AltaPointe blossomed, and in 2007 the psychiatry residency program officially began. Seven years later, the Child & Adolescent Fellowship program began. To date, six of the fellows have graduated, all have passed their boards and five are working for AltaPointe.

AltaPointe psychiatrists serve as faculty for the College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and have won numerous honors, including the Red Sash Award, which is given by the senior class of the College of Medicine to the faculty members who have had the most meaningful input into their medical education.

**"Since starting the program at USA, we have seen the percentage of medical students entering psychiatry surpass the national average by more than double,"**

— Sandra Parker, MD, Chief Medical Officer

"Since starting the program at USA, we have seen the percentage of medical students entering psychiatry surpass the national average by more than double," Parker said. "It is a true testament to the program and our physicians. We currently receive 500 to 1,000 applications each year for our psychiatric residency program."

AltaPointe welcomed five new medical students in 2018 who will pursue careers in psychiatry and have the opportunity to learn from AltaPointe's physicians, who have decades of experience. "We are pleased to welcome such a strong group of residents to the department of psychiatry," said **Luke Engeriser, M.D.**, deputy chief medical officer and residency training director.

The 2018-19 residents program shown above (Front row/left) Adam Ali, DO – PGY3; Lindsey Stewart, MD – PGY3; Maridith Hollis, MD – PGY2; James LePage, DO – PGY2; Bayleigh Andrews – Residency Program Administrator; Tina Jackson, MD – PGY3; Jun Liu, MD – PGY4; Darshana Pai, MD – PGY1; and Derick Brown, DO – PGY1; (Back row/left) Lucas Boone, MD – PGY2; Bradley Brooks, DO – PGY2; Jeffrey Tisch, DO – PGY1; Ronald Franks, MD – Department Chair; J. Luke Engeriser, MD – Residency Training Director; Matthew Suggs, DO – PGY1; Michael Marshall, MD – PGY1; and Peyman Tashkandi, DO – PGY3.

AltaPointe's impact on the education of medical students is also felt by people entering the physician assistant program at the University of South Alabama. In 2008, AltaPointe physicians became faculty for the program and train approximately 35 students each year. Similar to the College of Medicine, AltaPointe psychiatrists have garnered numerous awards from the PA school for teaching.

Parker said AltaPointe became a core site for the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine in Dothan when it began in 2013. Each year, between seven and 10 third- and fourth-year medical students spend their time with AltaPointe doing psychiatry and other rotations. The program is showing growth and yielding success. "We will be signing a letter of intent to increase this number by five students per year," Parker said. "ACOM students receive higher scores in psychiatry than any other program on the COMAT exam." COMATs are taken at the end of a course or clinical rotation, and are designed to assess an osteopathic student's achievement level in that subject.

The future is bright for AltaPointe's Division of Education. "AltaPointe has received approval for a permanent increase to five psychiatry residents per year, and we are in the process of obtaining a permanent increase to three fellows per year," Parker said. "In July 2019, we will begin an addiction medicine fellowship, and we are working toward a family medicine residency focused on psychiatry."

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17	Psychiatrists	2	Physician Assistants
12	Psychiatric CRNPs	20	Psychiatric Residents/Fellows





# Cindy Gipson Named 2017 Shining Star of the Year

An employee with more than 27 years of mental health care experience and a passion for helping people is AltaPointe's 2017 Shining Star of the Year. **Cindy Gipson** has worked at AltaPointe since 2012, assisting patients, their families and her co-workers. She continues to make a difference in her role as assistant director of intensive services.

Gipson's education is wide-ranging and includes multiple degrees from the University of South Alabama. She holds a bachelor's degree in tourism and commercial recreation, a master's degree in recreation therapy and a master's degree in community counseling. She also holds a doctorate in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

With the knowledge acquired from schooling and the many years working in mental health care, Gipson shines in her position.



Joseph Hollins, AltaPointe Star of the Year, and Melissa Ellis during AltaPointe's annual meeting March 15.

"The leadership team, the employees I supervise and the consumers I work with challenge me to be a better supervisor and a better clinician," she said. "I know that we make a difference in the lives of our patients on a daily basis."

The difference Gipson makes doesn't go without notice. "She's the most passionate person I think I have met in regard to the patients," **Megan Griggs**, adult outpatient services clinical



Catherine Shropshire, AltaPointe Star of the Year, congratulates Cindy Gipson, AltaPointe Shining Star of the Year, at the annual meeting March 15.

People who work with Gipson describe her as a team player who is responsive and ready to tackle challenges. Leadership and the employees she supervises say they enjoy working with her as she delivers Five-Star Customer Care.

Gipson credits those same people for making her the leader and employee she is

director, said. "She wants to ensure that they receive the best possible care that we can give, and I think she's an awesome leader."

Gipson said she is honored to be the 2017 Shining Star of the Year, and added that she wouldn't be where she is in her career without fully believing in AltaPointe's mission. "I believe in our mission and our leadership team. Seeing the difference we make and how much we help people makes me proud to work for this organization," she said.

AltaPointe Health is equally grateful to have an employee like Gipson, whose work exemplifies what it means to be compassionate,

accountable, respectful and encouraging. Gipson has worked at AltaPointe for six years and doesn't plan on ending her mental health care journey anytime soon. "When I started working in mental health care, I thought to myself, 'I'll do this for a year,' but I've been hooked ever since. I believe in AltaPointe, and that's why I am here. I'm all in."



AltaPointe Stars of the Year gathered for a photo after the annual meeting. Celebrating together are, from left, Catherine Shropshire, Aquilla Logan, Joseph Hollins, Cindy Gipson and Paula Buchanan.



**Paula Buchanan**  
*Performance Improvement*

Buchanan joined AltaPointe following the merger with Cheaha Regional Mental Health Center in 2016.

She has decades of experience and took on a new role of training and education with the merger.

"We are so proud of Paula, she's taken the training and education department in the north region to another level and we so appreciate her being there and really working hard for the company," said **Sherill Alexander**, director performance improvement.



**Joseph Hollins**  
*Adult Residential Services*

Hollins works in our Princess Helen group home for hearing impaired residents as a behavioral aide. He is described as a model staff member who provides compassionate, accountable and encouraging care.

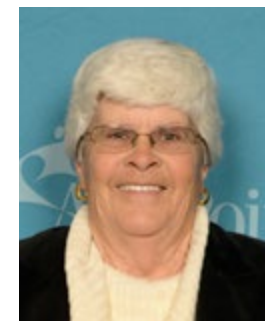
"He is the poster child for what we look for in a five-star employee and he has all the characteristics," said **Melissa Ellis**, coordinator adult residential services.



**Aquilla Logan**  
*Adult Outpatient Services*

Logan has nearly three decades of experience working in behavioral healthcare. She's known for her kind heart and dedication to her patients' well-being as a Bridge Team case manager.

"We have worked together for years and I have learned a lot from her. She makes sure the consumers get what they need and is always willing to go above and beyond. Aquilla makes them laugh and feel comfortable in every situation," said **Laura Bell**, case manager adult outpatient services.



**Catherine Shropshire**  
*Environment of Care*

Shropshire job as the compliance specialist is to ensure AltaPointe is compliant with all agency and regulatory standards. She's also responsible for the life safety of our patients and staff.

"Every day when she comes to work, she thinks about how she can make a difference. We've talked about it to before, and at the end of the day she reflects on what kind of difference she made in the lives of the consumers, our staff, and her coworkers. I'm really proud for her," said **Robert Carlock**, director environment of care.

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# Bravo!

Congratulations to **W. Bogan Brooks III, M.D., Kinjal Ghelani, M.D., Praveen Narahari, M.D., and Sandra Parker, M.D.**, chief medical officer at AltaPointe Health, for being named the 2018 University of South Alabama College of Medicine Red Sash recipients. Each year, the USA College of Medicine senior class selects the faculty members who have had the most meaningful input into their medical education. The chosen faculty members wear a scarlet sash over their academic regalia and receive a special award during the Honors Convocation.



Sandra Parker, MD, was named 2018 University of South Alabama College of Medicine Red Sash recipient.

Congratulations to postgraduate resident **Tina Jackson** on her selection for the American Psychiatric Association /APA Foundation Public Psychiatry Fellowship for the 2018–20 academic years. The aim of this two-year resident fellowship is to create the next generation of leaders in public psychiatry.

It was a record-breaking year for the fifth annual NAMI Mobile Walk held April 21 at Medal of Honor Park in Mobile with more than 500 walkers registered. AltaPointe staff members and families showed their support for mental health awareness by participating with one of several teams formed from across the continuum: **BayPointe, BayView & COP Buddies; Team ARS; Aces of Admin; and The A-Team.**



Showing support for the 5th annual 2018 NAMI Walks: Olivia Nettles, director of children's outpatient services; David Beech, director of adult residential services; and John Conrad, assistant director BayView Professional Associates.

University of South Alabama psychiatric resident **Jim LePage, D.O.**, has been elected as the American Psychiatric Association Assembly Area 5 Deputy Representative for resident fellow members during the APA annual meeting held May 5-6 in New York. He will represent the region, which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia (excluding suburban DC), West Virginia and the Uniformed Services.

Congratulations to **Burma Bozeman, Aquilla Logan, Carol Mann, Lorene Webster and Paul Wiese** on their recent retirements. Bozeman was a provider enrollment specialist in finance and accounting for more than 14 years. Logan retires after 26 years with AltaPointe having worked in substance abuse services for many years and most recently was a case manager in adult outpatient services. Mann, a familiar face to many, has retired after 12 years serving as the director of public relations, and as editor and contributing writer to AltaNews. Webster has retired after 15 years as a behavioral aide in adult residential services. Wiese has more than 23 years in adult services at AltaPointe and most recently worked as the property management specialist.



Carol Mann



Praveen Narahari

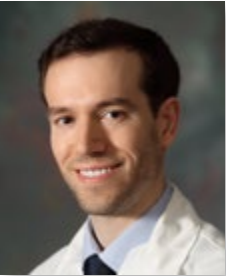
Congratulations to **Praveen Narahari, M.D.**, on being named faculty teacher of the year in June 2018 by graduating University of South Alabama College of Medicine students during an awards banquet. He is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry.

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## People & Positions



Sean Sinclair

**Sean Sinclair, M.D.**, will join AltaPointe as a child and adolescent psychiatrist in July 2018. He earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and cell biology from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, and graduated summa cum laude and was named valedictorian. He earned his doctorate from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and received the Excellence in Psychiatry Award, given to one graduating medical student who through scholarship, patient care, motivation and interaction with faculty and house staff, has demonstrated excellence in psychiatry. Sinclair completed residency training and a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at the USA Department of Psychiatry. He has worked at AltaPointe since 2016 in inpatient care with both children and adults, and most recently in telehealth services helping to provide coverage to underserved surrounding community health centers.



John Chieh

He returned to USA to earn a master's degree in accounting in 1998. Chieh joined AltaPointe in 2001 as the controller.



Noel Andrews

**Noel Andrews** has been named controller. He earned a bachelor's in accounting and a master's in business administration from the University of Mobile. He earned

his certified public accountant's license in 2007. Andrews joined AltaPointe in 2014 as assistant controller and served as director of patient accounting for almost two years.



Mayra Quinones

has joined AltaPointe as a public relations specialist. Previously, she worked in Pensacola, Florida, for a non-profit organization as a marketing coordinator. Quinones is a graduate of the University of West Florida, with a bachelor's degree focused in public relations, marketing and applied communications, and a minor in psychology. She was an active member of the Florida Public Relations Association Pensacola Chapter and numerous business networking groups throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

**Michael Loewen** has joined AltaPointe as software development manager. He earned a bachelor's in management information systems from Auburn University and has 23 years of software development experience. He is also a Microsoft Certified Solution Associate, having earned his database certifications for both data warehousing and analytical modeling.

**Belinda Bivens, R.N.**, joined AltaPointe as the nursing coordinator at BayPointe Hospital. She earned a bachelor's in nursing science from the University of South Alabama. She has more than 30 years of nursing experience.

**Brandie Johnson** has been named the coordinator of treatment services for AltaPointe in conjunction with the Alabama Pardon and Paroles Day Reporting Centers. She earned a master's in marriage and family counseling from the University of Mobile.

**Mayra Quinones** has joined AltaPointe as a public relations specialist. Previously, she worked in Pensacola, Florida, for a non-profit organization as a marketing coordinator. Quinones is a graduate of the University of West Florida, with a bachelor's degree focused in public relations, marketing and applied communications, and a minor in psychology. She was an active member of the Florida Public Relations Association Pensacola Chapter and numerous business networking groups throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

Congratulations to adult residential services' staff members **Gerette Bednarz, Andrea Bozeman** and **Courtney Wikle** on being promoted to the position of coordinator. **David Beech**, ARS director, says it's all part of restructuring the program to serve the patients better. The restructuring included the promotion of **David Dortch** to the new position of assistant director of operations for ARS. "I started off as a behavioral specialist at Dogwood in January 2010. Working under a great leadership team allows you the opportunity to learn as much as you want and grow with the company," Dortch said.



ARS staff starting at left, David Dortch, Gerette Bednarz, Andrea Bozeman and Courtney Wikle

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## AltaPointe's focus on innovative technology makes headlines.

AltaPointe's focus on innovative technology to deliver better patient care, and its commitment to children's mental health, made headlines across the nation. A story featuring AltaPointe's advancements in technology was published by more 128 news outlets across the U.S., from operations in Montgomery and Huntsville to San Diego. The potential audience reach was 133 million people.

**Jason Tanner**, AltaPointe's children's outpatient assistant director, appeared on WALA – Fox 10's Studio Ten to promote Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. The segment reached an estimated 23,000 households in the Mobile / Pensacola area. Tanner spoke about how to access our full continuum of care devoted to children, including



Eddie Pratt, children's outpatient assistant coordinator, pictured with WKRQ's Rose Ann Haven, during a suicide prevention hotline May 8.

**Laurel Havard, Emily Jackson, Caitlyn Kirby, Eddie Pratt, Jasmine Taylor and Krista Thronson** served as the panel of experts. The segments reached thousands of people online and on-air.

Staff members served as AltaPointe ambassadors at more than two dozen community events from Mobile to Sylacauga, including health fairs, conferences and Mental Health First Aid courses.

In May, AltaPointe Health partnered with the Bayou Clinic to provide Mental Health First Aid training, with a focus on veterans, military members and their families. **Mark Miele**, certified Mental Health First Aid trainer, taught the course.



Mark Miele, adult outpatient services coordinator, leads a Mental Health First Aid training.

Potential  
Audience Reach  
133 Million

outreach, outpatient, residential services, hospital services and school-based therapy. **Edgar Finn, M.D.**, was featured on WALA - Fox 10 to promote autism awareness.

AltaPointe Health partnered with WKRQ News 5 in Mobile to host a suicide prevention hotline on May 8, coinciding with Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. AltaPointe staff members served as experts for the phone bank and answered calls from individuals from as far away as Michigan concerned with teen suicide. **Cindy Gipson**,



## A mental health crisis is not always obvious.

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\*According to a recent study by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

## CarePointe<sup>SM</sup> CORNER

CarePointe coordinated, addressed or assisted with nearly 450 hospital referrals in April 2018 compared to 335 in April 2017 – a 32.5% increase.

In the month of May, CarePointe staff handled 440 hospital referrals.

Between April 1 and the end of May, CarePointe answered nearly 13,500 calls during regular business hours and 500 after-hour crisis calls.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call CarePointe at (251) 450-2211 or (888) 335-3044.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Tuerk Schlesinger

**Chief Operating Officer**  
Julie Bellcase

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