

# POSITIVE+

Spring 2024

# CONNECTIONS

*Your Connection to the  
Alliance for Positive Health*

Inside:  
**Transportation**  
**Pride Month**  
**Dining Out For Life**  
**Client Spotlight**  
**Staff Milestones**  
**& more!**



  
**alliance**  
for positive health

**Featured SPOT**

 **Rachel Field**

pg 4



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

***B. Kim Atkins***

Dear Friends,

Although snow is falling, it's officially spring. We're gearing up for a busy season, but as we all know there's never really a dull moment here! There's always work to be done, and a community to tend to.

In just under two weeks, on Thursday April 25th, we have our largest annual fundraising event benefiting people living with HIV/AIDS, [Dining Out for Life](#). I hope you'll participate in the day, whether as an ambassador or as a diner. Encourage your friends and family to make a night of it. Enjoy some great food and company with those who matter most to you, while supporting an amazing cause.

And then there's Pride! The lineup of events continues to grow (see more in the upcoming events section) and we encourage each one of you to come out and enjoy the fun. The LGBTQIA+ community and allies alike make each event such a fun and impactful celebration. Our staff will be there bringing the energy with smiles on their faces and compassion in their hearts!

Our Harm Reduction team continues to be acknowledged (rightfully so) for their hard work and dedication to the community. [Mountain Lake PBS](#) & [WCAX3](#) featured and interviewed our staff regarding the expansion of Narcan vending machines and harm reduction services. They've also introduced a new direct line for people and/or organizations to text or call to access naloxone/Narcan along with naloxone trainings; **518-478-2168**. You can email [overdoseprevention@alliancefph.org](mailto:overdoseprevention@alliancefph.org) to be connected to the same services. Both the phone line and email are monitored by our overdose prevention coordinators during work hours.

Garden Party preparations are underway. Stay tuned for details!

As we look ahead, we welcome the opportunities to expand and adapt to best serve those in need, leaving no one to fall to the wayside.

To our donors, board of directors, team members, and volunteers - thank you for your continuous collaboration, support, and commitment to creating healthier lives for all.

Warm regards,

B. Kim Atkins, Executive Director  
Alliance for Positive Health



# Taking Our Services Where They Are Needed

We're working towards improving access for every member of every community, with a special focus on BIPOC LGBTQIA+ individuals. Race, gender identity, income, or zip code should never be a determining factor in receiving health care.



Our mobile health van provides services, like outreach, to the community with information about COVID, where to get vaccines, testing for HIV, HCV, STIs, and harm reduction.

We've partnered with In Our Own Voices to spread our reach, ensuring we are meeting the needs of underserved individuals.

Collaborations like these are significant steps in the right direction to improving health care service access.

**Left:** Assistant Program Director Randy Viele

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE &  
ADMINISTRATION

### How long have you worked at the Alliance?

It will be six years in July!

### What about the work appeals to you?

I love trying to be the best support I can be to our team. To answer questions, brainstorm together, and see all the amazing work the Care Coordinators do. I've always known I wanted to be in a helping profession, so that's what first led me to Alliance.

### What does a typical day at work entail?

Every day can bring something different with Health Homes! Most days entail following up with the team for questions/concerns/deadlines, QA/running reports, emails, or coordinating with other agencies like AHI or SPOA. I also have other office related responsibilities, such as ordering and restocking our food pantry.

### What do you find most challenging?

Not always having the local resources to connect clients for assistance. Especially in the more rural areas that can be challenging when there is a need but lack of resources to pull from. I know we all try to be creative, though, when that is the case.

### What is your proudest moment at the Alliance?

I would say the progression of starting as a Care Coordinator, then moving on to Assistant Program Manager, then to Program Manager. I have enjoyed each role so much and feel grateful to have been a Care Coordinator, to have that experience, and then grow into leadership.

### What advice would you give on working here?

Lean on the support of your team and others! Any type of role in human services can be challenging, especially when the job itself can be very independent but I know, personally, how beneficial having that support is.

### What three words would you use to describe yourself?

This is a hard one! Maybe empathic, patient, and understanding.

### What are your hobbies?

Lately I've been doing embroidery in my free time. Traveling, I have family who live in Turkey and Netherlands, so I love to visit them and enjoy seeing new places. I also enjoy reading - currently reading *A Feast for Crows* - and building houses in *The Sims*!

### What is your favorite thing to do?

Cooking a nice meal and enjoying it with family.

### What is something about yourself that people would be surprised to learn?

I have a background in Art Therapy. Art making is something I also love to do in my free time and for self-care!



# Open House

Thank you to all who came out to the open house of our new Albany location!

Since January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we've called 845 Central Avenue our new Albany home, and we were happy to welcome some of our community partners in as well.

It's through collaborations, like those we have with our partners where our work is done and our clients are best served.

We look forward to the many memories and new accomplishments that will come to be in our new location, and cannot wait to share them with you.

Check out some photos from the day below!



**Top:** Diana Aguglia, Teresa Goodman, Sue Friedman **Second from Top:** Esther Patterson, Tandra LaGrone of In Our Own Voices, Quinn Lee, Kathleen Carrol and Elizabeth O'Reilly from Legal Aid Society **Third from Top:** Berlin Crist of GE Aerospace, Sheri Turton-Cassidy **Last:** Kim Atkins, Sue Friedman

## Client Advisory Board

Last month we held our first hybrid CAB meeting at our new location. We had a nice turnout, with clients both in person and virtual, and had over 10 attendees. Our focus was quality improvement. Clients provided great feedback. We saw the need for increased transportation services, support, and socialization. Rest assured, we hear your concerns, opinions, and input, and are working hard to transform it into actionable change.

If you are interested in joining the CAB or learning more, reach out to your case manager or send an email to [cab@alliancefph.org](mailto:cab@alliancefph.org).

# RYAN WHITE TRANSPORTATION SPOTLIGHT



## *Colin Coughlan, Transportation Supervisor*

Transportation is not always top of mind when thinking about services that help to save lives and create healthier communities. But the ability to get to and from vital appointments makes all the difference in keeping people and communities healthy and safe.

### **The Ryan White Transportation Program is an essential service for people living with HIV/AIDS who need assistance getting to and from appointments pertinent to their health and well-being.**

Clients use this service for appointments like:

- medical
- dental
- pharmacy
- mental health (licensed provider)
- substance abuse treatment (excluding AA or NA)
- treatment adherence services
- legal services (excluding probation/parole)
- case/care management

- entitlements/DSS/social services
- housing appointments (excluding apartment searches)
- the nutrition education programs (excluding group meals, standalone distribution, and pantries)
- Alliance for Positive Health Client Advisory Board Meetings

Individuals must reside or receive health services in Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington Counties to be eligible to participate.

UberHealth, taxi rides, bus passes, gas cards, and bus/train tickets may be included in the program in special circumstances with approval. Planning is essential – and 2 days’ notice is needed to ensure the team can secure these items, but the earlier the better.

If you have Medicaid or use MAS, you will be denied assistance through Ryan White funds, as this program is the “payer of last resort”.

Current clients can contact their case or care manager for assistance with applying to the Ryan White Transportation program. You can also call 518-434-4686 or email [whitetransportation@alliancefph.org](mailto:whitetransportation@alliancefph.org).

Program staff are here to help with applications and paperwork and can assist in obtaining all information and documentation that is needed to enroll.

Reach out today and see if the Ryan White Transportation Program can be of service to you.

**Left:** AFPH staff members Cherise James, Kristin Stelling, and Colin Coughlan



# Client Spotlight – Cyndi Page

by Jessica Nolie, Marketing & Communications Specialist



Cyndi became a client in 2010 after a friend told her we could help with medical insurance. She was nervous, but immediately felt she had found a safe place when she walked in the doors. It all began when

we helped her enroll in ADAP to offset the price she was paying for health insurance through her employers.

It was not until 2016 when Cyndi became more involved in our services. Life changed for her that year. She could no longer work due to various medical conditions, and was in the process of applying for SSD. Living on spousal support, she could not afford to pay rent or utilities. She reached out and was immediately enrolled in our housing program.

Soon after, she allowed us to help her get connected and find a good fit for mental health counseling. She is thankful to this day for that connection. “Joyce was amazing, easy to confide in, and even attended my intake and then first counseling session. I am still with the same practice and feel comfortable there,” said Cyndi.

Her favorite part of being with the Alliance has been meeting some amazing people, staff, and clients. Although she found it hard to pick her best memory

with us, it would have to be working with Joyce on her mental health journey.

She’s accomplished a lot, but she’s most proud of being featured in our 2022 Dining Out for Life video.



**“Doing this video was like a coming out for me, finally accepting and acknowledging my HIV diagnosis without fear or shame.”**

Her second biggest accomplishment? The nutrition program. She started the program to become a more confident and healthier person. When she first enrolled, she was 286 pounds and today, she has reached 200 with Ryan’s help and encouragement.

Cyndi’s message to the public is to come to the Alliance. “Meet some great staff and learn with our help and support how to live your best life.”

While Cyndi thanks us for her success in our programs, we want to celebrate Cyndi for all the hard work and effort that she put forth into living the life that she is today.

“Thank you for a healthy fantastic year, my Nutrition Family, and may your program expand.”

# Dining Out For Life®

We're less than two weeks away from our biggest annual fundraising event, Dining Out for Life®! We are excited to welcome 26 dining locations - several who are brand new to the event!



Check out the list, gather your family and friends, and join us on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> as we dine out to give back!

Can't make it out on the special day? Consider making a [monetary donation](#).

A special thanks to our gracious 2024 sponsors!



## ALBANY



### Bare Blends

B/D, 25% of lunch & dinner  
1475 Western Ave · 518.650.7094



### Mr. Bumbles Cafe

B/L/T, 25% of all sales  
263 New Scotland Ave · 518.818.0622



### City Line Bar & Grill

L/D, 10% of all sales  
1200 Western Ave · 518.504.1200



### Lost & Found Bar & Kitchen

D, 25% of dinner  
942 Broadway · 518.694.0670



### The Copper Crow

D, 25% of dinner  
904 Broadway · 518.818.0170



### Nicole's Restaurant

D, 50% of dinner  
556 Delaware Ave · 518.436.4952



### Hattie's

D, 50% of dinner (food)  
121 Madison Ave · 518.776.1440



### Nine Pin Cider Works

C, 25% of specialty cocktail  
929 Broadway · 518.449.9999



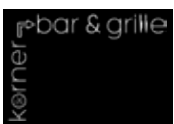
### The Hollow

D, 25% of food sales  
79 N Pearl St · 518.426.8550



### Peaches Café

B/L/D, \$550 donation  
1475 Western Ave · 518.482.3677



### Korner Bar & Grill

L/D, 50% lunch & dinner  
1770 Central Ave · 518.250.4118



### Sabor a Campo

L/D, \$550 donation  
485 Delaware Ave · 518.451.9590



### Moliendo Café

D/T/C  
791 Madison Ave · 518.898.9081



### Salsa Latina

D/T  
315 Central Ave · 518.426.7050

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, T = Takeout, C = Cocktails



## ATHENS



### The Stewart House

D, 25% of dinner  
2 North Water St • 518.444.8317

## CLIFTON PARK



### Bare Blends

B/D, 25% of lunch & dinner  
15 Clifton Country Rd • 518.280.9815

## EAST GREENBUSH



### Salsa Latina

D/T, 25% of dinner  
10 Troy Rd • 518.451.9092

## GLENMONT



### Bare Blends

B/D, 25% of lunch & dinner  
380 Feura Bush Rd • 518.621.7975

## GLENVILLE



### Bare Blends

B/D, 25% of lunch & dinner  
262 Saratoga Rd • 518.280.0544

## LATHAM



### Bare Blends

B/D, 25% of lunch & dinner  
664 New Loudon Rd • 518.713.4004

## MENANDS



### Il Faro

D/C, 50% of dinner & drinks  
698 Pearl St • 518.463.2208

## NORTH GREENBUSH



### Bare Blends

B/D, 25% of lunch & dinner  
26 North Greenbush Rd • 518.279.2600

## PLATTSBURGH



### Bazzano's Pizza

L/D/T  
5041 South Catherine St 518.562.8586

## SARATOGA SPRINGS



### Bare Blends

B/D, 25% of lunch & dinner  
18 Congress St • 518.886.1426



### Scallions

D/T, 25% of dinner  
44 Lake Ave • 518.584.0192

## SCHENECTADY



### Ambition Coffee & Eatery

L/T  
154 Jay St • 518.382.9277



### Wolf Hollow Brewing Co

D, 15% of food & beverage  
6882 Amsterdam Rd • 518.214.4093

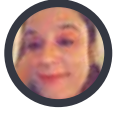


# Staff Milestones January – March 2024

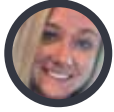
## Welcome New Staff Members!



**Patricia Acheampong** (She/Her), Public Health Specialist, *Albany*



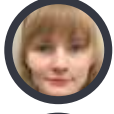
**Jordan Baroni** (She/Her), Care Coordinator, *Albany*



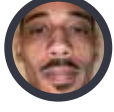
**Kaylee Besaw** (She/Her), Finance & Operations Specialist, *Plattsburgh*



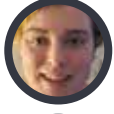
**Tyler Cody** (He/They), Community Health Specialist, *Albany*



**Kelly Donlon** (She/Her), Harm Reduction Program Manager, *Schenectady*



**Damon Goldman** (He/Him), Public Health Specialist, *Albany*



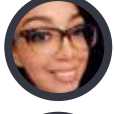
**Avery Grande** (They/Them), Harm Reduction Specialist, *Glens Falls*



**Anna Hotaling** (She/Her), Corrections Health Specialist, *Albany*



**Shandell Jones** (She/Her), Care Coordinator Assistant, *Albany*



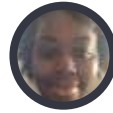
**Heather Keane** (She/Her), Client Support Specialist, *Plattsburgh*



**Aysha Mahmood** (She/Her), Public Health Specialist, *Albany*



**Anika Melendez** (She/Her), Nutrition Health Specialist, *Albany*



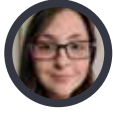
**Carlette Okumko** (She/Her), Public Health Specialist, *Albany*

## Red Ribbon Winner, January



**Teresa Goodman** (She/Her), Executive Assistant, *Albany*

## Congratulate Promotions & Transfers!



**Karissa Leggett** (She/Her) Corrections Health Specialist, *Albany*



**Jim Schadt** (He/Him) Corrections Health Operations Coordinator, *Albany*



**Jennifer Gutierrez** (She/They) Administrative Assistant, *Albany*

## Celebrate Anniversaries! (January-March)

### 24 YEARS



**Diana Aguglia** (She/Her), Deputy Executive Director, *Plattsburgh*

### 11 YEARS



**Denise Dupigny** (She/Her), Assistant Director of Program Services, *Albany*

*“Everyone who works at the Alliance definitely possesses the most amazing passion for their roles and interacting with us clients.”*

*– Cyndi Page*



**10 YEARS**

**Don Ray** (He/Him), Linkage Specialist, *Plattsburgh*



**6 YEARS**

**Vanessa Cappon** (She/Her), Assistant Director of Program Services, *Plattsburgh*



**5 YEARS**

**Gail Hinkel** (She/Her), Care Coordinator, *Hudson*



**Bridgid Murnane** (She/Her), Regional Program Manager, *Plattsburgh*



**4 YEARS**

**Teresa Goodman** (She/Her), Executive Assistant, *Albany*



**Esther Patterson** (She/Her), Program Manager, *Albany*



**3 YEARS**

**Colin Coughlan** (He/They), Program Coordinator, *Albany*



**Olivia Ortiz** (She/Her), HOPWA Coordinator, *Albany*

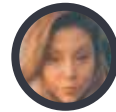


**Emma Sobocinski** (She/Her), Senior Accountant, *Albany*



**2 YEARS**

**Susan Jones** (She/Her), Client Support Specialist, *Albany*

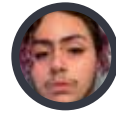


**Alyssa Lewoc** (She/Her), Program Manager, *Hudson*



**1 YEAR**

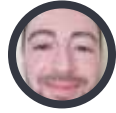
**Monica Barrera** (She/Her), Women's Counselor, *Albany*



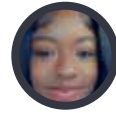
**Cole Feliciano Colón** (It/Itself), PAWH Community Support Specialist, *Albany*



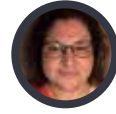
**Lauren Gentile** (She/Her), PAWH Care Manager, *Albany*



**Francis Grandis** (They/Them), Harm Reduction Specialist, *Albany*



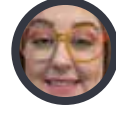
**Shambria Hanson** (She/Her), Care Coordinator, *Albany*



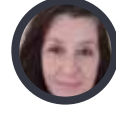
**Christina Murell** (She/Her), Care Coordinator, *Hudson*



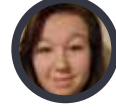
**Jim Schadt** (He/Him), Corrections Health Operations Coordinator, *Albany*



**Victoria Tanner** (She/Her), Care Coordinator, *Glens Falls*



**Christie Tomala** (She/Her), Assistant Program Manager, *Glens Falls*



**Tonya Van Allen** (She/Her), HIAP Enrollment Specialist, *Hudson/Albany*

## Photos!!!

It's time to switch up the staff photo collage! Send photos of you and your team to [jnolie@alliancefph.org](mailto:jnolie@alliancefph.org) and be part of our new photo wall.

No photos? It's the perfect time to snap a few shots yourself, or reach out to marketing and have us take some for you.

# PRIDE MONTH IS COMING!

## Stand Together. Rise Above.

Our Pride theme is all about unity this year. It's about locking arms, lifting each other up, and embracing our individual and collective identities with pride. Together, we are a community - empowered to rise above any obstacles in our path.

Mark your calendars for June and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us at Pride events. Let's come together, celebrate what makes us unique, and show the world what solidarity truly means!



## Saturday, June 1

### Battenkill Valley Pride

11:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Lakota Farms, Cambridge

### Schenectady Pride

2:00 to 7:00 pm  
Schenectady Gateway Park

### Small Town Pride

11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Arsenal Green, Malone

## Sunday, June 2

### Lower Adirondack Pride

12:00 to 4:00 pm  
Glens Falls City Park

## Saturday, June 8

### BIPOC Pride

12:00 to 5:00 pm  
Washington Park, Albany

## Sunday, June 9

### Capital Pride

11:30 a.m. to 6:00 pm  
Washington Park, Albany

### Lake George Pride

12:00 - 7:00 pm  
The Barn at French Mountain

## Friday, June 21

### Pride in the Park

4:00 to 7:00 pm  
Plattsburgh (location TBD)

## Saturday, June 22

### Bethlehem Pride

12:00 - 4:00 pm  
428 Kenwood Ave, Delmar

### Hudson Pride

12:00 to 6:00 pm  
Location TBD

## Sunday, June 23

### Saratoga Pride

2:00 to 5:00 pm  
High Rock Park, Saratoga

## Sunday, June 30

### Tri-Lakes Pride

12:00 - 4:00 pm  
Riverside Park, Saranac Lake

## Saturday, July 6

### A Midsummer's Backyard Bash

4:00 to 8:30 pm  
332 Hudson Avenue, Albany

## Sunday, July 14

### Collar City Pride

12:00 to 5:00 pm  
Riverfront Park, Troy

Stay up-to-date on all the details by following us on social media or signing up to receive our newsletter!

We're excited to celebrate with you in June!



[Sign up for all our latest news!](#)

# Upcoming Dates



*Minority Health Month*  
*Fair Housing Month*  
*Sexual Assault Awareness Month*  
*STI Awareness Month*  
*Medicaid Awareness Month*

**1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Public Health Week

**7<sup>th</sup>**  
World Health Day

**10<sup>th</sup>**  
Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

**14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**  
STI Awareness Week

**18<sup>th</sup>**  
Transgender HIV Testing Day

**22<sup>th</sup>**  
Earth Day

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Lesbian Visibility Week



*Mental Health Awareness Month*  
*Women's Health Month*  
*Hepatitis Awareness Month*

**12<sup>th</sup>**  
Mother's Day

**15<sup>th</sup>**  
Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day

**17<sup>th</sup>**  
Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia

**19<sup>th</sup>**  
Hepatitis Testing Day

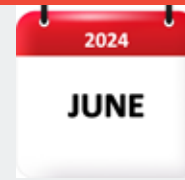
Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

**19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Women's Health Week

**22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Harvey Milk Day

**24<sup>th</sup>**  
Pansexual & Panoromatic Visibility Day

**27<sup>th</sup>** - Memorial Day (offices closed)



*Pride Month*  
*Men's Health Month*

**5<sup>th</sup>**  
HIV Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day

**10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Men's Health Week

**14<sup>th</sup>**  
Flag Day

**16<sup>th</sup>**  
Father's Day

**14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**  
NYS Overdose Awareness Days

**19<sup>th</sup>**  
Juneteenth (offices closed)

**27<sup>th</sup>**  
National HIV Testing Day



**alliance**  
for positive health

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



If we made an error, you would like to be added or removed from our email list, or have ideas for future articles, please contact our Development Department at 518.434.4686 or [development@alliancefph.org](mailto:development@alliancefph.org).

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518.434.4686

GLENS FALLS  
13 Chester St, Glens Falls, NY 12801  
518.743.0703

HUDSON  
160 Fairview Ave, Hudson, NY 12534  
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