



**Rodney “Rod” Yeager
Human Services Specialist II
Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center**

I nominate Rodney Yeager for the 2020 Louise R. Hassenplug Award. Before entering the field of Mental Health, Rod was a social worker at the Lord’s House, where he served the homeless population for seven years. Rod has been with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health for the past 12 years and has a total of 20 years working in Human Services. I’ve had the pleasure of working with him for the past six years, which have been most enjoyable.

Rod takes great pleasure in serving individuals who are living with severe mental illness. Rod himself has had to overcome the barriers that are associated with a physical limitation. What I admire the most about him is his perseverance; if anyone understands the barriers and challenges that many individuals living with mental illness face, Rod certainly does. He is very understanding of patients’ needs and demonstrates empathy towards patients on a consistent basis. He is always willing to listen to them.

Each day he arrives to work, he brings a warm smile, a positive attitude, and a great sense of humor. Rod is a team player who is always willing to help staff when needed. He is always willing to transport supplies and to work at other sites whenever needed.

Mr. Yeager is definitely an asset to the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens mental health community and strives daily to help others improve their mental health. I often say that you must love what you do in order to truly be effective. Rod shows how much he loves what he does, through hard work, dedication, and compassion.