



Thomas Owens
MHC II
Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center

Thomas Owens deserves the Louise R. Hassenplug Award because he consistently goes above and beyond for his patients, to ensure ALL of their needs are met, such as housing, food, medications, clothing, as well as their mental and physical health issues. He is attentive to all patient needs, assuring they are connected to Care Coordination or any other program they need to ensure they are the best they can be. He takes his patients to food banks before working hours to ensure they will receive needed goods before the distributors run out, and he has held drives in the past to obtain scarves, mittens, and other cold weather items for patients. Whatever his patients need, he will find a way to help them obtain it so they will have a good/better quality of life.

Mr. Owens also created a “store” at the clinic, where patients can select personal items such as lotion, hair care products, or decorative household items in exchange for vouchers received by attending appointments. The items are provided through employee donations; he both contributes to the store and spearheads the collection of donations from fellow employees.

Thomas is a cheerleader for other staff, consistently being there to encourage and boost morale. He caters lunches periodically throughout the year to ensure special occasions are noted for patients and staff.

Mr. Owens is a long term SCDMH employee, beginning his tenure at a clubhouse program in May 1994. He later transferred to the Ridgeland clinic and went back to school to obtain his master’s degree so he could help patients at a different level.

According to his supervisor, Mr. Owens pays attention to detail, his Quality Assurance scores are excellent, and he is a true champion for his patients. His productivity and collaborative documentation are well above Center expectations: for calendar year 2019, his Collaborative Documentation was 98% and his productivity exceeded expectation by 15%.