

## **Bridgeway Senior Wellness Specialist Emily Sworen Honored with NJPRA Award**

Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services is proud to recognize Emily Sworen, Senior Wellness Specialist with the Tricounty Residential Intensive Support Team (RIST), who has been honored by the New Jersey Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (NJPRA) with Direct Service Staff Recognition Award as for her dedication and excellence in psychiatric rehabilitation.

This meaningful recognition celebrates Emily's extraordinary dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to both persons served and her colleagues. Through her leadership, advocacy, and deep understanding of psychiatric rehabilitation, Emily exemplifies the values at the heart of Bridgeway's mission.

RIST is an intensive, community-based residential support program that helps individuals transition from psychiatric hospitals to independent community living. In this role, Emily has become an invaluable resource to the entire team. New staff and experienced colleagues alike rely on her knowledge, patience, and guidance regarding documentation, program expectations, available resources, daily operations, and the complex needs of the individuals Bridgeway serves.

Emily consistently goes above and beyond her direct service responsibilities. In addition to providing compassionate support to persons served, she has taken on extensive administrative responsibilities that help strengthen the program and support the team's success. Her professionalism, reliability, and willingness to help others have made a lasting impact on staff and services.

Emily's advocacy extends far beyond mental health support. She is deeply committed to helping persons served access medical care, physical wellness supports, and the resources they need to live safely and successfully in the community. She often accompanies individuals to medical appointments, advocates with providers, coordinates follow-up care, and helps persons served and their families understand treatment recommendations and next steps.

Her work is especially impactful when supporting individuals through transitions involving long-term or chronic health conditions. Emily approaches these complex and often emotional situations with compassion, determination, and professionalism. She works closely with families, healthcare providers, nursing facilities, and interdisciplinary teams to advocate for appropriate care, placement, and services, remaining involved until the individual is fully established and comfortable in their new environment.

Emily's dedication, leadership, advocacy, and compassion reflect the very best of Bridgeway. Her impact on persons served, families, and staff is immeasurable, and this recognition is a well-deserved celebration of the care and commitment she brings to her work every day.

Please join us in congratulating Emily on this outstanding honor.



Emily Sworen, Senior Wellness Specialist with Bridgeway's Tricounty RIST program, was honored by the NJPRS for her compassion, advocacy, and dedication to persons served, families, and staff.