



# VJJA Meritorious Award in the Area of Residential Services 2023

Name: AMANDA MOSELEY SHEPPARD

Each year the association presents a Meritorious Award in the Area of Residential Service. The residential services honor is bestowed upon a worker who has demonstrated a high degree of skill and professionalism, who embraces the philosophies upon which VJJA was founded, who embodies exceptional dedication and who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to positively and significantly contribute to the juvenile justice field and the children it serves (particularly children in residential environments). This year is no exception.

(See award write-up below)



(L to R) Samantha Higgins, VJJA President, Amanda Moseley Sheppard, Award Recipient, Katherine Farmer, Awards Committee Chair.

Our 2023 award winner completed her bachelor's degree at Radford University and her master's degree at Lenoir-Rhyne University. She has more than 23 years experience working tirelessly in both the community and residential sectors. Our recipient started her career in juvenile justice in 2000 as a Probation Officer for the 24<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit in Rustburg. She later transitioned to serving as the CSA Coordinator and Program Manager for Campbell County through 2007. Since that time our recipient has worked for a variety of private provider agencies, including the Hughes Center for Exceptional Children, Southstone Behavioral Health, Intercept Health and Health Connect America. In fact, our recipient was responsible for the opening of Southstone Behavioral Health, a 52-bed coeducational adolescent residential treatment facility that serves youth diagnosed with a mental health condition stemming from trauma and attachment. In her role as Chief Executive Officer, she oversaw approximately \$14 million in renovations of a 220 acres property including six existing buildings, one new construction, site work, landscaping, and collaboration with seven architectural, engineering, and construction firms.

Our recipient is currently the Virginia Area Vice President for Health Connect America and is helping to build capacity for quality community-based treatment designed to prevent out of home placements. In one of our workshops yesterday, one of our speakers talked about the concept of providers, even competing providers, collaborating instead of competing. Our recipient embodies that philosophy. While she has worked for-profit, private provider agencies for more than 16 years, rather than leading with a proprietary lens, our recipient consistently leads with a kid's first and collaborative lens. She is knowledgeable and resourceful and just as likely to recommend programs or services from competing companies if those services are in the best interest of children and families.

In addition to her formal employment, our receptionist volunteers her time for a number of organizations. She is a member of the Virginia Counseling Association. She is also a long-standing member of the VJJA Board of Directors and serves as the association's secretary, as well as the association's Director of Vendor Relations. She is such a committed member of VJJA and part of the VJJA family, that in a VJJA-first, she and her husband Andy were even married during the Fall Institute two years ago. Mandy and Andy and a spoiled-rotten boxer named Hazel live in Moneta.

Please join me in congratulating our

**2023 VJJA Meritorious Award Winner in the Area of Residential Services**

**AMANDA MOSELEY SHEPPARD**