

Greetings!

Message from our Executive Director

Dear Odyssey Community:

Odyssey is “OPEN” to Serve You!

Since we first began responding and adapting to COVID-19 in March 2020, Odyssey has let care drive our decision-making - care for our clients, care for our staff and care for our communities. That has meant being there for our clients as they depend on our services in new ways: to stay connected as we have socially distanced, and to stay healthy at a time when health is so front of mind.

As of today, we are incredibly pleased and excited to announce our return to “face-to-face” service delivery! We wanted to share a bit about how we’re carrying forward our commitment to care: how it’s informing our decision-making, the significant steps we’re taking to keep everyone who visits Odyssey safe, and the ways in which our facility will look a little different.



Our approach to reopening Odyssey

We’re taking some additional steps to ensure your safety! Face coverings will be required for all our staff and clients, and we will provide them to anyone who doesn’t bring their own. Temperature checks will be conducted at reception and posted health questions will screen for those with symptoms — like cough or fever — or who have had recent exposure to someone infected with COVID-19. Throughout the day, we’re conducting enhanced deep cleanings that place special emphasis on all surfaces, and highly trafficked areas. We will also continue to offer tele-health and virtual services and encourage clients to speak to their clinician to determine their best plan of care.

The road ahead

The response to COVID-19 is still ongoing, and we recognize that the road

back will have its twists and turns. But whatever challenges lie ahead, COVID-19 has only reinforced our faith in people — in our clients, in our staff, in our communities. Down the road, when we reflect on COVID-19, we should always remember how so many people around the world put the well-being of others at the center of their daily lives. At Odyssey, we plan to carry those values forward, and we will always put health and safety above all else.

Sincerely,



Charles Releford, Jr,
Executive Director

**Board Member, Esther Hammond,
Honored as LSCU's Volunteer of the Year for
Georgia**



[Volunteer of the Year - Esther Hammond Video](#)

In June, the League of Southeastern Credit Unions (LSCU) and Affiliates presented the Georgia Volunteer of the Year award to Odyssey Board member Esther Hammond SPHR, MSHRM, CPC, SHRM-SCP.

The Credit Union Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual who has contributed time, effort, and talent in advancing the credit union movement. "The Volunteer of the Year Award was created to recognize those

outstanding volunteers whose unselfish and dedicated service to their respective credit unions has made a significant difference in their community and mirrors the commitment to success in the credit union ranks,” said Jared Ross, president of LSCU.

Prior to her retirement in 2009, Esther held the position of Director, Human Resources, Equal Opportunity (EO) and Compliance for Delta Air Lines. She was in Chicago the first 17 years of her Delta career, relocating to Atlanta in 1995, subsequently spending the past 20+ years in Human Resources, she held various positions for Delta in individual contributor, leadership and director roles. Ms. Hammond holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Master of Science degree in Organization Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management. Since 2000 she has held the certification of Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). She also holds the designation of Certified Professional Coach (CPC) since 2010. She has been a Board Director with Delta Community Credit Union since February 2000.

Esther has been a member of Odyssey’s Board since 2016. In her 5+ years of service, Esther’s extensive background in Human Resources has been instrumental in advancing Odyssey’s mission and vision. We value Esther’s compassion for others, selflessness in her time, and her commitment to her role and responsibility as a board member.

Odyssey also celebrates Delta Community Credit Union as a sponsor of Odyssey Family Counseling Center since 2016. We are grateful for their support.



Odyssey Welcomes New Board Member, Johnnie L. Jenkins, III, MA, LPC, RPT-S, CPCS, ACS

“Hi! I am Johnnie L. Jenkins, III. I have been an LPC since 1999. I am also a Registered Play Therapist since 2005. Since 2010, I have had a practice in East Point, GA called the Jenkins Center for Evaluation/Counseling/Advocacy P.C. I am also in the process of completing a PhD in Public Policy from Walden University. I have worked as a Psychiatric Crisis counselor in Emergency rooms in the metro area. Additionally, I worked as a student counselor at a local medical school. I have also served as an adjunct professor in a local master's level counseling program and chair of the Human Services Department of the school. Currently, I



am clinical director of community mental health agency.

Why am I on the Board? The simple reason was I was asked to serve. Whenever you have gifts to aid it is incumbent upon you to serve. But more correctly, I am serving to take the theories I have learned in Public Policy and applying them. In short, I want to implement those theories to assist this organization to grow. Thanks for having me. “

Odyssey's Executive Director, Charles C. Releford, Jr., in the “Spotlight”



This month, Odyssey's ED, Charles C. Releford was highlighted by the ATL Airport Chamber of Commerce as a “community connector.” The Chamber is an action-oriented membership organization for business and professional individuals who are committed to best serving our community. With over 200 members, we are confident that our membership in the ATL Airport Chamber of Commerce will deepen our community partnerships so that we may continue to support people of Metro Atlanta find wellness, hope, and recovery.

[Airport Chamber Article](#)

Odyssey's School Based Program

As many of our children are returning back to school, at Odyssey we say Welcome Back and Be Safe.

During the school year, Odyssey provides school based counseling services.

Many children with behavioral or mental health challenges are already struggling in school and cannot take extra time outside of the school day for transportation to and from therapy. Odyssey staff works in partnership with school social workers, teachers, and administrators in a team approach to develop the most effective strategies for students, making it possible to address students' mental health issues in the school environment. Below is a list of schools we provide school based services to:



List of Schools

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- Premier Academy Preschool
 - Global Impact Academy
 - Conley Hills Elementary School
 - Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School
 - Campbell Elementary School
 - College Park Elementary School
 - Palmetto Elementary School
 - Seaborn Lee Elementary School
 - Wolf Creek Elementary School
 - Parklane Elementary School
 - Hapeville Elementary School
 - Love T. Nolan Elementary School
 - Liberty Elementary School
 - Evoline C. West Elementary School
 - Cliftondale Elementary School
 - Feldwood Elementary School
 - Bear Creek Middle School
 - Paul D. West Middle School
 - Sandtown Middle School
 - Woodland Middle School
 - Banneker High School
 - McClarin High School
 - Langston Hughes High School
 - Tri-Cities High School
 - Westlake High School



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[404-762-9190](tel:404-762-9190)



info@odysseycounseling.org