

# HCAR

## Member Newsletter

Issue  
03



### In this issue:

- HCAR gets a new logo!
- New Summit Support Director
- SPOTLIGHT: What's an ISP?
- And MORE!

[www.hcarcenter.org](http://www.hcarcenter.org)

SPRING  
2025

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear HCAR Community,**

I am pleased to share that HCAR members have decided on a new logo to go along with our new vision and mission. Our new logo is slowly being incorporated in our communications. Our commitment to community access and resources remains strong and vital in our work.

We are pleased to have a new Director of Summit Support, Ericka Everhart. I have had the pleasure of working with Ericka for the past fifteen years. We are very glad to have her step in to lead Summit Support.

We are pleased to announce Chris Miller has assumed the role of Comprehensive Career Services Director. We have welcomed Emma Miller, Employment Specialist. Together, they have increased the number of people getting paid internships and expanded employment support services to teens.

The Bay Center and Canvas & Clay Studio are integrating into the community in new ways. The Bay Center is welcoming back their monthly restaurant outings. Going to a local restaurant and enjoying a meal is a favorite activity that ended when COVID dominated our world. All are glad for lunch out to return to the activity calendar. Similarly, Canvas & Clay Studio is supporting artists to have their art showings at local galleries. They are also re-opening their C St. Studio doors during Eureka's Art Alive on the first Saturday of every month.

Lots of fun filled activities ahead! We value our agency members and friends. If you get a chance, schedule a tour at our local programs to see all the great things happening!

**Best,  
Kim Nash, Executive Director**



# CONTENTS

## ON THE COVER

Artists Shape  
Themselves  
**pages 5**

New Summit  
Support Director  
**pages 6-7**

Welcome  
Employment  
Specialist  
**pages 9-10**

New Year,  
New Logo  
**page 4**

Know Your  
Rights  
**pages 8**

Spotlight: What's  
an ISP?  
**pages 11**

# NEW YEAR NEW LOGO

*HCAR has a brand new look.*

HCAR has a fresh new logo! Our new design was created by K.T. Livingston and voted on by clients, families, employees, and members like you. The logo represents growth, guidance, and support. The new logo comes with HCAR's new vision, mission, and strategic plan. Take a look for more information on our website [www.hcarcenter.org](http://www.hcarcenter.org). We hope these changes inspire clients, staff, and members alike to create new goals and realign old ones.

**New**



**Old**



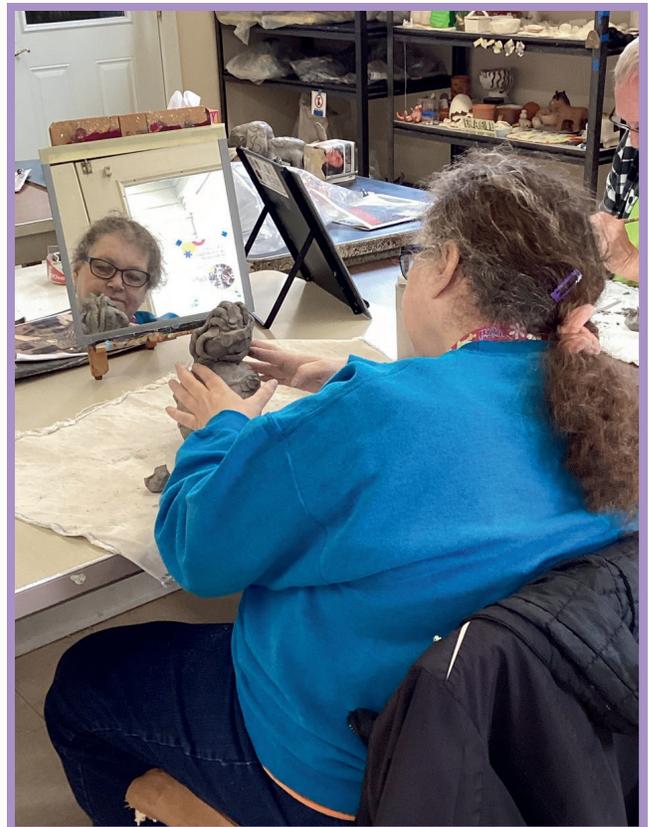
# ARTISTS SHAPE THEMSELVES

*Studio members create artistic self-portraits*

The Studio offered a week-long ceramics course for all our artists this winter. Utilizing a mirror placed right in front of them, the artists were guided to create sculpted self-portraits. These pieces were encouraged to be artistic and didn't need to reflect reality. Teaching our artists how to express the internal ideas into sculptures.



Art piece by Allen Martin



Tawny Morgan working on art piece

# SUMMIT SUPPORTS NEW DIRECTOR

Meet Ericka  
Everhart

---



Q: In your words, what is Summit Support Services and what does it mean to direct it?

A: Summit Support is a supported living service that we provide to adults 18 years of age or older to live and remain safe in their own home. We help clients move out of their family homes and to create their own homes. This increases their independence. It allows them to access the community in multiple ways and allows them to blossom as a person.

I believe what it means to run Summit Support is to take every client that we provide services to and assess their needs and provide good case management and come up with a plan that they have [created] for themselves.

Q: What is your experience working with the disabled community?

A: I have a daughter who is 30 who [was born with] Williams Syndrome, and she's autistic. That's where I started learning and learning how to advocate.

\*Original script has been altered for ease of reading and clarification.

I knew that someone who was deaf or missing an arm, that those people had disabilities. I had no idea what it meant by supporting a person with a developmental disability until I had my own child. After learning about the Regional Center and Social Security, IHSS, it worked into a career for me.

Q: How did you find out about HCAR? How did you get connected with us?

A: I started learning about HCAR when I opened up another agency [in Humboldt] and just started partnering with other agencies.

And then, of course, Kim. You know, I really applied to work with clients at HCAR, as very part time. But Kim had known from the get-go that I had a lot of experience. We worked together when she worked at the Regional Center. She knows my temperament, my patience, and my skills. And she said, I know that you are interviewing to work part time, but I really would like you to interview for a director's position.

And so, I did.

Q: What do you hope to bring to your new position and to HCAR?

A: What I would like to bring to my position is the open doors policy. I want everybody to really understand that my door is open, and I want to know all of the staff just like I want to know all of the clients so I can better help them both.

Q: You also prefer a more "on-the-ground sort of management" too, correct?

A: Yeah. I want to work with every client and work at least one shift to better understand that client and their needs. I cannot understand a task if I've never done it. So, it's just a very important part of it. I mean, that's part of being a director. That's part of being a supervisor: [it's not asking] somebody else to do something that you're not willing to do.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

*Clients receive lessons on changes to disability services.*

The Bay Center and The Studio were invited to attend a listening session on the Home Community-based Services (HCBS). Clients learned about the recent changes and improvements to their legal rights and services as disabled community members. These included the “Master Plan for Development Services,” a state implemented plan to strengthen accessibility, quality, and equity for developmentally disabled residents. This plan will also strengthen communication and connection between developmental service organizations, health services, and social services. Clients also learned about the HCBS Final Rule. The Final Rule creates new criteria for HCBS to follow, including those meant to maximize choices for disabled individuals, promote community integration, and a person-centered planning approach.



# A NEW POSITION AT CCS?

Meet Emma  
Miller:  
Employment  
Specialist

---



Q: What does your position as Employment Specialist at Comprehensive Career Services (CCS) entail?

A: The employment specialist position has flexibility in the scope of what it entails. The primary focus is employment development for the clients that we serve, including skill development for the clients themselves and community outreach to improve the community's understanding and participation in the employment process for the clients that we are currently serving and for clients that we have not yet served.

Q : What is your experience working with the disabled community?

A: I've been working with the disabled community since high school, and my primary focus has always been skill acquisition education and community inclusion.

From there, I moved on to work with the disabled students' programs and services while I was in college, as one of my first jobs in the field officially. I have been a job coach and an employment specialist with HCAR before. I was a service coordinator with the Redwood Coast Regional Center for about eight years, and I've come back to HCAR.

Q: You said that you've previously done the same line of work here at HCAR, but what motivated you to come back?

A: I came back to HR because I wanted a healthier work life balance, and I wanted to work for an organization that emphasized collaboration and teamwork, and that gave me the opportunity to work more directly with the population that we serve.

Q: What do you hope to bring to HCAR and your job?

A: Enthusiasm. Lots and lots of it. I want to drive everybody absolutely nuts with how excited I am to be here.

But, you know, beyond that, I just would like to, especially for the CCS program, I'd really like to see an improved reputation and more actionable outcomes for the clients participating in the program... I'd like to become the go to employment service on the North Coast.

That's what I'd like to see for CCS. I want businesses to think of us first when they have a position to fill.



# SPOTLIGHT: WHAT'S AN ISP?

To support our clients and help them focus on their personalized goals, we create an Individualized Support Plan, or ISP for short. Every client at HCAR has one; but what is it exactly? An ISP is developed collaboratively with the client and includes input from those closest to them, such as staff and their support circle. The ISP outlines the client's skills, abilities, needs, and desires. This person-centered and self-determined process places the client at the forefront. The ISP is transformed into a document highlighting agreed-upon strategies to help achieve the clients' goals for the upcoming months and year.



# THE DOG EXPO

Artists from Canvas & Clay Studio, Allen Martin and Allen Cassidy, had a booth at the community's recent Dog Expo. Artists displayed their dog-centric art and made several sales. Allen Cassidy even offered on demand Diamond in the Ruff portraits for commissions. Find out more information on the HCAR website under the program tab for Canvas & Clay Studio or follow us on Instagram. Explore the online portfolios of these artists and others.

