

Riverside CARE Awards

Anne Priestley

Program Director, Newton Outpatient Center



With an open door and open heart, Anne Priestley leads the way at the Newton Outpatient Center. She oversees administration, sees her own clients, and provides a safe, supportive place for clinicians to express their challenges and struggles, and discover new energy and confidence in their abilities.

Around the office Anne is known not only as a talented clinician and an encouraging and insightful supervisor, but also as clinic decorator, crisis responder, HR specialist, and handywoman! Never one to dodge a humble or unpleasant task, Anne will roll up her sleeves, don a pair of rubber gloves and wash dishes, unplug a toilet, or step in anywhere else she can lend a hand!

Unanimously, the people who work with her praise Anne's unflappable demeanor, her commitment to the community mental health model, and her ability to see the strengths in clients and colleagues alike. Anne has conducted yoga and Positive Psychology team-building trainings at the Center and implemented those concepts in the workplace, as well as encouraged the formation of numerous supportive groups for clients and for clinicians.

There are team members who have actually followed Anne from previous jobs, eager to work with her again. And, again universally, there is no one on staff who has a single complaint about the boss! (How often does *that* happen?!) One clinician mentioned that in her safe and supportive presence, there's freedom to share without hesitation anything about their work, even what they feel are their own shortcomings. In response Anne will share examples of her own challenges with complex cases, and kindly and calmly offer valuable insight and perspective. So anyone leaving Anne's office feels lighter – supported and validated, and most of all, more confident and committed than ever to their work. We can't imagine a more positive outcome than that!