

I have worked at my current location for over 10 years. I previously worked in Ohio as a licensed professional counselor for 4 years, and prior to that in Indianapolis for 5 years. I do not work in long-term care hospitals, or nursing homes, but I do work with the patients in the mental health care system. There are many patients that need ongoing mental health care and do not have the resources, transportation or the finances for a copay or spend down account.

I think more monitoring of those who have more than one income in their households should be managed more effectively. Many people have low income jobs and need both of their incomes. I believe in rewarding those who have continued to support themselves through difficult situations. Some families have no one working and can draw from all of the resources available without any monitoring of their abilities. Some of those people have a car, still smoke cigarettes and have not worked for years even when they were young.

I see a lot of people who have filed for disability and have been turned down several times over several years. Some of those people have worked all of their days that they could and their body and mind took ill. Just today I saw a middle aged man who had worked as a team leader in a large factory for 18 years. He had to let his job go after his diabetes took over his eye sight, and his legs had severe neuropathy. He also has depression as he lost his ability to provide for his family. His wife works two jobs and they are barely getting by. I write the paperwork for people like this man who would prefer to be working. The system does not help them enough. His cognitive

ability to remember has made him unable to keep track of things he easily managed. He needs disability. It has been two years in the filing. His long-term health will surely only worsen. He is in his mid 50's.

Thank you for your time,

Shawn R Pogue LMHC, AC