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A letter from the CEO

OCTOBER 2020



Dear Community Members,

I am excited to announce *rEvolve* – a monthly newsletter created to keep you informed and connected with Axis Health System.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of our name change to Axis Health System. As you may or may not know, our original name was Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center, which we decided in 2009 no longer fit who we were or what we did. The Axis Health System name was selected by our staff and is intended to remind us that our patients are at the center (axis) of everything we do and are the anchor for the integrated care continuum we provide.

Having been with this organization for nearly 21 years, I know that we are a part of a broad network of community resources with a longstanding history of collaboration and innovation. Strong and vibrant communities happen when there are diverse and connected resources available to support everyone. As inspired and dedicated community organizations, we all work together to contribute to the health and well-being of those who call this region home.

Our intention is that this monthly newsletter is another way that we can share what we are doing and foster new and different connections, linkages and future solutions. We chose the name *rEvolve* to acknowledge that many of our services are interconnected with the work you do, and together we revolve around the needs of our community. It also highlights that evolution of our Axis Health system continuum in collaboration with many of you is essential in order for us to have the greatest collective impact with the resources we have available.

Working together, we will find innovative solutions and ways to navigate the economic, social, cultural and health challenges that are both in front of us now – and those that are yet to come.

In health,

Shelly Burke
Chief Executive Officer, Axis Health System



Axis Health System began offering free COVID-19 testing to the public in July, from left: Kristie Whited, Terri Clifford, Jeanne Marotta and Melanee Hodge.

AXIS TEAMS UP TO OFFER FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Partners work together to support community

In the midst of a global pandemic, local agencies have come together to share their strengths. Axis Health System (AHS) is proud to be part of a team that has contributed to a total of 15,638 COVID-19 tests in the region. AHS staff conducted 1,017 of these tests to date.

[More](#)



HEART OF AXIS CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF 2021 SEASON

Staff donate and write patient-centered grants

The Heart of Axis Committee is excited to announce that it's time to give away the money raised through the 2020 Heart of Axis Annual Employee Giving Campaign. This fund provides Axis Health System (AHS) employees the opportunity to donate charitably and to direct these funds to support a wide range of unmet community and patient needs.

[More](#)



CRISIS LINE HAS NEW NAME, EXPANDED PURPOSE

24/7 Axis Care Hotline is not just for crisis



Times are tough, and we're here to help. Our 24/7 crisis line is still the same number, but now it has a broader purpose. Anyone may call the number to learn how to manage their mental health issues. Call the Axis Care Hotline for a local response to your crisis and behavioral health needs: 970.247.5245.

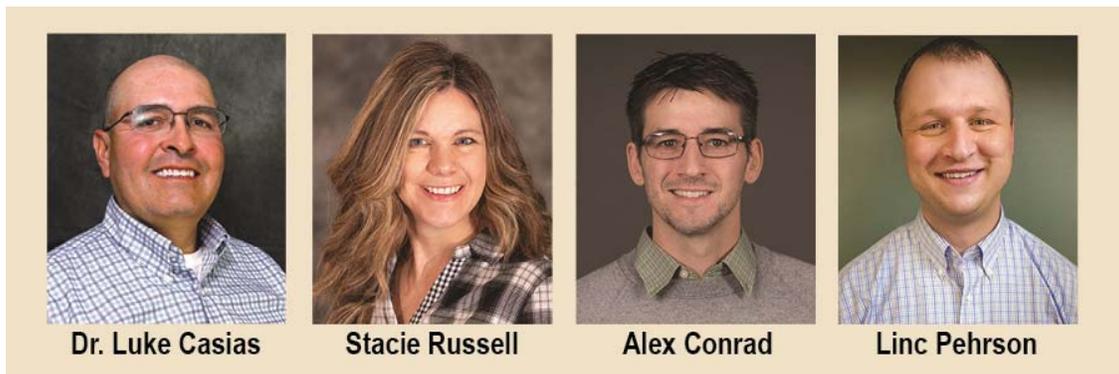
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CARE TEAM CAMEO: MEET KIMBERLY SNYDER

New therapist joins Cortez Integrated Healthcare

Meet Kimberly Snyder, a child, adolescent, and family therapist at Cortez Integrated Healthcare. Kimberly has expertise in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy and works with children, adolescents, and their families from all backgrounds. She is accepting new patients. Call today to make an appointment. 970.565.7946.

[More](#)



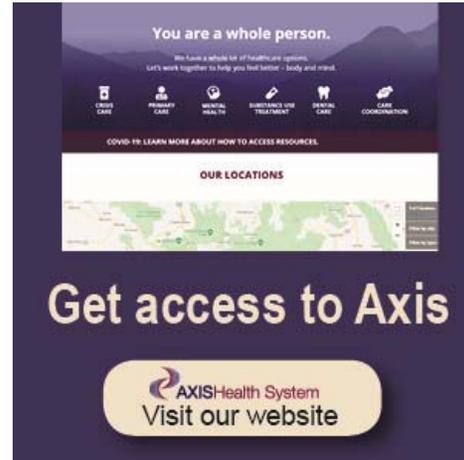
AXIS EXECUTIVE TEAM WELCOMES NEW LEADERS

Meet Dr. Luke Casias, Stacie Russell, Alex Conrad and Linc Pehrson

Axis Health System is growing, expanding and ready to embrace new leadership. We are pleased to welcome four new members to our executive team in 2020. The following four people have joined the team with Shelly Burke, Chief Executive Officer; and Pam Wise Romero, Chief Operating Officer:

- **Dr. Luke Casias**, Chief Medical Officer. He manages our growing team of medical staff, including doctors, medical assistants, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.
- **Stacie Russell**, Chief Behavioral Health Officer. She guides our behavioral health team, which includes experts in psychiatry, counseling and substance use treatment.

- **Alex Conrad**, Chief Financial Officer. He leads our finance team to manage our financial health as an evolving nonprofit with 60 years of service to Southwest Colorado.
- **Linc Pehrson**, Chief Integration Officer. He is overseeing the combined workflows of medical, dental and behavioral health staff at our integrated clinics.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The newsletter name rEvolve expresses our past, our future and our connection to you. Our patients are at the center (axis) of everything we do and are the anchor for the integrated care we provide. We revolve around our patients as we evolve as an organization: rEvolve.



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