



## Message from our CEO

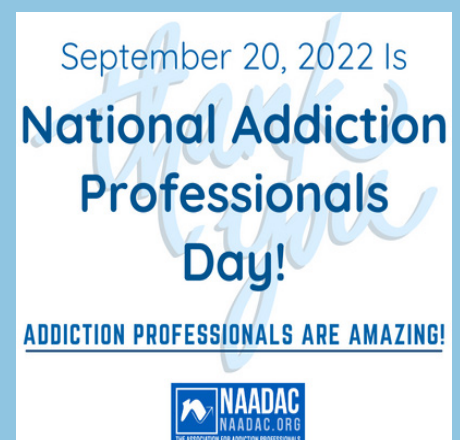
Our hearts go out to all those impacted by Hurricane Ian, especially the dedicated behavioral healthcare providers in Southwest Florida. We are pleased to report that ACTS fared well but we know that is not true for so many. Our doors are open as we stand ready to assist anyway we can. I am very grateful for all the hard work our team put in to ensure that our persons served, staff and property remained safe during this devastating storm. [Studies have shown though that after a major disaster like a hurricane](#), substance use tends to increase. It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during and after a disaster. [Check out these tips from the CDC](#) about how to cope with a disaster. Another resource available is the 988 Lifeline – call or text that number to receive support any time. Locally, ACTS is here to help people who see an increase in substance use due to recent events. Call us at 813.246.4899 to find out more or to schedule an assessment for you or a loved one. I am honored to lead such an incredible group of professionals who put the needs of the people we serve above their own to make sure that treatment wasn't disrupted during Hurricane Ian.



Asha Pereyra  
ACTS CEO

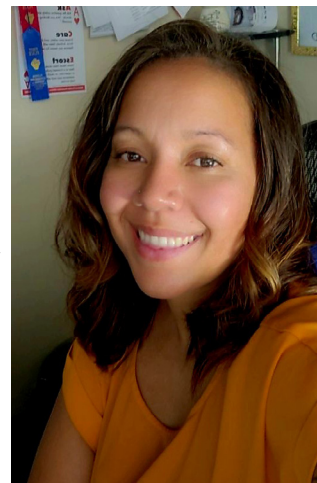
## ACTS Celebrates National Addiction Professionals Day

On September 20 – during Recovery Month - is a special day geared to celebrate vital players of the health system and continuum of care: addiction professionals. Started by NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals in 1992, the day was established to commemorate the hard work that addiction professionals do on a daily basis. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Addiction Professionals Day. ACTS recognized the day by giving each employee a lunchbox set, with a special note as a small token of appreciation. 56th Street staff – including outpatient, administration, maintenance and special projects - enjoyed a hot dog lunch cooked by senior leadership. Thank you to all of our staff for what you do every day for the people we serve!



## Meet Ashley Moody

Ashley Moody became the Program Director of Special Projects in November 2021, and this month she is celebrating 7 years at ACTS. She started her career at ACTS working at the front desk, from there she held a position in HR, became a case manager and supervisor before being promoted to her current position. “I really enjoy helping people in my role at ACTS and being able to bring my experience and knowledge to staff and promote growth within the agency,” said Ashley. “I am very passionate about the mental health and substance abuse population and truly enjoy helping these individuals but most importantly humanizing them and advocating for their needs in order to help them achieve stability and successfully complete the program while getting their lives back on track.” Ashley’s new role is a good fit because Special Projects has several different programs helping individuals with substance use and mental health disorders including Early Jail Diversion (EJD), Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP), Tampa Crisis Intervention Response Team (TCIRT) and by the end of the calendar year – Mental Health Jail Diversion Program.

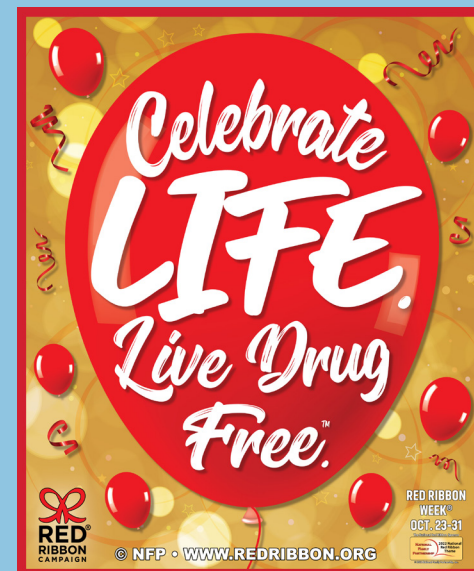


The [Early Jail Diversion](#) Program provides an alternative to incarceration to people who could be arrested and jailed and have a serious mental illness, said Ashley. Staff provide wrap-around care, linking clients with therapy. The [COAP Program](#) and TCIRT partners ACTS staff with Tampa Police Department officers. With COAP, there is a Case Manager and Therapist who work as a co-responder model who help people addicted to opioids that TPD interact with in the field. With the TCIRT model, ACTS has a care coordinator that works directly with TPD to provide resources to people that officers and licensed therapists meet while on patrol. Cove, Gracepoint, and Northside also have care coordinators that work in this program to provide help, said Ashley. “I really like meeting people who are referred to our services and hearing their stories.” To find out more about any of these programs, email Ashley at [amoody@actsfl.org](mailto:amoody@actsfl.org) or check out the linked flyers.

## Red Ribbon Week Coming October 23 - 31

DID YOU KNOW? Children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't; yet, only a quarter of teens report having these conversations. Red Ribbon Week® (October 23-31), the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the nation, is your opportunity to get the ongoing conversation started. This year's theme is **Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free.**

Visit [www.redribbon.org](http://www.redribbon.org) to learn more about Red Ribbon Week® and get tips for talking to your kids about drugs. The life you save may be that of your own child or a dear friend. ACTS is here to help locally with youth with substance use issues – call us at 813.246.4899 to schedule an assessment for your loved one.



## For More Information

ACTS, Agency for Community Treatment Services, Inc., is a non-profit serving the Tampa Bay area since 1978. As a comprehensive, community-based behavioral health organization, ACTS mission is to apply the best of contemporary physical and behavioral health interventions and social support services available to assist individuals and families to engage and succeed in recovery. Call us today to find out how we can help you - 813.246.4899 or visit us online at [www.actsfl.org](http://www.actsfl.org).

