

*Amanda Pfister, LCSW &
Dr. James Bender, MD*

2024 Montgomery County Recovery and Resiliency Award Recipient

Amanda and Dr. James Bender together serve families with some of the highest complex needs and youth experiencing significant behavioral health challenges. Amanda and Dr. Bender go above and beyond partnering with the youth and families in their care.

Amanda has participated in countless meetings in order to ensure that collaboration is occurring with the different systems and treatment providers who are working with the youth. She has taken the initiative and been willing to complete tasks that normally would not be her responsibility to ensure the youth is getting the treatment they require. Amanda also is diligent in ensuring there is access to appointments if one gets missed or needs to be rescheduled so the youth is getting the treatment that they need.

Dr. Bender excels at collaborating with colleagues and especially treating psychiatrists when a youth with whom he works is admitted to a higher level of care. He has participated in meetings for the youth while they are inpatient to collaborate about medication and follows up with the treating inpatient psychiatrist to confirm what medications were prescribed or any changes that may have been made.

Both Amanda and Dr. Bender approach their understanding about a youth's needs from a strengths-based perspective, always recognizing the youth's resilience as they are learning to navigate their worlds with significant behavioral health challenges. They are both creative and are constantly thinking "outside of the box" in an effort to make sure the youth's needs are being met. They are advocates and exhibit unending compassion for the youth that they serve. Amanda and Dr. Bender's dedication to the youth they serve is unparalleled and when it comes to ensuring continuity of care for these youth, they break the mold and demonstrate their commitment time and time again.



Montgomery County
Department of
Health and Human Services

