

My name is Chris Edwards I am currently an Island Office Specialist 2. I started at FTC. My Father and Grandfather Klavohn, worked bus barn & outings at FTC. My Mother was an LPN at FTC, my Grandmother Caples, worked Byrd cottage as floor staff, and my Grandfather Caples worked in the Steam room at FTC. Each of them Retired from the State.

In 1986, through November 1999, after taking ONA training, licensed as a Med Tech.

April 2003 applied to SOCP. Worked the floor for 9 months as a temp as various homes. Accepted a Perm OS2 position at Central office SOCP, which became SACU. I have been with the agency, as of February 1st, 2025, 36 years.

The skill level and continuous Trainings is exceptional and life changing not only for the Individuals we support, for Staff as well. Individuals we support have a rich quality of life even with multiple diagnosis'.

To reduce funding to SACU would, without question, diminish Individuals quality of life.

As a result, reduction in funds, closures of homes would be detrimental to their of life, as well as life expectancy. The thought of the individuals we support, ending up incarcerated, homeless on the streets, without adequate supports, makes me breaks my heart.

There are no beds or facilities, in the community to assist the various Mult diagnosed needs of our Individuals in SACU's homes.

Chris Edwards – Salem - 97303