

Ashley Garcia

*Executive Assistant to the Warden
Lancaster County Prison*



Ashley Garcia, a mother of two children, has defeated incredible odds. As a young, single mother, she put her life on hold to focus on raising and supporting her children. When she came to New Choices, she was a Medical Assistant working for Prime Care Medical at the Lancaster County Prison, taking care of the medical needs of the inmates. She hoped to go to school and pursuing a career in nursing, but it was a distant dream as she focused only on work and taking care of her children.

New Choices helped Ashley who she was and what next step she should take. She regained her confidence and learned the importance of networking and setting boundaries in her life. The idea that it is necessary to set boundaries to take care of herself and the rest of her family was life-changing. Also, she learned that there are always more options if you keep pressing forward.

Upon graduation, Ashley had more confidence and a “go for it” attitude, and she looked to the future with ambition and drive. She was promoted to a Medical Administrative Assistant position in the prison where she began to learn the standards and policies of the organization. After working hard there, one year ago Ashley became Executive Assistant to the Warden. As Executive Assistant, she is the human resource representative for the prison employees serving as the liaison between the prison and Lancaster County Services. In addition, she is essential in communications of the prison, risk management, and committee meetings as she often records communications. She loves her job, and grateful for the continued support New Choices offers her. She uses the lessons she learned at New Choices everyday as she is at work, home, or with friends. One of the most valuable lessons she has learned is that she deserves a good life and her future is worth working for. Failure is a platform to build on, not a dead end.

Continuing forward, Ashley plans to begin Nursing School in the fall while continuing to work full-time. Her present job has opened up opportunities she never would have imagined. She is hopeful and excited as she looks to build upon the skills she has already developed in the future. She has the confidence now, knowing she is not alone, to press forward, take chances, take care of herself, and go after her goals.