

## **Ali Abdulmahdi**

Dr. Ali Abdulmahdi was a practicing physician in his native Iraq until 2013 when he moved with his family to the United States as a refugee. Since then, Ali has been working as a CPST Specialist at Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC), a leading mental healthcare provider in Northeast Ohio. CBHC focuses on under-served and at-risk adults, primarily elderly, immigrant and refugee communities with culturally-experienced staff. As a CPST Specialist, Ali helps his clients learn daily living skills, improve personal and social functioning and develop coping mechanisms to handle stress and anxiety.

Ali completed his medical residency and began working in internal medicine at Al-Kindy General Teaching Hospital in Baghdad for the Iraqi Ministry of Health. At the same time, Ali was working in the department of Qualitative Research for YouGov-Siraj, a market research agency contracted by the U.S. Army where his team focused on the impact of the anti-terrorism media campaign.

Like 30 percent of refugees resettled in the United States who are college educated, with in-demand skills and professional experience and similar to other foreign professionals, Ali is unable to practice medicine until he completes his U.S. credentials and a U.S. hospital residency. While working towards this goal, Ali is sharing his professional expertise through his role at CBHC and focusing on refugee issues especially in the Arabic-speaking community.