



## ***What's Happening at Strive April 2017***



### ***Notes from the CEO....***

***Submitted by: Sharon Jacksi***

Since April is Autism Awareness month, this is a good time to let you know about the services Strive provides to individuals on the autism spectrum.

- **Diagnostic Evaluation Clinic**---a multi-disciplinary evaluation team assesses children under 6 years of age and helps families identify adaptive strategies to assist their child in social-communication.
- **Residential and Vocational settings** -- currently we have one residential site for two individuals and another site that has two individuals living more independently. These are young people recently transitioned from high school. We also have individuals on the autism spectrum living in some of our other facilities.
- Many individuals wanting to participate in services from Strive are on the autism spectrum so we are evaluating how best to serve them. One vocational program is developing strategies and plans with a focus on autism.
- Our children's services department offers an evening a month where families can come to learn about a particular subject and their child can participate in social activities. These events are called KNO----Kids Night Out----and subjects offer focus on autism.
- Lastly, we are in the process of developing a community resource store to let families try out some of the toys, adaptive materials, and books. They can then either buy or borrow the products to use with their child.

I hope you all have a wonderful month. Hope to see you at our annual event "Tulips and Juleps" on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May at the Botanical Gardens.

### ***Departmental Updates:***

#### **Vocational/Residential**

***Submitted By: Valita Speedie***

#### **Vocational**

- **Recycling Crew** has been exploring their creative side while they are not working their recycling jobs... Under the artistically teachings of Carson Anderson the crew has begun creating amazing wall art out of wood. Choosing beautiful designs they use wood burners to burn the images into the wood. Two pieces have been created by this talented group and will be up for auction at Tulips and Julips!

- **Mobile Crew** has begun spring clean-up! The calendar for this is filling up fast so if you like them to come out and freshen your yard up for the spring, please call 244-5540.
- **Creative Creations** continues to expand their creativity with developing ceramic mask and teaching the artisans painting techniques in fine detail. They have also made elaborate Kentucky Derby hats for Tulips and Julips. You can purchase your hat at 2 locations; Uniquely Yours and the Botanical Gardens!
- The **Botanical Gardens** is proud to announce a newly renovated website! Please visit us at [www.westerncoloradobotanicalgardens.org](http://www.westerncoloradobotanicalgardens.org)
  - The gardens have also been lucky enough to have many donated hours of volunteers for the month of March! With their help we are right on schedule for the summer season!
  - The Easter Egg hunt is right around the corner. The Eggs are stuffed, and Moon Farm has agreed to loan us their Easter Bunnies for the children to pet.
- **Sweet Beginnings** is working on new products, i.e. chap stick and hand sanitizer holders and also neck coolers for the summer months.
- **Sweet Success** is starting to serve lunches at 950 Grand again every other Thursday (payday) and will have things available for order and delivery soon.
- The individuals in **Milestones** are working on Easter baskets for the board.
- **Retirement** has settled into their new location and seems to really enjoy this space. Weather permitting afternoon dance parties in the courtyard have been scheduled.

### **Behavioral**

- The Director of Adult Services recently retired. Janet V. had over 20 years of experience working with the ID population. She will be greatly missed by the behavior department.
- This month the Behavior Department is focusing on the quality and quantity of behavior documentation for all individuals in Strive services. This will help reflect an accurate picture of each individual's daily life and possible need for behavior services. This will also help in acknowledging each individual's progress, strengths and successes. We are open to staff stopping by the behavior department so we can get to know all of you and you can get to know each one of us and what we do in the Behavior Department.
- **Theme of the month: Mindfulness:** the process of bringing of one's attention to the internal and external experiences occurring in the present moment. We can do this by simply taking a few deep breaths throughout our day to re-center and refocus ourselves before moving on with our day.

### **Host Homes**

- Strive continues to have an influx of families interested in providing host home options. The process of: Initial contacts, applications and interviews, HUD inspections, HR review and background checks and

CORE training are ongoing. Once these steps are completed intense care is given to evaluating options, identifying "goodness of fit", presenting to the placement committee, obtaining releases, scheduling visits with the ultimate outcome a successful transition.

### **Public Relations & Development...**

***Submitted By: Doug Sorter***

#### **Maintenance**

- Currently exploring some modifications to two of our group homes.
- 3301 is been divided into two separate living pieces to help with better utilization of staff
- 385 is being modified to add access to the back yard and loading opportunities from the backyard to the street.
- 1260 is moving forward in a possible sale, appraiser has been out to look at the 4 plex.

#### **PR/Marketing**

- Facebook has really exploded after the implementation of the new web site. All three areas are receiving new likes daily.
- TV ads are tracking well and our PSA's are very active.
- Radio season is about to take place with the Garden Groove concert series with MBC Grand Radio .
- The daily sentinel has written a couple of great articles that have been very informative about our organization.

#### **Uniquely Yours**

- Putting in more individual art projects from the people we support
- Developing a brochure of all their different items to sell both at the store and from our web site.
- Also looking at selling on Facebook.

#### **EVENTS**

- Events are in full swing,
- Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>, expecting 500 plus kids
- Tulips and Juleps is tracking to be our most successful fund raiser ever with over \$21,000.00 dollars in current sponsorships.
- JUCO Picnic happens May 25<sup>th</sup>
- Garden Groove concert series is up and ready with Stray Grass May 27<sup>th</sup>, Boys of Summer July 28<sup>th</sup> and Ralph Dinosaur August 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Case Management...**

***Submitted by Joan Levy***

- Discussions related to transferring the process of DD eligibility determination to Mesa CO. DHS/Hilltop have continued and it appears that we will be able to facilitate that transfer in the near future. Chris will be working with MCDHS and Hilltop (to whom the work is sub-contracted) on the contract and

Joan will be working out the details of tasks to be transferred, the flow of information, etc.

- The quarterly Children's Extensive Support Waiver coordinators meeting will be held at MDS in May. In addition to convening the quarterly meeting, Sheila Peil from HCPF will be providing training in CES enrollment and CES benefits and services.
- One more new case manager was welcomed to the department in April. Kayla Purdy, who most recently worked in the Extended Hours program for Dist. 51, started on April 10. There are still 3 case management positions to be filled. In the interim, other case managers have stepped up to complete essential work such as Service Plans.
- HCPF finally accepted the Corrective Action Plan that was generated as a result of their December review. There are multiple tasks to be completed, each with a defined deadline and a defined set of submissions. Work is underway to ensure that tasks due for completion in April and May are completed in a timely manner.
- Following the resignation of lead investigator Leah Burritt, a decision was made to implement a new model for conducting investigations. Instead of employing a full-time investigator, a number of staff are serving as investigators-on-call on 24 hour rotating shifts. While there is still need for 24 hour access to an investigator, the need for a single dedicated position has decreased now that law enforcement and/or APS take immediate responsibility for investigating serious incidents. We will evaluate how this model is working after it has been in place for several months.

### **Accounting Services ...**

#### ***Submitted by: Chris Bergquist***

- Starting initial stages of creating FY 18 budget.
- Still working through issues with interchange which is the new payment system. Payments have been very hit and miss.
- Will shortly start preparing for the annual audit.

### **Nursing**

#### ***Submitted by: Cheri McLaughlin***

- Kim Noblitt RN retired from Nurse Case Management Department. She worked for Strive for 7 years. Laura Ballard RN was hired to replace Kim. Laura comes to us from Hope West in Montrose.
- Cheri McLaughlin RN announced will be 'retiring' from managing the Strive Nursing Department. She has worked for Strive for 29 years. Management is currently interviewing applicants to replace her. Cheri will continue to coordinate the Mind Springs/Strive Psychiatric Clinic two afternoons/week.
- Working with HR Department to streamline process of getting new employees TB tested prior to starting their CORE training so they can be ready to go to work when they complete CORE classes.
- Mentoring CMU student nurses as they attend Mind Springs/Strive Psych Clinic as a part of their Mental Health rotation. These Nursing students are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

- Prepared and distributed new First Aid kits to all Group Homes/Voc sites.
- Completed required 2017 Flu Vaccination program for all employees working in DOH licensed facilities.



*April 26 – Joe Warner*  
*April 29 – Stephanie Keller*