



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



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

#### **Vocational/Residential**

***Submitted By: Valita Speedie***

#### **OT Update**

- Due to the process of emptying our storage area at 1260, OT was able to make multiple donations of old medical/therapy equipment to Project Cure.
- In addition, therapy equipment not needed by EI and extra OT wedge pieces along with an old wheelchair (with random extra parts!) were donated to the school district.
- Three individuals received new wheelchairs.
- OT developed systems for wheelchair deep cleanings and falls alarm monitoring.
- OT is in the process of obtaining a new specialized bathtub for 1444 for which we received a discount of over \$1,000.00.

#### **Botanical Gardens**

- The Botanical Gardens is up and ready for this seasons Garden Groove Concerts with a new stage and fresh Spring grass! The area around the stage is in the beginning stages of its makeover courtesy of Dragonfly Gardens Company.
- The Gardens is pleased to have a Memorial tree planted in our front lawn in Memory of Hallie Elizabeth Webber.

**Mobile Crew** - has had quite the kick off of the season completing 69 community customer properties for the month of May, this does not include the Strive properties that they maintain on a weekly basis. They continue to take on new customer's while meeting the satisfaction of their current customers. **Great job Mobile Crew!!!**

**Grounds Crew** - has done an amazing job with collecting trash debris from their community customers and started assisting the Mobile Crew with weed pulling at some of their locations. **Thanks for all the hard work and extra effort you have done!!!**

Another busy fun month for all!! **Labor Solutions** - currently has plenty of paper to shred; they are working on obtaining new contracts to further expand their shredding business.

- Labor Solutions has hired a new employee; he is excited to be part of the team but mostly enjoys his paycheck.
- Two Labor Solutions employees were selected to do a presentation in front of the Board of Directors. With several days of practice the represented Labor Solutions and what we do here very well. Labor Solutions rewarded their hard work with a movie day. They all went to the Picture Show to see Guardian of the Galaxy 2.

**Wellness and Active Wellness** - are now fully staffed. Individual therapies continue in Active and Wellness.

- Active Wellness had the highest percentage of therapies completed throughout the whole agency. Way to go! This group also went on their first fishing trip of the season, more to continue.
- We celebrated May birthdays with a BBQ. The courtyard was cleaned up and the garden was planted. We all enjoyed playing in the dirt and looking forward to watching our vegetables and flowers grow. The month was finished off with our own version of American Ninja Warrior. OT department assisted us in making a Ninja warrior course that all of 508 participated.

### **Behavioral**

- Exciting things are happening in the Behavior Department in the month of May. We would like to welcome a new addition to the behavior department: Anna King. We look forward to having Anna be a part of our great team. As the behavior continues to grow, we continue our focus on providing better supports for the people we serve. We are continuing to look at improving our approach and recommendations for staff and people in services here at Strive. We look forward to receiving any feedback staff might have and look forward to continuing to grow and prosper.

### **Host Homes**

- It has been a busy month for the Host Home Department! We continue to grow as we work actively with our Host Homes to assure that the people we serve have opportunities to experience all of the benefits that further community integration has to offer.
- June is contract renewal month at Strive, we have been preparing for this yearly event by meeting and collaborating with our providers around a number of topics in an effort to make processes more streamlined.
- We anticipate continued refinement and growth as a department.

### **Residential**

- The JUCO picnic was a great time for everyone. The group homes attended with many of the individuals and had as much fun as they did. There was food, karaoke, games, and dance offs. The players participated and signed many autographs- **a night to remember**. Many participated in attending the games as well. JUCO is something we look forward to every year. **Thanks to Doug** for making this happen and providing tickets as needed! **Thanks to staff** for getting our folks to events like this and making

memories with those we support. Now, with JUCO over, many homes are planning back yard parties and participating in special Olympic activities. This time of year gives lots of opportunities to get out of the homes and into the beautiful places we all call home. There are plans for fishing and day trips.

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

***Submitted By: Doug Sorter***

#### **Maintenance:**

- Completed the first phase of the construction at 3301 and received the certificate of occupancy.
- Second phase will start when first phase is occupied.
- Will have bids for the improvements at 385 Evergreen by the end of the week and will start the process of addressing the concerns at that location once bids are reviewed.
- Chiller at the 950 building has been working for the time being, we have put a process in place to limp it along where we clean and check the filters installed on the pumps to keep them from destroying then from the rusted out contents of the ageing pipes.
- With the cooperation of the intake team, mobile crew and the maintenance department we have been able to handle most all of the moves that have been needed internally saving the cost of using outside moving agencies.

**Hats off!**

#### **PR/Marketing**

- Have had several opportunities to present to groups in the community. Kiwanis Club, Downtown Rotary and Grand Junction Lions Club. Have also set dates to speak with several others.
- The different publication and media stories have produced quite a bit of interest from all around the western slope. A man from Breckenridge read the article in the *Sentinel* while getting his oil changed and called to offer financial support for a project, a man and wife who just move to Grand Junction from California saw the KREX TV news interviews and wanted to donate to our autism diagnostic clinic.

#### **Foundation Board:**

- We have developed the first round of bylaws for the new board and Larry Beckner, the attorney who sits on the board, is reviewing them.
- We have added a couple of new members and lost one to a conflict of interest. Marsha Harbert has resigned from the board but has been a true Champion for the cause, Jenna Noem and Ashlie Zimmerman have signed up for a three year term. We are excited to have such wonderful young professionals have the desire to become STRiVE's newest Champions!!!
- The Foundation's signature event Tulips and Juleps Derby event was a success again this year. We were able to raise over \$30,000 dollars that will

go to support our children's programs at STRiVE. With what I heard after this year's event you better hang onto your hats, next year will be amazing!!!

### **Up Coming Events:**

- Our Garden Groove Concert series is in full swing. Stray Grass kicked it off on May 27<sup>th</sup> with a great night of musical fun.
- Next will be the Company, winner of the 2017 battle of the bands July 22<sup>nd</sup>, hang on to your seats they are rockers...
- Followed by the Eagles Tribute Band "The Boys of Summer" July 28<sup>th</sup>, a Friday night boost of energy...
- The last one of the season is our old friend Ralph Dinosaur, this one is also free to STRiVE staff and family members as a way to say thank you for all your hard work. This one is August 26<sup>th</sup> and should be a show stopper if I know Ralph and I do.

### **Human Resources...**

#### ***Submitted by Andrea Podgorny***

- Strive has had a few changes in HR lately. Misty Aaberg is our new Training Coordinator and comes to us with 15 years of training experience. With her experience and enthusiasm, we are already seeing some great changes in CORE (new employee orientation).
- We've also added an HR/Payroll Coordinator to assist with our conversion to ADP, Destiny Austin. She comes to us with ADP experience and has been instrumental in assisting us in implementing ADP. We are excited to be moving to ADP for not only payroll, but also their recruitment and background check programs.

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

#### ***Submitted by Joan Levy***

- Tracy Brown, who started in April as a case manager, has been promoted into the position of Lead Investigator/Case Manager. Tracy previously worked Mesa Co. Dept of Human Services in Child Protection. In her short tenure at MDS, she has been a real go-getter and a true asset. We look forward to working with her in her new role.
- Two new case managers joined the department on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Michaela Rawley is a new grad who spent the final year of her college career completing an internship as an educational specialist in a housing project for refugees in Denver. Kyle Numbers has had a variety of experiences in his career and recently completed his Master's degree at Fort Hayes State University in Kansas. Lynn Simpson, who worked for Strive/MDS for many years prior to joining ABLE last summer, has returned to case management in a part-time temporary capacity until we are able to hire and train a full-contingent of case managers.
- MDS hosted the quarterly CES (Children's Extensive Support) coordinators meeting in May. Even though the meeting and associated training occurred on one of those snowy May days, it was well-attended. In addition to 4 MDS attendees, the meeting drew participants from Community Options

(Montrose), Mountain Valley (Glenwood) and Community Connections (Durango).

- The case management department has been busily working on the Corrective Action Plan from the performance review conducted by HCPF in December while also responding to multiple new requests from HCPF for information including completing National Core Indicator Surveys and completing remediation for the 2015-2016 Quality Improvement Strategy program. The state is "imposing" an increasingly heavy administrative burden and virtually all of this work is unbillable, so staff completing it are not generating targeted case management revenue.

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

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

- Working on final draft of budget
- Preparing for 403b and financial audit
- Preparing to start using ADP for payroll starting 6/26

### **Program Development**

#### ***Submitted by: Sarah Sharp***

##### **Crisis Pilot Program**

- Crisis continues to have a steady stream of guests at the home and regular calls to the MindSprings crisis unit. Currently we have two individuals staying at our home, and two that recently transitioned back to their primary residential setting. Additionally, we have one person that we are doing regular planned respite with our program to assure they maintain stability.
- We have continued to take START Coordinating and Resource center training. We are officially completely following the START Resource Center schedule, all forms and assessments. We are now in our final stage of implementation and will have the a site visit this summer to observe our ability to implement the START program. We are extremely happy with the success of the program thus far.

### **SLS**

- As you are aware Supported Living Services, SLS, has been restructuring the program in the last few months. We are moving forward with a July 1 start date for full day services, less transportation throughout the day and not doing the services that are provided in individual settings. We have had a really active team of staff working to assist with this transition. We are meeting weekly to divvy up the large task of completely restructuring the program. Valita Speedie, Mercedes Castro, Tina Neil, Anna King and myself have been working hard to make sure that we address all changes needed and that we build a successful program. Thank you to our wonderful team! They have been working very hard! After July 1, Valita will have the SLS day programming under her, due to it being structured as a day/vocational program. Anna King will be working solely in behavior department. Tina Neil will be supervising the SLS day program with Mercedes Castro. As a group we feel confident the changes will be a great change to the department.

## **EI**

- With the departure of Sarah Johnson, Nancy Ketchum was named a lead to support with some administrative activities and being a community liaison.
- Sarah Jackson-Bonnell attended the Statewide EI Conference in mid-May.
- We hired a new service coordinator to meet the continued demand, our new service coordinator is our intern that we had for a year. Welcome to the team Francesca Scott.
- The state will be in Grand Junction in a few weeks to roll out their training on person centered planning and service coordination. We are looking forward to learning more about the process and learning what impacts this new model will have on our service delivery.
- Currently, our therapists are extremely maxed out with the numbers of children on their caseload. We are strategizing on how we can feasibly work to get the program's needs met with the number of therapists we have



*June 2 – Steve Ammentorp*  
*June 15 – Jeff Parker*