



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



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

#### **Vocational/Residential**

***Submitted by: Valita Speedie***

#### **VOCATIONAL**

- Creative Creations has been busy with packaging and preparing items for two upcoming events. They have worked hard and inserted candy into 11,000 plastic Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt hosted at the botanical gardens. They have also started making the Kentucky derby hats that will be for sell at uniquely yours for Tulips and Julips
- Woodshop has been busy making lots of various products! They have completed 5 corn hole board sets and have taken orders for our indoor furniture pieces. Custom made coffee tables, couch tables and end tables. Please contact Ed Madaris in the woodshop at 244-5541 to place your order!
- Botanical Gardens has begun preparations for the summer season, flowers are starting to bloom and color is starting to appear across the grounds! The Corpse plant has attracted visitors from around the valley as well as surrounding states.
- Preparation for Tulips and Julips has begun. 😊
- Meanwhile the Easter Egg hunt will be held on April 15th and we are looking forward to all of the fun!
- February marked the one year anniversary of the shooting death of Deputy Derek Geer, due to the connection the 508 building/program has with the tragedy we wanted to honor this great man and all he did to provide safety for our community. 508 staff and individuals from Wellness, Active Wellness and Labor Solutions made a trip to Mesa County Sheriff's office to present them with the giant handmade card and flowers. Pictures were taken and placed on the Mesa County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.
- Labor Solutions had the opportunity to meet a determined young entrepreneur with Down syndrome who had a desire to become a chef. Austin Underwood owns his own restaurant, selling hot dogs in his own traveling Dawgmobile. In the future, he will be looking to expand his franchise by opening up a Dawgmobile here in Grand Junction.
- Labor Solutions is also busy with stuffing thousands of Eater eggs with small toys and stickers for the Botanical Gardens Easter Egg Hunt.

- Wellness and Active Wellness keep busy doing their therapies and fun activities like stain glass painting, stencil art and preparing to plant our garden. We had a "pasta bar" to celebrate our February birthdays.

### **RESIDENTIAL**

- The greatest thing that can be said in reference to residential is the incredible team work it has taken to cover all of our shifts and provide a safe environment for the individuals who live with Strive. Many many thanks are extended to all staff (from all departments) who chipped in with their time and energy to ensure coverage. Strive continues to run CORE trainings, back to back, in an attempt to mitigate the staffing shortage.

### **BEHAVIORAL**

- Dr. Nzeke is providing great guidance to our behavior department. In addition to all of her other responsibilities she takes the time to orient herself to our agency and understand on a very personal level the individuals we provide services to.

### **HOST HOMES**

- Interest in providing host home services continues to grow as does interest on the part of many of our individuals to live with another family. Although challenges exist, matching the right families with the right individuals based on interests, goals and desires is working well and we are very excited as this program expands and additional supports are given to those members of our community willing to open their hearts, homes and lives for others.

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

***Submitted By: Doug Sorter***

#### **Maintenance**

- Starting a new small crew consisting of a staff person and two people we support to do some of the day to day activities like painting, moving and cleaning.
- Still working to reduce contractor costs where possible.

#### **PR/ Marketing**

- Marketing person resigned and we are moving in a new direction.
- Have a graphics artist now working when needed.
- New web site ready to launch which will help marketing.
- Divided up the face book pages to managers at each location.

#### **Development**

- Planned presentations to both the City Council and County Commissioners in March and April.
- Looking at possible new businesses.

#### **Foundation**

- Event Tulips and Juleps is moving forward with additional new sponsors.
- Working on by laws and other needed documents.

### **Purchasing**

- Continue to work on reducing expenses at each location and program.

### **Events**

- Upcoming March 30<sup>th</sup> Luncheon
- April 15<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg Hunt
- May 6<sup>th</sup> Tulips and Juleps

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

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

- The state is adopting a new system for submission of Prior Authorization Requests (the means by which we identify the type and amount of each service provided to an individual and the document against which we bill). The system, called the Bridge, was supposed to be operational on March 1<sup>st</sup> but did not come online until March 13<sup>th</sup>. Our initial observation is that it is far more cumbersome and less user-friendly than the previous system. It will also require considerable data entry that is duplicative with other state information management systems. We are evaluating the impact of this "improved technology" on the case management department.
- The case management department welcomes Tracy Brown, Michelle Lincoln and Hannah Greshow as new case managers. Tracy and Michelle (Shelly) started on March 6, Hannah will start on March 19. Even as we greet these new case managers, two more have submitted their resignations. Shalana Kelley will be moving to Texas as she gets married and joins her husband there. Tanya May will begin working full-time at West Springs Hospital. Recruiting and hiring for these positions will start immediately.
- The Corrective Action Plan for the HCPF Performance and Quality Review has been conditionally accepted. A few revisions need to be made and the plan will be resubmitted during the week of March 13. It is anticipated that the revised plan will be accepted without additional conditions. Then the hard work begins...completing all of the tasks outlined in the plan. This is anticipated to take at least 6 months.
- On 2/21, MDS assumed responsibility for investigation of abuse allegations for individuals residing in Regional Center group homes. The number of investigations so far has been few. All parties have been cooperative in working out the details and nuances of the new arrangement. MDS will assume responsibility for investigation of abuse allegations for the other providers sometime in the next few months. Leah Burritt, MDS lead investigator has resigned her position to become a host home provider, so we will also be reviewing and possibility modifying the structure under which investigations are completed.

### **Children Services...**

#### ***Submitted by: Sarah Johnson***

- A Shared Vision, a recently established statewide nonprofit focusing on Early Intervention vision services, made a three-day visit to the EI programs here and at Mountain Valley in Garfield County at the end of February. Twelve children with vision challenges in Strive's EI program were visited by Pediatric Vision Impairment Specialists along with the family's usual EI service provider. ASV expects to make visits to our part of the state quarterly, with telehealth co-visits in between. This fills a large gap on the Western Slope, as we do not have comparable home-based providers in our community.
- The Buell Foundation has contributed \$15,000 to our Incredible Years implementation again this year. The funding period is January 1 – December 31, 2017 and will complement the funding we also get for this program from Invest In Kids and Kiwanis Club of Grand Junction.
- Sarah Johnson has stepped down from her position as Director of Child and Family Programs and recruitment for her replacement is in process. Sarah will be taking on the new Regional Health Connector role at the Mesa County Health Department.

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

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

- Working through the new portal and fiscal agent to get paid. There is a State uproar with call center wait times in excess of 4 hours and very convoluted instructions on how to successfully get paid. This has led to higher receivables and inability to track payments. We are continuing to do all we can to get back on track with this.
- Microsoft no longer supports our financial software so we will be rewriting our reports in a new financial software very soon.
- Will be starting the budget process in the next couple weeks.

### **Nursing**

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

- Andrea Gilmer LPN moved in to the Nurse Case Management office. She is working primarily as the Med Trainer Nurse, but will now be working with Case Management Nurses to learn that part of her job and assist with home visits.
- Laura Ballard RN has been hired to replace Kim Noblitt RN. She started working February 27<sup>th</sup> and will work 30 hours/week handling a caseload. Laura comes with great experience, her last position was with Hope West in Montrose.
- Several Nurses attended an NADD Webinar on 2/8/17. It was titled "Use of Psychotropic medications in the IDD Field."
- Nursing Job Descriptions revised and updated.

