



What's Happening at Strive May 2017



Departmental Updates:

Vocational/Residential

Submitted By: Valita Speedie

Vocational

- **Wood shop** has been more than busy with multiple projects. For the month of April they have made 9 cornhole sets, 6 Adirondack chair and ottoman sets and 15 pedestals for Tulips and Julips displays. They continue to receive orders and are currently starting to build another 5 sets of cornhole boards for Timberline bank.
- **Creative Creations** and Recycling crew have teamed up with a community based program they are calling "STRIVE Rocks the Valley". The two programs are learning color pallet and brush techniques while painting rocks with scenes and characters. They then walk trails and sections of the river front trail and place these rocks where passer- byers see them to collect or leave for the next person. While the individuals learn skills to improve their job performance they also give a smile back to our community!
- **Botanical Gardens** is happy to announce that, thanks to Nancy Hugenberg of Orchard Mesa Veterinary Clinic, we will be offering adult tricycles to assist those with difficulty walking. This will allow them to enjoy and explore the gardens at their own pace! These will be available at the Gardens Gift shop soon!
 - The Botanical crews have been busy grooming the gardens in preparation for Tulips and Juleps and our highly anticipated summer concert series.
- **Sweet Beginnings** has their Facebook page up and going. They are also making "Laundry Pods" which are individually portioned laundry soap that are all natural and hypoallergenic.
 - **Sweet Beginnings** has also been gearing up for mother's day and have been working on a line of sugar free, gluten free treats.
- **Milestones** has been creating baskets made of rolled newspapers which are very cute and can be used to display soaps, guest towels or other dry ingredients.
- **Retirement** is gearing up for the warm weather, getting fishing equipment in working order, planning picnics and suggesting ideas for how to enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer.

- **Labor Solutions** continues to look for more shredding contracts. This program is currently molding and making baskets and bowls out of the shredded paper. Utilizing an abundant donation of pinecones, they are exploring pinecone art. You are invited to come see our pinecone flowers, wreaths and other fun items!
- **Wellness and Active Wellness** continue to focus on individual therapies and enhancing the lives of people we serve. We celebrated our monthly birthdays with a Mexican fiesta potluck. With the warmer weather the outings to the park have started. The planters in the courtyard are now ready to be planted. All three Fruitvale programs will participate in planting flowers, tomatoes, peppers, onions and some herbs. We are all looking forward to spending warm days outback under the pergola.

Behavioral

- The month of April has been full of changes and a busy month for the Behavior Department. The Behavior Department has a new Intern/Counselor who will be providing relationship counseling and a relationship group.
- Dr. Nzeke is back from her vacation. We are happy to have her back.
- The Behavior Department is currently working on restructuring and reorganizing current procedures. We are looking at more effective ways to accomplish our goal of providing service to individuals in Strive services.

Host Homes

Host Homes continue to grow as people receiving Strive services identify that they would like a more independent living situation with individualized services and supports. In the month of April, 3 people moved from group home setting into host homes and are doing great! We continue to have numerous applicants each month that are interested in becoming HHP's and continue our rigorous screening process to find the best Host Home Providers for the people that are looking for host homes.

Residential

- One of the individuals who lives in an apartment is selecting a "group home of the month" to bring goodies to and interview for her newsletter. She has started writing about the homes and the individuals living in them. If you look past spelling and grammar, you see a beautiful spirit and open heart. Following is an excerpt of her newsletter in her words:
 "May 3, 2017 - I went to 680 cattail to night they was doing make pizza for dinner I take a big cupcake look like a dog I try to do fun thing the and it is hard for them they do have other people help them they keep good keep it safe they for them and they have cool people to help them out do they best they when they have time they take them out the staff I was talk to corie try tell she do best they can they keep the house clean very nice place it. I tell all the staff the did good keep up the good work tell them have good day. They was happy bring that cupcake in that was cute. I have do that for house let good job for the staff hope have a week this is end this storty".

- CPI classes are being offered at a variety of times and days to get all staff current on the training.
- Everyone is looking forward to the JUCO picnic and games.

Public Relations & Development...

Submitted By: Doug Sorter

Maintenance

- Will be adding a position to help with small repairs, painting and moves. Person will supervise two individuals in service so they can learn the skills necessary to find community based employment.
- The remodel is taking place at 3301 and seems to be moving along well, adjustments have been made to the plans to accommodate needs on east side of home.
- We have to address the cooling system at 950 Grand Avenue which could be in the neighborhood of \$170,000.00 dollars.

PR/Marketing

- I have never been so proud of another person than I was of Thomas Love. His interview with Erin from the *Daily Sentinel* was first class. The front page news article was perfect in every way, from the words of kindness Thomas shared about STRiVE to the knowledge Erin had of what we are trying to do to support the individuals at STRiVE in our unique way.
- I have never had so many interviews, TV, radio, news print it has been outstanding. Our community is finally getting the full berth of what we do and why. **IT'S GREAT!** This is not by my doing this is because we have acquired Chris Mathews from KREX TV to be on our Foundation board. He has been instrumental in getting us in the view of the public.

Events

- We had a very successful event May 6th, our Tulips and Juleps Derby Party. 298 people attended and we had a positive outcome fanatically netting over \$30,000 dollars.
- Our STRiVE JUCO Picnic is coming up Wednesday May 25th from 6:00 to 8:00pm and is always a well-attended event.
- First concert of the year Saturday May 27th STRAY GRASS is in the house!!!!
- STRiVing For Success luncheon is Wednesday May 31st at 12:00, come learn what we do at STRiVE, you will not be disappointed.

Development

- We have got presence in the community currently, they want our products from the Wood Shop, art from Uniquely Yours and memberships for the Botanical Gardens are moving forward.
- Products made by Sweet Success and Sweet Beginnings are being sold all over town. The museum wants to contract with us on some small toys to be made and other gift shops want our stuff!!!

- Talked with the businesses whom have recently left, Toy Guy and the Fruita place, we might be able to carry their products at Uniquely Yours.

Case Management...

Submitted by Joan Levy

- Katrina Glover has been promoted to Lead Case Manager. In addition to maintaining a caseload, Katrina will assist with training new case managers, serve as the Case Management liaison to the Therapeutic (Crisis) Home, serve as the lead SIS evaluator and assist with state-mandated reporting and requests for information.
- There is continued progress toward transferring the portions of the DD determination process to DHS/Hilltop. A job description has been developed and should be finalized within a week. The target date for hiring the position is around July 1st.
- The Case Management department continues to be understaffed by several positions. The newly hired case managers are catching on fast and more tenured case managers (and supervisors) have stepped up to take on extra work to ensure that we are providing the best customer service possible. It has definitely been a team effort.
- The Dept. of Health Care Policy and Financing continues to visit bi-monthly to provide technical assistance. This effort seems to be largely focused on MDS and Colorado Blue Sky, the other CCB that provides case management services to Regional Center group homes. The main topic of the most recent visits has been a review/critique of documentation entered into the Benefit Utilization System (BUS), the state data system where case managers record their billable activities (amongst other things). HCPF has also been willing to provide training/TA in any area that we request. Currently we are getting additional technical assistance with procedure for enrollment and case transfers.
- We continue to meet our benchmarks for completing actions and making submissions relative to HCPF Performance and Quality Review that occurred in December. All new processes, policies and submissions made to date have been approved, but there are still much to be done.

Accounting Services ...

Submitted by: Chris Bergquist

- Finishing up 1st pass of budget
- Starting implementation calls with ADP this week for payroll
- Starting initial prep work for audit

Program Development

Submitted by: Sarah Sharp

Crisis Project

- Crisis has had a busy month. We had an individual stay at the duplex for a week and a half. He has returned home. Currently, we have two individuals that are staying at 181. They are following the START program; the START program is a program in the Eastern side of the United States that uses a

strength perspective to help people who have developmental disabilities and mental illness stabilize and remain stable. It's appearing to be very successful. We have continued to take START Coordinating and Resource center training. We are officially completely following the START Resource Center schedule. This appears to be successful in our homes.

- We had two new employees pass CORE.
- We have hired another employee who will go through CORE in May.

Supported Living Services (SLS)

- Supported Living Services made some progress in restructuring the program in the last few months. With our restructuring we are moving towards full day services, less transportation throughout the day and not doing the services that are provided in individual settings. We are working to move all homemaker and personal care services to an independent contractor; Home Helpers. To maintain choice for our families and people we serve we are working on recruiting at least one more independent contractor to provide these services. As a department, we have identified that the independent services are extremely hard to do without losing money which is why we prioritized removing this from our staff responsibilities first. The transition of the home health agencies taking over some responsibilities has been occurring for the last month. Currently there are about four people left to be transitioned, with the exception of our more medically involved people we serve. We are hoping that our next home health agency we contract with, will have more capability to support medical needs. Our next transition is by July 1, 2017 we will be moving to full day programming and not having any transportation occur except in the morning and end of day. All of these changes should support the SLS services becoming more financially sustainable and allow for larger classroom sizes (less transportation demands allow for larger groups).

Early Intervention (EI)

- Sarah Johnson has left our agency to work at the Mesa County Health Department. She will be sorely missed. We have decided to not refill her position, instead we will be hiring another service coordinator to increase supports for families. One service coordinator will be named a lead to support with some administrative activities and being a community liaison.
- We have the Statewide EI Conference in mid-May and will learn about the upcoming policy changes and state initiatives.
- The state is rolling out a new process for our person centered planning and service coordination. Strive will be hosting a two day training in May and another day-long training in August to learn about the model and roll out the implementation.



May 29 – Jeff Kuhr