

# OCTOBER

## What's Happening at Strive October 2017



### **Departmental Updates:**

#### **Vocational/Residential**

**Submitted By: Valita Speedie**

#### **Botanical Gardens:**

- Fall colors are beginning to reveal at the Gardens. Enjoy color Sunday without the drive!
- **ALERT** -- We have a new addition to the rainforest! A baby Russian tortoise has been donated by one of our generous visitors. He is fitting in quite well and has quite the personality... for a tortoise...he has not been named yet so suggestions are welcome ☺
- One of the individuals in service at the Botanical Gardens has obtained her dream job in the community, Hobby Lobby!! Congratulations to her!
- *Rollin on the River* is right around the corner and the Gardens are gearing up for another fun and successful year! Sure hope to see everyone there!
- Botanical Gardens will be a vendor in the 2017 Bridal Expo at the Two Rivers Convention center this October!
- The Botanical Gardens would like to formally welcome Brenda Hahn, Nancy Franco and Emilie Climer to the team!

Cathy Densberger, DSP  
Autumn Fisher, DSP  
Jordan Jasien, DSP  
Tanya Robinson, SSS  
Chastity Stulz, DSP-Floater  
Tyler Wilkinson, Host Home  
Mike Williams, Family CG

#### **Mobile Crew:**

- The mobile crews are remaining busy and, with fall arriving, their business is increasing! Leaves are falling and people are calling. If you would like to have the crews come out and take care of fall lawn needs please call 244-5540.

#### **Creative Creations:**

- This program is living up to its name and is getting autumnally creative! They have a collection of Halloween products now for sale at Uniquely Yours, please come check out what all of our amazing programs are making and creating!

#### **SLS Healthy Body Healthy Mind:**

- This program has now begun dehydrating vegetables! They continue to dehydrate many different fruits and are really excited about learning new healthy recipes. With the guidance of Richard Parker, Ray Chesney, and Kathy Terrazas-Riddle, the individuals are learning to make healthier life choices.

### ***SLS Creative Living:***

- The focus last month was on making healthier dessert choices. With the guidance of Shirley Foster, the individuals have made several sugar-free and gluten-free dessert menu items and the individuals in that program are continuing to make personalized recipe books featuring their individual favorites.

### ***SLS Coffee Klatch:***

- With the guidance of Kathie McClure and Duane Thomas, SLS's Coffee Klatch focused on musical instruments around the world and has made personalized maracas and explored other projects of handmade instruments.

### ***SLS Performing Arts:***

- This program has been practicing for their upcoming play, a modified Little Red Riding Hood with song. With the guidance of Kiana Ham, the individuals have been working on their lines for their chosen role, practicing their songs and making props for the set design and costumes.

### ***Sweet Success:***

- At Sweet Success we have had a busy month, and everyone is loving it!! This program has made entrees, such as , Lasagna, sliders, green chili chicken enchiladas, chicken pot pies along with homemade lemonade, not to mention the scads of cookies. We love hearing feedback about our products and using our creativity in making foods for you. We also have had a new team member Sandra Padilla join us and a great team member she is. We look forward to filling your orders and hearing your feedback to help us improve our products. Thank you all for your business and those of you that have not, we look forward to serving you!!

### ***Sweet Beginnings:***

- Sweet Beginnings keeps growing... We have many individuals working 2-4 days a week and two exceptionally busy days with 11 in attendance.
- The Fall season is upon us, and with that the cold and flu season, so this program has begun production on "Congestion Clearing" melts to use in your shower or the old fashion way in a bowl of hot water where you breath the vapors in by holding your head under a towel. These melts are made with menthol and this staff thinks they are great!
- More news from Sweet Beginnings is that one of our employees was interviewed for the newspaper. We will be waiting to read about her.
- There is also another order from Catherine Cellars for more of our soaps, this is the third order we have received from them!
- Many of our products are now sold at Uniquely yours, we also sell at 2404 Teller. Come by and see what we are making. You are always welcome.

***Milestones:***

- At Milestones we continue to enjoy ourselves with outings to the park. Everyone enjoyed our trip to the Mesa where we had lunch. We have been busy with arts and crafts, dancing and stretching.

***Retirement:***

- At Retirement, or as we like to call us the "Golden Years", has been doing arts and crafts. We have made from recycled paper Christmas ornaments, and bowl of different shapes and sizes.
- We love to listen to music and put together puzzles or just color to relax.
- We have also been putting together two and three tiered glass stands, furthering our consciousness of helping the environment by recycling old plates and cups. Please feel free to drop by and see what we have been up to.

***Labor Solutions:***

- We got an exciting contract this month with Loki to package and label 700 hats for them and the individuals are loving the change of pace this brings.

***Wellness:***

- We have started working on a low sensory area in the therapy room. So far, it has been a hit with softer lighting and things to look at while in therapies.

***Active Wellness***

- We have 2 new staff members who are starting to get the hang of all we do. The individuals are benefitting from the musical ability of one of them, and the creativity of the other.

***Residential:***

- The 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party for one of the individuals we serve was a roaring success with gifts, guests and plenty of treats. An exceptionally good time was had by all who attended, especially the birthday girl!

***Host Homes:***

- The Host Home department has hired Ericka Terry, a current Strive employee, as the Host Home Monitoring Specialist. Strive is very excited to welcome her into this new position and continue to grow the Host Home Program.
- In September, one person met their goal of moving into a Host Home. His plans are to expand his independent living skills to work towards living on his own after finishing high school and getting a job.
- The Host Home team is excited to share that within October there are already two people planned for moving into host homes.

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

**Submitted By: Doug Sorter**

### **Maintenance:**

- We have made the transition from an in house maintenance department to an outside property management group. Bray property management is now our maintenance department. This took place September 29<sup>th</sup> 2017. We look forward to having a higher degree of expertise and a full 24/7/365 coverage of maintenance issues moving forward.

### **Events:**

- ***Rollin on the River*** 3K is in full swing. Sixteen different children activities such as face painter, balloon bender, pumpkin painting, art crafts, games, lunch and music. Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 1:00pm registration on line children under 12 are free. ***Be there or be square!***

### **PR/Marketing:**

- We have had several news interviews from a couple of people. Sarah Bonnell was on KREX for the Autism conference.
- KREX has been running ads both for the *Rollin on the River* event with Dixie Burmeister, the foundation board and a short STRiVE PSA.
- We have been lucky enough to have wonderful radio coverage with a full hour show about STRiVE on KNZZ Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Lots of interviews on the vault, Magic, KSTR and Moose all addressing our services and events.
- My radio show "Connect the Dots" at KAFM is promoting the *Rollin on the River* event this Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.
- I have completed several presentations to service groups in town and have a few more lined up.
- The last STRiVing for Success on Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> was very successful and had the most attendees this year. The board room was busting at the seams.

### **Foundation Board:**

- We have produced a new PSA for the foundation board which will start running later this month with Robert Bray as the spokesperson.
- Our new efforts directed at a capital campaign are starting to take shape and we should be able to launch it in later November. More to come on this subject as it develops.

### **New Projects:**

- We are working on several new committees that will help improve some of the pieces missing currently.
- The ERC or employee recognition committee has added members and is looking at new ways to show our employees that we value them.
- The safety committee is currently under reconstruction and is going to involve a few experts from outside the agency, police, insurance, risk

- management, construction and a strong group of internal staff members. This will be a good way to improve and enhance STRiVE's safety picture.
- Lastly is a wellness committee that materialized from conversations in the ERC and a desire to make wellness a priority to help educate and improve the health of our staff and individuals we support.

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

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

- The ADRC (MCDHS) is doing an excellent job managing the DD determination request process. In September, they received 11 requests for determination. We continue to receive some requests directly but are predominantly referring requesting parties back to MCDHS. MCDHS set up a shared spreadsheet in Google that tracks all applicants and the status of the application. MCDHS and MDS can both review and enter data on this spreadsheet.
- We have received two requests to educate community groups about DD determination and access to services. We will be meeting with the Central High School special ed staff on 10/17 and with the Family Health West staff on a to-be-arranged Wednesday in October or November.
- Joe O'Connor, who has served as a case manager for many years, will be leaving the case management department in October. He will be continuing his Strive career in the vocational department. Joe has been a tireless advocate for the individuals on his caseload and has demonstrated unquestionable commitment to Strive/MDS over the years. We are glad that he continues to find new ways to use his talents and serve the individuals. Two new case managers will be hired, one to replace Joe and a new case manager to accommodate the significant number of new enrollments.
- We are making progress in translating key case management documents into Spanish. Daisy Garcia, our newest case manager and translator par excellence, started with the Request for Developmental Disability Determination as the English-only forms were creating a barrier to access for Spanish-speaking families. We are excited about the fact that those barriers are crashing down!
- There are changes afoot for individuals under the age of 21 who have been receiving behavioral supports through any of the waiver programs (DD, CES and SLS). Over the next few months, individuals will be required to get those services from a Medicaid provider instead of through the waivers. This is problematic in Mesa County because only one or two organizations/individuals are qualified to provide this service through Medicaid and they are reluctant to expand their Medicaid ranks because of billing issues with the state. This could cause considerable problems with access for young people who really need these supports. A lot of effort at all levels is going toward resolving issues in order to avoid an access crisis.

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

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

- Working on conversion of financial software from FrX to Management Reporter since FrX is no longer supported by Microsoft.
- Have spent considerable time working with Case Management to seek resolution on unpaid claims.
- Audit came back with a clean opinion.

### **Human Resources**

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

- We have a new CORE starting Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- CORE is being moved back to 950 Main from 508 Fruitvale.
- Strive attended the Workforce Center Job Fair on October 5<sup>th</sup> and had the best turnout to date.

### **Behavior**

#### ***Submitted by: Christina Cruz***

- This month the behavior department is working on teaching about what the difference is between delusions and hallucinations.
  - **Delusions** are a symptom of some mental disorder, such as schizophrenia, delusional disorder, schizoaffective disorder, and schizophreniform disorder. **Hallucinations**, on the other hand, tend to only appear in people with schizophrenia or a psychotic disorder.
  - **Delusions** are false or erroneous beliefs that usually involve a misinterpretation of perceptions or experiences. Their content may include a variety of themes (e.g., persecutory, referential, somatic, religious, or grandiose).
  - **Hallucinations** may occur in any sensory modality (e.g., auditory, visual, olfactory, gustatory, and tactile), but auditory hallucinations are by far the most common. Auditory hallucinations are usually experienced as voices, whether familiar or unfamiliar, that are perceived as distinct from the person's own thoughts.
- If you have questions regarding the difference between a delusion and a hallucination please watch the movie: Beautiful Mind. This movie is a great reflection of how John Nash (real person) struggled with mental illness.

### **Early Intervention...**

#### ***Submitted by: Nancy Ketchum***

I hear from many people, even within our own agency that say they do not know what Early Intervention is or who we serve so...

- Early Intervention (EI) is a program that serves children birth to 3 years of age who have or are at risk for a developmental delay. These children qualify for our program in one of three ways. They have been determined to have at least a 25% delay in one area of their development, they have been diagnosed with certain qualifying medical diagnosis, or they are living with a parent who is in STRIVE services. Once a child is determined eligible for EI

we have direct service providers who go into the home environment to provide services, based on the needs of the child, and the priorities of the family. Our program is parent driven and our goal is to work with the parent to develop strategies that benefit their child.

- Our team faces many challenges in working with the children we serve, but the benefits and rewards far outweigh these challenges. The dedication of the entire EI team and their willingness to go above and beyond can be observed every day in the work they do. I spoke with a parent just this week that thanked me for what we do and said her child has made great strides in her development, and she felt it was in part due to the services provided through EI. That child is now 8 years old.
- Feel free to stop by at our end of the building (West end of 950). We would be glad to meet you and answer any questions you may have.

### **THE EI TEAM**

Mary Johnson – Speech Language Pathologist  
January Johnson –Physical Therapist  
Meagan Duncan - SLP Assist.  
Mary Jo Cousens –Developmental Interventionist  
Amanda Pesta – Occupational Therapist (OT)  
Jessica Mulvey – Developmental Interventionist  
Cheryl Bodie – Occupational Therapist (OT)  
Isa Wright – Developmental Interventionist  
Jeanie Larsen –Service Coordinator  
Alma Johnson - Interpreter  
Susan Havens – Service Coordinator  
Francesca Nelson – Service Coordinator  
Jennifer Cutts- Billing Specialist, Data Coordinator  
Nancy Ketchum - Supervisor

- At the end of September we received a revised Fiscal Year 18 contract with the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), Office of Early Childhood (OEC), Division of Community and Family Support (DCFS), Early Intervention (EI) Colorado program to cover over expenditures from the Fiscal Year 2017 contract which resulted in a notable decrease in our available funding. This decrease results in our program needing to dramatically shift how we are billing and what services we are going to be providing. The current funding that the state has allocated to our program will allow for our program to sustain with funding for the next 7-8 months. In November the CDHS EI department will be sending a request to the state to increase their budget. The State Early Intervention department is indicating their confidence in receiving a notable increase to the budget to allow for appropriate funding. They indicated that the program state-wide will need to shut down if the state does not increase funding. The State office noted they feel this is extremely unlikely. Locally, we are looking at alternative models of how to provide services at a significantly decreased cost and what we will do if we need to transition our children to clinic based services. What we have

found so far, that can be a possible solution are increasing clinic based services thus decreasing our services in the home, increasing connections with tele-health providers to support needs as they arise but not have staff allocated for the services until the need is present and utilizing a waitlist for services. It is our hope that this does not occur, and we will not have to make any dramatic changes to services. We will know more in the first part of December.

***Program Operations...***

***Submitted by: Sarah Bonnell***

***Crisis Pilot Project- START Program:***

- As we enter into our second year of the crisis pilot project, the program is transitioning from an immediate response and reactive program to a more systems based and sustainability focused program. In the first year of the program our team spent most of its time "putting out fires" going to 185 intensive crisis calls, supporting 40 people at the residential stabilization home, and constantly working to support in acute stabilization. The team was unable to really do much long-term planning due to the intensity of the demand in our community. As each month went on, however, we started to see the demand decrease and the high utilizers start to become more clear. In this upcoming year, we are now moving to having formal caseloads of the highest utilizers within our community. Each START coordinator will be taking approximately 15 people onto their caseload. These 15 people will meet with the individual and the clinical team at a minimum once a month, set action plans to meet the person's needs, assess, re-write behavior plans and increase services within the waiver and community. The proactive mindful planning approach we anticipate will decrease our crisis calls dramatically and will increase these individuals being more stable and able to live in more natural environments in the community. We are very excited about the new shift in our process and where we are going with it.





## WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU DO

ANNIVERSARIES	
<b>1</b>	Crystal Allen, Michael Barnhill, Connie Benson, Jessica Burkhard, Gregory Burrell, Alexis Castleberry, Frances Duke, Matthew Hiler, Skyler Johnson, Kimberly Lyon, Dani Medina, Beverly Mullen, Dani Medina, Beverly Mullen, Edelmira Serrano-Munoz, Kelsey Sloan, Dustin Tyndal
<b>2-4</b>	Anya Bates, Angie Eustice, Nancy Ketchum, Terrie Koch, Dan Lawrie, Lani Mackey, Daniel Smith, Tanya Workman, Abby Romero
<b>5</b>	Anna Johnson, Ed Madaris,
<b>6-9</b>	Jenn Bopp, Cynthia Ellis, Carol Gallagher, Marcia Jeppsen, Cassie Williams
<b>10</b>	Peggy Gordon
<b>19</b>	Kelly Lupo
<b>32</b>	Rebecca Grady
<b>38</b>	Sandy Cooper



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Amanda Wood	Cheri McLaughlin	Heather Yanez		Corrie Hudgens	Cathy Swiger	
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12`</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
			Desiree Darlington-Rivera			Stacie Dix
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Jimie Kosec, Jonna Heinz		Jenn Bopp, Peggy Mauer		Christina Cruz	Robert Dauk	Terrie Koch
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
heather Wicks	Amie LaChappelle, Peggy Gordon		Khristina Kukus, Ruby Roane	Alexus Castleberry		
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
Chris Bergquist	Nancy Ketchum					