What’s Happening at Strive
March 2019

Message from the President/CEO
Submitted by: Grant Jackson

It’s almost the end of March and Spring is finally here! Longer days, warmer temps and the robins are back flying around. This is a wonderful time of the year to be on the Western Slope of Colorado. It’s also a great time of the year to reclaim your personal wellness and set goals for yourself to stay positive and healthy. Get outside, breathe some fresh spring air and soak up that Vitamin D from the sun that’s been eluding you all winter!

You have all endured a substantial amount of change over the past two and a half months with a new building, a new neighborhood and a new Sharon! A little focus on yourselves is probably just what the doctor ordered and will help you achieve your personal and professional goals in the long run and will also have a positive effect on our agency and the individuals we support.

I’d like to offer up some positive observations from this newbie’s perspective. From the moment I started on January 7th it very quickly became apparent that this place was filled with passionate, caring, hardworking people that value inclusion and have an immense sense of humanity. I hear ideas on how to help make the individuals and families we all support live better and how to help supported individuals and colleagues alike reach their fullest potential on a daily basis. It’s absolutely incredible to see and hear the enthusiasm and excitement around solving real life problems that we, as humans, experience. There is a lot of thoughtful creativity happening throughout this agency. It is beyond inspiring!

I’ve truly enjoyed meeting those I have met over the past two months since I started. You have all been extremely welcoming and I am forever grateful. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months. The only thing I ask of you all is that you forgive me in advance if it takes me a while to remember everyone’s name. It is definitely a weakness of mine!

Do good work and be kind!

Grant

Departmental Updates:
Public Relations & Development…
Submitted By: Doug Sorter
Grants:
• We received grant funding from the Buell Foundation after several meetings with them and follow up on the building, children services and debt structure.
The City of Grand Junction was able to grant us funding from the Economic Impact Fund, which was perfect timing to secure other opportunities.

We are continuing to work with the Daniels fund and should know more around mid-March.

We have others in the pipeline and are in the process of gathering information on state funded grants.

Events:

- We are very close to the STRiVE event season to begin. First up is our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20th 11:00am to 12:00pm.
- Second up will be our Derby event on May 4th.

- We are currently wooing sponsors so if you have an interest please contact Doug.
- We have a wonderful line up for our Garden Groove Concert series again this year and may have a surprise concert in September!!!
- Check out our events page on our web site for more events or details at www.strivecolorado.org

Accounting...
Submitted by: Chris Bergquist

- Have determined next year’s medical premiums in preparation of open enrollment coming in March.
- Working on finishing closing the sale of 950 and buy of 790.

Host Homes...
Submitted by: Michelle Sharman

The Host Home Department continues to grow, with two people moving into our services from other services providers. At this time there are 3 people, from the Grand Junction Regional Center (GJRC), exploring host homes through Strive and an additional 3 people in our services that are currently exploring/moving into Strive host homes (2 people from PCA and 1 from a group home)!

We have had a lot of growth and continue to work hard on strengthening our structure and procedures to continue to be able to support and grow our program!

Vocational...
Submitted by: Jeff Green

Wellness & Active Wellness

Individuals and staff used the new Craft Room to make special Valentines to share and also attended the ART Center. Individuals chose movies and music about love and romance for Valentine’s Day as well. Colorado Canyons has started doing their hands on therapy training with staff, which is an exciting move forward for the health and wellness of individuals.
Uniquely Yours
The store is undergoing multiple changes to refresh and make updates. New products are also being made throughout different programs in Strive. Uniquely Yours individuals are currently working on picture frames, herb pots with seeds, handmade cards, and bird houses.

Woodshop - has been busy these past months with assisting with the move to STRiVE’s new location as well as creating a new design for the corn hole sets using a wash technique with stain and paint. This particular corn hole set is a special order for a silent auction for Naomi’s Hope Foundation. The organization raises money for Breast Cancer awareness and research.

With Spring fever in the air the shop also created a new design for an outdoor bench and completed a special order for a Magic Box. Please visit Uniquely Yours to place an order and check out the products our wood workers are creating! For special orders please contact Ed Madaris at 244-5541.

Creative Creations - remains creative as well as productive with an increased interest in individuals wanting to work while expressing their artistic abilities. The program has a few new artisans now working with the group. The group has been busy creating new wall art signs. With providing new techniques to the program and more completion by the artisans, the staff have made stencil and image transfer designs for the artisans to complete all the steps in the process, while still practicing and learning free hand techniques.

Grounds Crew - continues to grow with interest from individuals that want to work and do their part to help the environment. For the combined months of January and February the group recycled 89 pounds of #1 PET plastic bottles also known as soda bottles. FUN FACT about PET #1 plastic: it takes 19-20oz bottles to make a pound. One pound of PET #1 plastic yields enough fiber to make and adults X-Large t-shirt. If you take the amount of plastic Grounds Crew recycled and saved from the landfill you could make 89 T-shirts!
Mobile Crew - has been on their toes keeping up with the Grand Junction weather! One day they are removing lawn debris from the continuing falling trees limbs and then the next day they are removing snow from walkways and driveways! The team also assisted with moving items out of 950 and helping get the grounds ready for the open house of 790!

Early Intervention...
Submitted by: Nancy Ketchum
- Currently serving 183 children – 143 eligible, 38 at intake
- EI is working with Family Health West to better serve our families. Through a contract, they are training staff to provide services using the Early Intervention philosophy. They will be able to provide us with OT’s, PT’s and SLP’s who will go into the homes to work with families. We believe, with this partnership, we will greatly improve services and outcomes for the families we work with.

Sensory Playroom:
In the new building, we are fortunate to have a sensory playroom where we will be able to do EI intakes as well as do assessments of young children. Many of the activities in this room were created by an EI Team Member, Kailey Lewis. These creative and fun activities will be enjoyed by many children and we thank Kailey for her fantastic work! Come by and visit if you get a chance.

Success Story:
Mary, our SLP, shared that she asked a family about their breakfast routine. Mom shared that her son would ask for cereal so she would get him cereal, pour milk on it and get him his spoon. Mary suggested, as a strategy, to encourage him to use his words, mom should only give him what he asked for. Mom tried this only giving him the cereal that he requested. Right away, he also asked for milk and spoon. This has now become routine for him and he will always request these 3 things for breakfast.

MDS Resource Coordination...
Submitted by: Kayla Purdy
- Going into the month of January, the Case Management Department had received HCPF approval for 4 emergency enrollments by into the HCBS-DD Waiver, of which 3 individuals were successfully enrolled during the month and 1 individual declined.
- This month the Case Management Department wants to recognize Cassie Krafka for all of her hard work and dedication to the individuals she serves. Cassie continues to go above and beyond and is a great asset to our department. We will greatly miss her as she will be leaving MDS the end of this month. We wish her the best of luck with all of her future endeavors.
- We have a People First Learning Activity on March 18th from 5-6:30pm. We will talk about interviewing tips and tricks and how to dress for an interview. We also raised $130 through the Parenting Conference that took place in January.
- Follow-up and negations were completed on the 14 Level 7 requests submitted to HCPF in the months of November and December for individuals residing in STRiVE skilled group homes who require extensive services to manage their daily care; of those requests, 9 were approved for Level 7 and 5
were approved for Level 6. Additionally, HCPF approved the Level 7 daily rate for day habitation services for those same individuals approved for Level 7 as well as for individuals who were previously approved but only for residential habilitation services.

- In January, there were 7 SIS’s completed for the month. February we had 1 SIS completed. We continue to work on getting more individuals enrolled into services.
- 4 new enrollments occurred in the month of February - *Thanks to the hard work of our intake team!*

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<th>NAME</th>
<th>WAIVER</th>
<th>NEW ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>TRANSFER</th>
<th>CHANGE IN SERVICE</th>
<th>SERVICES REQUESTED</th>
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**ANGELA’S CORNER**

**EASTER FUN TIME**
The Easter Bunny is coming. Should tell Easter bunny what you want in the Easter basket. Here are ideas:
- Get hats and other stuff.
- Shoes for kids or little shopping carts or little strollers and put stuff in it.

Send ideas with the staff. Let staff know if I can help you with your baskets.
This is a story about a girl.

WORK ON YOUR COPING SKILLS

• Listen to MP3 or CD.
• Write stuff down.
• Talk to people like if you need help.
• Make cards.

• Play game.
• Do a home workbook.
• Play with staff.
• Help people out.
• Have good day.
• Then, ask for help. Won’t get down.

BE FUN AT THE PROM ON 4-20-19.
Check in 6:30PM at Double Tree Hotel. Then, dance is 7PM to 10PM. Got signs for them, or ask for help if you need.

Then the other part of the story is:

Your Grandma and Grandpa are coming down.
We are going to have fun.
She can go by herself with them.
Can wait for them. Meet my team.
Have fun. Good Luck all of us.
This is the end.

Angela.
MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tracy Brown, Sany Padilla</td>
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<td>2-4</td>
<td>Sharon Francis, Barbara Metsker, Vaneissa Roberts, Hattie Motter-Shore</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Christina Cruz, Cassie Kafka</td>
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<td>6-9</td>
<td>Doug Sorter, Ed Wieland</td>
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March Birthdays

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<tr>
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