**Message from the President/CEO**

*Submitted by: Grant Jackson*

Summer is right around the corner and I’m horrified! Those of you who have gotten to know me, know that I hibernate in the summer. It’s by far my least favorite season in beautiful Western Colorado. If you don’t know me yet, you will be able to find me huddled under a swamp cooler or at the very least cowering in the shade somewhere for the next few months. See you this Fall! ☺

All kidding aside, there is a lot going on around STRiVE and MDS these days. I’ve come to learn that this is an agency that doesn’t stagnate and encourages positive change and is continually finding creative ways to provide better services for the individuals and families that we support. I want to continue to foster that type of environment. I think it’s vastly important to be continually evaluating what we do and how we can do what we do better, with positive outcomes in mind for everyone that works for our agency. Changes can bring bumps in the road and some unforeseen obstacles, but, the hope is that on the other side we are a stronger agency with a continued commitment to supported individuals and staff alike while becoming a greater asset to the community.

There is a great quote that reminds me of this commitment and illustrates this philosophy well. It’s by the prolific and legendary rock climber, Royal Robbins. “Better we raise our skill than lower the climb.” We will continue to strive to learn and grow as individuals and as an agency and we will climb higher as a team. Thank you all for doing what you do every day!

Grant

**Departmental Updates:**

**Public Relations & Development**

*Submitted By: Doug Sorter*

**Grants:**

Several grants were submitted to the following foundations:

- Kaplan Foundation for Audyssey Clinic
- Rocky Mountain Health Foundation for Audyssey Clinic
- And a couple of Wells Fargo Trusts

**Foundation Board:**

- Our meeting was well attended and new members were approved.
- We have established a mentor process which will help educate the new members quickly.
- Our new Board Chair, Chris Mathews, is excited to move the group forward on several issues he’s identified.
• We will be adding an additional event in February so stay tuned

STRiVing for Success:
We conducted another outstanding presentation at our STRiVing for Success luncheon. It was a packed board room with many new community members learning about STRiVE

Events:
• We are working on the Tulips and Juleps event and hope it is as successful as it has been in the past.
• The JUCO picnic is May 23rd this year and we could use a number of volunteers for 6 to 8 PM.
• The Garden Groove concerts will be starting up on June 21st with the Dubious Brothers and should be wonderful. The Botanical Gardens is just beautiful this time of year and at 7pm it’s magical!

TV and Radio:
• We have had a huge amount of TV news coverage thanks to our Foundation Board Chair Chris Mathews. Each event we do is well covered with KREX TV.
• Our PSA are running after KREX TV did new video footage about our programs.
• MBC Grand Radio has been terrific in helping us with ads and interviews. We have had so many great opportunities with the different stations our STRiVE name is becoming well known.

Presentations:
I have completed several presentations out in the community and I have a few on the calendar.
• If you know or are part of a group, I’d like to get the chance to present to them about STRiVE.
• As I always say, anytime, anyplace or any day of the week I am available, they are very effective.

Accounting…
Submitted by: Chris Bergquist
• Preparing for audit coming up. Auditor will start field work next month.
• Preparing next year’s budget.

Human Resources…
Submitted by: Adele Avolio

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

On May 23 the HR team will be visiting all of STRiVe’s locations in celebration of National Taffy Day! Be prepared to receive a sweet
treat. As in typical Lou from HR’s form, feel free to dress in the color of your favorite taffy flavor.

Taffy has a long history as one of America's native sweets. Common lore has it that in the 1880s, a Jersey Shore candy shop got flooded, soaking the shop's taffy stock with Atlantic salt water.

Vocational....
Submitted by : Jeff Green

Mobile Crew is growing!

We have started a 3 mobile crews to meet the needs of community customers interested in service as well as new individuals wanting to learn these job trades! What does this mean??? We now have additional slots for lawn service coming soon! We are excited to be welcoming Tiara Kumar as our 3rd Mobile Crew Leader! She will be starting CORE on the 3rd of June. Our current workers are learning new skills to expand the service the program provides to customers.

Grounds Crew - would like to welcome a new crew leader to the growing team Chonte Struble. She has already completed her onsite training in the program and the crew as well as the vocational team are excited she has joined our team. Under the direction of Joe O’Connor, the program has been able to create efficiencies in a lot of areas that has allowed the team not only to complete all the jobs short staffed but has allowed the group to have more time to assist in other programs!

Host Homes...
Submitted by: Michelle Sharman

- The Host Home and Family Care Giver Department continues to grow and support areas of the agency with ongoing changes. With the closure of 3301 group home, two people have chosen to move into Strive Host Homes and one person and his family have chosen to be Family Care Givers.
- The program is now partnered with Colorado Canyons fully and making a real effort to get all evaluations and protocols updated with the help of all of the amazing employees at Colorado Canyons that are so dedicated to this collaboration with Strive and help support the people in our programs.

Early Intervention...
Submitted by: Nancy Ketchum

- Currently serving 196 children
- Eligible with an IFSP – 156
- Intake Process- 40
- We continue to work with Fruita Family Health West through a contract to serve our families. They have recruited nationally to find providers who are able to work in Early Intervention. Our biggest need is for speech therapists and luckily two new SLP’S are starting with Fruita in May.
- EI is currently recruiting to hire a Service Coordinator as well as a Developmental Interventionist. Hopefully both positions can be filled in May.
- Sarah Bonnell and Jennifer Cutts will be attending the State Conference being held in Glenwood Springs on May 15-16.
- Discussion continues to occur at the State level about transitioning birth—three child evaluations away from the school district, and over to Early Intervention. Information continues to be gathered and pilots are occurring to help the State
Department of Human Service and Colorado Department of Education reach an agreement on the process, and determine the feasibility and cost. Of priority is making sure that family needs are being met.

**MDS Resource Coordination...**  
*Submitted by: Kayla Purdy*

- In April there were **11 SIS’s completed** for the month. We continue to work on getting **more individuals enrolled into services** each month.
- **6 new enrollments** occurred in the month of April thanks to the **continued hard work** of our **Intake Team**!

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- This month the Case Management Department wants to recognize Sue Thorndill for all of her hard work and dedication to the individuals she serves. Sue was nominated for her person centered support to an individual and family who were experiencing great turmoil. **Thank you Sue for all you do for our department!**
- Each month the Case Management Department would like to look at nominating someone from a PASA agency that goes above and beyond. The Case Management Department would like to nominate Mike Herr from Ariel as an outstanding PASA person for the month of April. He went (and is still going) out of his way to support a host home provider through a family crisis (extreme family crisis!) and made extra visits to support the individuals in the home, as well as proactively wrote up a safety plan for the household to bring to the team. He works on a lot of cases together with Case Manager, Ashley Moreno, and he’s always polite, accommodating, responsive, accountable, person centered, and thoughtful. He writes wonderful rights modifications that are carefully thought-out to provide the greatest opportunity for success for each person. Mike is always seeking information that will help
him **support** his **individuals**. He’s a **great communicator** and a **strong contributor** to **every team** we work on together. He’s also got a **wonderful sense of humor** and a **positive attitude** even when he’s stressing out about a case. **Mike is truly a joy to work with!**

**Residential…**

“**Barbara Metzker RN. Appreciation for going above and beyond to support the people in our services. Thank You Barb!**”

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**What is Worker’s Compensation?**
Worker’s Compensation insurance **covers work-related injuries and illnesses.** STRIVE pays the **full cost** of the insurance and **staff are covered** from your **first day** on the job. Benefits covered under Worker’s Comp are:
- Medical care
- Compensation for lost wages if more than three shifts are missed known as a temporary disability
- Compensation for permanent disability
- Death benefits for your family

**What to do When Injured on the Job?**
The **safety and welfare** of our **employees** is **very important** to us and that is why we **get very concerned** if one of you are injured. If you happen to **sustain an injury**, below are **immediate steps** that you need to follow:
- If your injury is life- or limb-threatenning, go the nearest hospital emergency room.
- In all other cases, let your supervisor know you’ve been injured and then you will need to complete the following paperwork:
  - Complete the First Report of Injury and Employee Statement.
  - If there are witnesses, they will need to complete the Witness Statement.
  - The Supervisor will then complete the Management Statement.
  - All forms are located on SharePoint under Forms – Workers Comp Sub-Folder or by clicking on the shortcut below: https://mdssharepoint.mesadev.org/Agency%20Forms/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FAgency%20Forms%2FWorker%27s%20Compensation &FolderCTID
  - Please make sure that all paperwork is turned into the Work Comp Coordinator, MaryAnne Lawrie. She will file your claim with Pinnacol Insurance, our work comp carrier.
- If medical attention is needed, please make sure that you seek treatment from one of our four designated physicians:
  - Foresight Family Physicians
- Western Valley Family Practice – Redlands
- Grand Valley Occupational Medicine
- St. Mary’s Occupational Health
- Make sure that you keep your supervisor and Work Comp Coordinator updated on your medical status by turning in all your paperwork from doctor appointments.

**On a final note, we have been seeing a substantial decrease in claims, so to everyone for being safety conscience in the workplace!**

**Remember....**

### WORK ANNIVERSARIES

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<td>1</td>
<td>Ariel Benham, Angelina Puliafico, Amanda Villalobos</td>
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<td>Mikey Behan, Katrina Kem, Gabe Millican, Atheena Parmenter, James Wright</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Laura Russell</td>
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<td>6-9</td>
<td>Sam Horton, Kim Kohlenberg, Duane Thomas</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Ron Enyart</td>
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<td>Sue Thorndill</td>
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<td>Nikki Benning</td>
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### BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

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<td>Jean Mininger</td>
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<td>Sandy Eagan, Kayla Purdy</td>
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