



THE CHALLENGER

Challenging the community, families, and individuals to make a difference

A PUBLICATION OF THE DARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

SPRING 2010

Mission: To enhance the lives, develop the abilities, and promote the independence of people with disabilities.

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Spring is Here!



Spring is here and spring means Annual Training. Our Annual Training was held on March 11 and 12. Training is required each year to comply with DDSN regulations. Most topics are mandated by DDSN and must last for the required length of time.

For example, the Rights & Due Process presentation must last at least 1.5 hours.

Two topics during Training were not required but requested by staff on last year's post training evaluations. The topics were Teamwork and Personal Security. Dr. Allie Brooks discussed the Core Values of Teamwork. His hands-on humorous style was very entertaining and insightful. Almost all staff have specifically requested his presence at next year's training. Dr. Brooks is the interim Superintendent for Florence District One schools. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his lifelong commitment to education and community.



Personal Security was presented by Officer Mica Griggs. She is the Crime Prevention Officer and Victim Advocate for the Hartsville Police Department. Officer Griggs discussed prevalent crime in our area and the best way to prevent it.

During breaks each day, tickets were drawn for door prizes. Most prizes were purchased by the Staff Support Team - formerly known as the Employee Advisory Committee. The highlight of the two days was the Service Award Luncheon. Employees were given awards based on length of service. Lunch was catered again by Carolyn Johnson of Columbia and was delicious.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26	Foundation Meeting
April 27	Board of Directors Meeting
May 3	Raffle Sales begin
May 19	Employee Health Fair
May 25	Board of Directors Meeting

Enjoy your summer and stay safe!



It's almost time for our FAC Annual Picnic!

Our annual picnic will be scheduled soon. Hope to see you there!

A Message from the Director



Ruth Thomas
Executive Director

The Employee
Advisory
Committee has
changed its
name!

We are now
called the Staff
Support Team.



Welcome
New Employees!

Carolstine Mickel
Angela Tedder
Cathy Grantham
Samesha Pearson
Virginia Ray
Blossie Witherspoon
Geraldine Parnell
Octavia Crummy
Crystal Brunson

WELCOME SPRING!

We have had a cold, cold winter to include snow, ice, very low temperatures, double electrical bills and severe budget cuts. But on March 20, the 1st day of Spring, my favorite season— I said WELCOME!

March 20 was truly a nice day. The days had gotten longer and I just enjoyed it. As I traveled with my daughter, I saw true nature at its best. The trees were blooming, plants were popping up; the grass was turning green; people were walking and smiling. Spring fever was in the air. As we enjoy this nice spring weather, please do not neglect your health. Make sure you get enough sleep, eat right, exercise, make and keep your doctor's visits. This will ensure a healthy you and a positive attitude.

Staff Support Team News

Carrie Chenard, 2010 Staff Support Team Chair

The decision to change our name was due to frequent confusion about the difference between the EAC and the FAC (the Family Advisory Council). Our mission and purpose remain the same - to provide a direct link between the employees and administration of DCDSNB and to provide morale boosting activities for employees. The Staff Support Team purchased gift cards for staff at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Staff Support Team does not use agency funds so we can give monetary gifts to staff without violating any state or federal funding regulations.

March 16 was World Social Work Day, so the Team surprised Service Coordinators, Early Interventionists, and the QMRP with a small gift of appreciation. We will continue to recognize staff on their designated Professional Recognition day. The Team also purchased some fun recognition materials to help supervisors and staff recognize each other. Don't forget to continue to submit Employee of the Month nominations!

We plan to sponsor an employee health fair in May and conduct some fundraisers to increase our bank account and do more for our staff. More details will be coming soon.

February - May Employee Anniversaries

19 Years of Service

James Jackson

18 Years of Service

Mary Durant

17 Years of Service

Carmen Brown
Geraldine Brown
Julie Johnson

14 Years of Service

Shelia Hicks

11 Years of Service

Shirley Blakney
Yvonne Rouse
Diana Thomas

10 Years of Service

Rose Brown
Michelle Ratliff

9 Years of Service

Jacquay Archer

7 Years of Service

Lora Harrell Knotts

6 Years of Service

Deedrick Woods
Anita Manago

4 Years of Service

Kathy McClendon

3 Years of Service

Tracey Jenkins
Jennie McQueen
Rochelle Moses

2 Years of Service

Carrie Chenard
Joy Collins
Janice Dickson
Reponisa Gattison
Annette Parker
Bonnie Sanders

1 Year of Service

Catherine Robinson
Margie Pearson
Melissa Gillis
Gwen Nivens
Violet Cain
Rhonda Logan
Shelly Gainey

Beloved & Missed

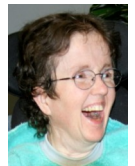


Christi Michelle Moore (left) passed away December 5, 2009, at the age of 41. She began receiving services from our agency in 1999, receiving Service Coordination and MR/RD Waiver from Geraldine Brown. She attended the adult day program at Bridging the Gap Enterprises. Christi touched all persons lives that she encountered. Christi always enjoyed eating at McDonald's, one of her favorite places to go. Christi had a Raggedy Ann doll that was dear to her heart that she always carried. She will always be remembered as an angel with a new and well body. Christi is missed by all of us.

Katlyn Jones passed away on December 18, 2009, at the age of 13. She had been served by the DCDSNB for several years, receiving Service Coordination and MR/RD Waiver services from Service Coordinator Julie Johnson. Katlyn was a special person and even though her physical capabilities were limited, touched the lives of those who worked with her. She is survived by her mother, Michelle Capps, and sister, Payton.

Angel Williams, one of our precious infant consumers, passed away on February 14, 2010. Maurice Hatcher, a HASCI consumer, passed away on March 8, 2010 in a car accident.

Lynda Siner (right) passed away on January 16, 2010 at the age of 48. Lynda was a longtime resident at Reagan House, our ICF home for ladies. Although she was a resident, her family was an active part of her life and they frequently took her to their home for visits or dropped by to see her at Reagan House. The Family Advisory Council expressed their heartfelt appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Siner. The Siner family asked family and friends to send all donations to the Family Advisory Council in lieu of flowers.



2009 Employees of the Month



The EAC selected the following employees as Employee of the Month (EOM). Employees are selected from nominations of fellow employees.



Assistant SC Supervisor Tammy Johnson (top left) is the March EOM. She was nominated by Finance Manager Catherine Robinson. Ann Lighty (middle left) is the April EOM and was nominated by Work Activity Supervisor Rose Brown.



Yarborough House Manager Gwen Sansbury (bottom left) is the May EOM. She was nominated by DSP Amelia Capers. DSP Evelyn Harkless (top right) is the June EOM and she was nominated by Register House Manager Joy Collins.



The July EOM is Winnie Arnold (middle right) who was nominated by Yvonne Rouse. Yvonne also nominated the August EOM, Shirley Myers (bottom right).

The September EOM is actually a group. Jarmiller Moses nominated Reagan and Bowen staff (group photo, right) for their wonderful care of Mr. Ulysses Miles who passed away in August.

Congratulations, Ladies!



FAC Corner

by Carrie Chenard, Challenger Editor

The last Family Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, March 16 at 6:00 pm at the Scott Center. The Annual Picnic and the Annual Gas Raffle were discussed. Currently, alternate locations for the picnic are being researched due to the limited space at Lawton Park and the rough paths at Lake Darpo. More details will be released as they are determined. Ticket sales for the Annual Gas Raffle will begin in May. The drawing will be held at the Hartsville Family Fireworks Festival in July at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Normally, the FAC sponsors only one fundraising event (the Gas Raffle) each year. This is due in large part to donations to the FAC from charitable foundations in previous years. Unfortunately, the FAC did not receive those donations this past year and is short on funds. As always, FAC funds are used to sponsor events for DCDSNB consumers throughout the year.

The Family Advisory Council (FAC) is an organization of supporters of DCDSNB that is comprised of interested consumers, family members and advocates. The FAC promotes understanding between families and the board by providing a forum for the exchange of information, ideas and concerns, as well as a chance to meet and fellowship with other family members. The public is invited to attend all meetings.

Annual Training Awards Ceremony

Service Awards were presented to employees at the Annual Training luncheon on March 12. The Employee of the Year Award, the new Vonoka Kind Award, and the Lou Scott Award were also presented. Service awards are given to DCDSNB employees whose five, ten, or fifteen, etc. anniversaries occurred between March last year through this year.

Our Twenty Year Service Award recipient is Joyce Bayne (left). Ten Year Service Award Recipients (left) are Shirley Blakeney, Winnie Arnold, Shirley Myers, Marie Goodson, and Sue Woodham. (Not pictured: Diana Thomas, Wilton Griffith, and Bridget McClendon.) Five Year Service Award Recipients (immediate left) are Deborah Bacote, Edell Gamble, Betty McPhail, Anita Manago, Brandy McRae, and Tabatha Watson (not pictured).



Ms. Thomas, Joyce Bayne, & Rev. Shaw



Ten Year Service Award Recipients & Ms. Thomas (center)



The 2009 Employee of the Year Award (right) was presented to Ann Lighty (photo center).



The Staff Support Team's new Vonoka Kind Award was presented to Verniell Hannibal by SST Co-Chair Dawanda Brown, SST Chair Carrie Chenard, Mr. John Kind, Board Chair Rev. Shaw, and Ms. Thomas. Vonoka's family graciously attended the ceremony.



Ms. Thomas, Sue Woodham, & Rev. Shaw

The Lou Scott Award was presented to Dawanda Brown by Ms. Thomas and Rev. Shaw (right).



Carrie Chenard, Rose Brown, Ms. Thomas, & Rev. Shaw

Adult Program News

Tanya O. Palumbo, M.Ed., Adult Day Supports Director

New Day Services are in the process of being fully implemented at the Day Program. We now have our day separated into 2 units of service that afford participants the opportunity to engage in meaningful and functional activities related to their social, independence and vocational goals. We offer services in four distinct categories: Day Activity, Community Services, Career Prep, and Employment Services. We continue to offer the opportunity to over 40 individuals to earn wages on our Mobile Work Crews and Enclaves.

Day Program participants at Bridging the Gap and our Seniors Program joined in the fun for our Halloween Dance on October 30, 2009, our Christmas Dance on December 23, 2009, and our Valentines Dance on February 12, 2010, all held at Bridging the Gap.

The annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20, 2009, held at Bridging The Gap and sponsored by Family Support Services and Day Program staff was a huge hit and the Bridging the Gap Choir debuted with their first performance!

The choir has continued to perform at the Christmas Dinner (held at the Armory and sponsored by the Family Advisory Council with the support of the DCDSNB), and at the Valentine's Dance at Bridging the Gap.

We are looking forward to spring and summer and revival of our BTG Garden, which was such a success in 2009. We will be planting tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and zucchini again this year. Our perennial flowers are already beginning to sprout growth!



The BTG Choir
They are awesome!

***The Darlington County Disabilities Foundation
appreciates all of our generous donors.***

The following Donations were received after the last printing of the Challenger.

Mr. & Mrs. Claude Siner
 Ms. Sue Moore Mr. & Mrs. Rod Jones
 Ms. Kathy Brandis Ms. Jessica Flowers
 Ms. Leigh Tedder Ms. Christie Tolson

Agrium
 Norton Funeral Home
 The Sonoco Foundation
 Hartsville Kiwanis Club
 United Way of Hartsville
 United Way of Darlington
 Palmetto Rx Solutions, Inc.
 McInville System Solutions
 The Pilot Club of Darlington
 Young & Young Funeral Home
 Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
 Darlington Chamber of Commerce

A Memorial Gift was received
 In Memory of Lynda Siner from:

Mr. Don Blackman Ms. Donna Dunlap
 Ms. Wanda Parnell Ms. Geneva Barber
 Ms. Jeanette Odom Ms. Joyce Thompson
 Ms. Doris O'Neal
 Mr. & Mrs. Leon Hood
 Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Scurry
 Nucor Steel South Carolina
 Darlington County Shredding Co.

DCDSNB Wish List

Our Wish List is a program that we started in 2008. Some donors prefer to donate items rather than or in addition to monetary donations. The items listed below detail the item and where it is needed. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Chenard at 332-7252 ext. 101.

DCDSNB Office: *General office supplies* such as letter size white copy paper, color copy paper, Avery 5160 inkjet / laser printer mailing labels (or equivalent), etc.;

A locking storage cabinet for organizing and storing training supplies and equipment. *A flat panel TV* (27 inch or larger) for training purposes.

Bridging the Gap: *Automatic handicapped accessible doors* for easy entry and access for consumers in wheel-chairs - the current system will not last much longer. *A Security System* for the safety of consumers and staff

Senior Program: Simple *Puzzles* (less than 50 pieces) and simple *Games* suitable for all ages; *Gardening tools* for our seniors to use in their garden. *Magazines* (used are welcome!) for the Seniors to create craft projects.

Children's Program: Early Intervention - *Play-Doh* in multiple colors in individual cans (five ounces or less) for educational play - consider the Play-Doh Classic Colors four pack or the Favorite Colors four pack; *Texture books* and *Puzzles* for children aged 0-4 years to help them learn about textures and spatial orientation skills.

Residential Office: *A camera* to share among the homes to document residential events.

A Memorial Gift was received
 In Memory of Christi Moore from:
 Michael Ward
 The Cason Group
 Tyler, Cassell, Jackson, Peace, & Silver

A Memorial Gift was received
 In Memory of Lessie C. Chappell,
 the mother of DCDSNB employee
 Virginia Ray, from the Kershaw County
 Government Center

A Memorial Gift was received
 In Memory of Freddie Windham from:
 Ms. Ann Parnell

Abbreviation / Acronyms

DCDSNB - Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board
 DCDF - Darlington County Disabilities Foundation
 DDSN - (SC) Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
 ICF - Intermediate Care Facility
 CTH - Community Training Home
 BTG - Bridging the Gap Enterprises
 SC - Service Coordinator EI - Early Interventionist
 FAC - Family Advisory Council
 DSP - Direct Support Professional
 SST - Staff Support Team

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UNITED WAY

Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board

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Executive Director

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