

THE CHALLENGER

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

A PUBLICATION OF THE DARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

SPRING 2012

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

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Former Board Member, Elsie Louise Trantham

DCDSNB would like to dedicate this issue of the *Challenger* to Elsie Louise Trantham. Elsie served on the DCDSNB Board of Directors for many years. Trantham CTH II house was named in her honor in 1997. At 87, Elsie passed away on January 30, 2012. Elsie was a long time resident of Hartsville, South Carolina, born there on December 3, 1924. After graduating from Coker College, she spent a few years working as a teacher before beginning her career with the American Red Cross. Elsie spent her life caring for others. Upon retirement from The Red Cross, Elsie volunteered there and remained active in her church and community in Hartsville. In 1997, Elsie moved to Asheville, North Carolina, to be near family. She resided at Givens Estates for twelve years. In 2009, Elsie was admitted to the Givens Health Center. Elsie joined Biltmore United Methodist Church in Asheville and shared her vast knowledge of the Bible with others as a Sunday School Teacher. A memorial service will be held in Hartsville in March.



Pictured from left to right: Judy Waddell, Finance Director ; Ben McInville, IT Consultant; and Ms. Ruth Thomas, Executive Director

DCDSNB Awarded \$20,000 Grant From The Byerly Foundation

The Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board received a grant from the Byerly Foundation totaling \$20,000 for the purchase of a new server and computers. These items were desperately needed to implement a new software program for our Finance Department. The Byerly Foundation was established in 1995 with funds received from the sale of The Byerly Hospital. The purpose of the Foundation is to help make Hartsville become one of the best places in the world to live. The Foundation's focus since its inception has been on education, economic development and quality of life.

Events Calendar

March 7	Disability Advocacy Day
March 8-9	Annual Training (Administrative Offices Closed)
March 27	Board of Directors Meeting

BTG News

Wilton Griffith, Day Program Director

Bridging the Gap has a new service for Darlington County residents who have not

been receiving home or community-based waiver services but are DDSN eligible. The Caregiver Relief Program began January 9th. This service is designed to provide caregivers time during the week and on Saturdays. The supervision of people needing supports is provided out of the home by employees of the Board. The service operates from 3:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Located outside Darlington at Bridging the Gap, transportation is available to and from the site and a variety of recreation and leisure activities are offered. Staff offer activities and provide personal assistance when needed. So far 10 people have made regular use of the service and those attending have been very positive about coming. If you know of someone who may be interested in utilizing this service, have them call Wilton Griffith at 843-393-2224.



Ruth Thomas
Executive Director

Would you like to see *The Challenger* in color? Check out our website anytime to see past Challengers or find current information at www.dcdsnb.org!



A Message from the Director

It's that time of year again! TRAINING, TRAINING and more TRAINING. Our administration offices and Day Program will be closed March 8-9, 2012 so that we can provide training (some mandatory and some requested) to our employees. Our theme this year is **“Rising to the Challenge: Receiving Knowledge in order to Provide Quality Service.”** Employees will receive refresher training on Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation, Critical Incident Reporting, Confidentiality, Safety (Slips, Falls, and Proper lifting techniques), review our Emergency Preparedness Procedures, Fire Safety, Medicaid Fraud and Ethics. We will have speakers from Hartsville, Pee Dee Center in Florence and the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs in Columbia, as well as representatives from our workers compensation representative in Charlotte. As always, we are dedicated to providing our employees with information that will be helpful in their day to day work activities. HAPPY SPRING!



Profile of Service

Tammy Johnson, SC Supervisor



Homer Mac Ridgeway

Satisfaction Guaranteed! Homer Mac Ridgeway received a brand new wheelchair ramp under the Head and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver. His old ramp was coming apart and presented safety hazards. Shawn Robinson, Intern from South University and Tammy Johnson, Service Coordinator



Supervisor conducted a home visit to assess the need for an Environmental Modifications. Mac is especially grateful to Lora Knotts his Service Coordinator for making things happen. Each day Service Coordinators work extremely hard to make a difference and improve the quality of life for the people we serve.

Staff Support Team News

Beth Stockton, SST Secretary

The Staff Support Team hosted a Holiday Party for all staff members on Friday, December 16th. The party included a catered lunch, gift exchange, and door prizes. The door prizes were donated from Hartsville businesses and the SST purchased and donated two flat screen televisions. All staff enjoyed the fun and fellowship and everyone walked away with a gift! The SST also sponsored a “Decorate Your Door” contest in December for all office employees. Beth Stockton, Executive Assistant and Edell Gamble, Service Coordinator were chosen as the winners and received a check from the SST. On December 15th, staff members met and spread some Christmas cheer by caroling to the residents of Morning-side Assisted Living and Morrell Nursing Home. A bake sale is scheduled for the spring at Bridging the Gap to continue to raise money to provide morale raising activities for DCDSNB, which is the SST’s mission. Several new employees joined the SST this past quarter including: Beth Stockton, Executive Assistant serving as secretary, Rose Brown from BTG, Jacquay Archer from CTH II, Lanie McPhail from the Seniors Program, and Margie Pearson from the Nursing Department.



Decorate Your Door Contest Winner, Edell Gamble.

Early Intervention Corner

Deb Newsome, EI Supervisor

The EI department had a wonderful Holiday Season and is proud to report that all the Angels from their Angel Tree were sponsored and all gifts were delivered in time for Christmas. Early Interventionist, Crystal Mangum has returned from maternity leave. She delivered a healthy baby boy on November 30, 2011 weighing 6 pounds 1 ounce and 21 inches long. The EI department received a little help from two Coker College students on Martin Luther King Day. We are so thankful for their help in cleaning up our office and organizing our educational toys and materials. We are excited to partner with the SC Autism Society in collecting shoes to put out on the statehouse steps for Disability Advocacy Day on March 7th. The shoes will be put into plies to represent individuals that are currently receiving DDSN services and those who are still waiting. After Disability Advocacy Day, the shoes will be donated to Alabama Soles for Souls. This agency employs individuals with disabilities, collects shoes, and distributes them to those in need all over the world.



Human Resources Bridget McClendon, HR Administrator

Congratulations to the employees that have joined the staff at Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. Ramona Cockfield and Brittney Cotton – Direct Support Professionals (TEMP Pool); Eddie Hough, Sr., Direct Support Professional @ Day Program’s Caregiver Relief Program (part-time) at Bridging the Gap Enterprises; Ashley Johnson – Direct Support Professional (part-time) at King CTH II, and Bethany Stockton – Executive Assistant (full-time). Latoya Brunson — ICF Direct Support Transporter (Temp) Jacqueline McClain – Direct Support Professional @ Pauley (Part-time) Rory Mitchell – Direct Support Professional @ Pauley (Part-time) Deborah Rayfield – Accounting Technician (Part-time) Alice Reynolds – Direct Support Professional @ Yarborough (Part-time) Pamela Thomas – Direct Support Professional @ Bowen ICF (Part-time) Alfreda Williams – Direct Support Professional @ Day Program’s Caregiver Relief Program (Part-time)

On the Move Congratulations to Winnie Farmer and Carrie Johnson on being chosen to fill the part-time Direct Support Professional positions at Reagan ICF and also to Gwendolyn Sansbury on becoming the Residential Coordinator.

Orientation Training and Recertification Orientation and training for new employees will begin February 20, 2012 through February 29, 2012.

The Finance Department

Meet Deborah and Mabelle, Accounting Technicians



Deborah Rayfield (left) Accounts Payable & Mabelle Riley (right) Payroll

DCDSNB would like to welcome two very valuable employees to the Finance Department. Deborah Rayfield began working with Accounts Payable as a temporary employee in September 2011 and is retired from Chesterfield County DSS. She was employed with DSS for 34 years and worked in several administrative departments including: Administrative Assistant to the Director, and Accounting Technician in the Finance Department. She served as the secretary and treasurer for Chesterfield County Red Cross and served as secretary for the Chesterfield County FEMA Board. Deborah enjoys spending time with her husband, two children, and three grandchildren. Mabelle Riley is a native of Hartsville, SC and began working in Payroll in October of 2011. She has more than ten years experience in Office/Clerical work, and more than eight years of managerial experience, including Office Manager for Hospice Care of South Carolina and Site Manager for InMed Diagnostic Services. She also worked as a receptionist for several companies including InMed Diagnostic Services and Image Trust. In her free time, Mabelle enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband, children, and granddaughter.

Health News Dawanda Brown, LPN Lead Health Care Coordinator

Heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death in the United States, and costs the nation billions per year in health care expenses. To reduce this burden, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Service (CMS), and other public and private-sector partners have launched the Million Hearts Initiative to enhance cardiovascular disease prevention activities with community interventions. The Million Hearts Initiative will improve management of the "ABCS" — Aspirin for high-risk patients, **B**lood pressure control, **C**holesterol management, and **S**moking cessation. The initiative will encourage efforts to reduce smoking, improve nutrition, and reduce high blood pressure. By improving upon these efforts, the Million Hearts Initiative is projected to prevent more than a million heart attacks and strokes by the target date of 2017.



Service Coordination Updates Tammy Johnson, SC Supervisor



What is happening in Service Coordination? Brain Injury Awareness Day is Wednesday, March 21, 2012 @ 11:30 a.m., SC State House Steps. SC Assistive Technology Expo 2012, Tuesday, March 13, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Brookland Banquet and Conference Center, 1066 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia, SC 29169. It is free and open to the public.

Community Supports Waiver

It is time for the renewal of the Community Supports Waiver. There are six changes recommended to the Community Supports Waiver that include: adding Service Coordination as a waiver service, increasing individual cost caps, enhancements/revisions to Quality Improvement sections, deleting Psychological Services, increase the minimum number of services required, and eliminating Assistive Technology in favor of three discrete services.

Target Case Management

Target Case Management (TCM) State Plan Amendments proposed changes effective July 2012. It would take up to three years to be fully implemented.

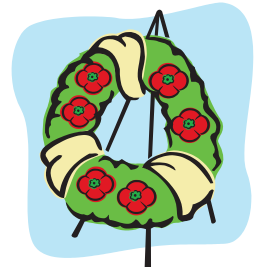
Target Changes:

- \$13.00 per 15 minutes TCM unit at a market/universal rate for all providers.
- Benefit Limits., Minimum qualification for all providers.
- Discontinue use of Case Management Assistant.
- Cash Match only; no CPE, No Cost Settlement.
- Provider Qualification in addition to Staff Qualifications.

These preferred amendments will drastically affect the way we provide services. March is Disability Awareness Month. We need all people served and/or legal guardians, families, and providers voices to be heard. That is why I urge everyone to attend a DDSN's Stake Holder Session. All changes described are subjected to the approval of CMS. The Stakeholders Session will be held at the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Library 509 South Dargan Street, Florence, SC 29506 in the Joe Stukes meeting room. in Florence on Monday, March 12, 2012 from 6:00 pm –7:30 pm.

In Loving Memory

Mrs. Elsie Louise Trantham at 87, passed away peacefully on January 30, 2012. Elsie was a long time resident of Hartsville, SC and served on the Board of Directors for DCDSNB. Trantham CTH Home was named in her honor. Mr. Sammy Dewitt, HASCI Consumer passed away on February 15, 2012. Tara Polson was his Service Coordinator. Consumer David Norton passed away on February 18, 2012. Edell Gambell was his Service Coordinator. DCDSNB would like to extend condolences to the following staff members who have lost a loved one: Mr. Joseph Lowery, Maintenance in the loss of his sister, Lillian Lowery; Joni Pendergrass, Early Interventionist in the loss of her mother, Ms. Hattie Davis Cranford; Janice Dickson in the loss of her brother, Leroy Jacobs; and Marie Goodson in the loss of her brother Jesse Brown.



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

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

A donation was received from:

Mrs. Debbie Fink in memory of Mrs. Lou Scott
Ms. Carole Flowers in honor of Debbie Fink
United Way of Hartsville
United Way of Greenville

**A monetary donation was received for
the Angel Tree Project from:**

Mr. & Mrs. Jeb Perkins
Mr. John Nichols, VP of First Citizen's Bank

**A donation was received for
the Family Advisory Council By:**

Ms. Beatrice Siner in memory
of her daughter, Lynda Siner.

**Thank you to the following Hartsville Businesses who
donated door prize items for our Staff Holiday Party:**

- Bizzell's Food & Spirits*
- Shug's Smokehouse*
- Pam's Restaurant*
- Blush - Merle Norman*
- Minnie's Giftique*
- Mitchell's Floral Design & Gifts*
- BJ-LC*
- Sonic Drive-In*
- C & M Transport*

DCDSNB Wish List

The items listed below detail the item and where it is needed. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Stockton at 332-7252 ext. 101.

Service Coordination: Pull ups and Diapers in all sizes for male and female children and adults, Underpads, baby wipes, Super Absorbent briefs, medical gloves, Ensure, KY Jelly, Catheter trays.

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 wheelchairs - 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

A Special Thank You To:
Mr. Sidney Josey for donating his photography services.

Abbreviation / Acronyms

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

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