



Stevens County Developmental Achievement Center

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Summer flew by and the Stevens County DAC is back to our regular 5 day a week schedule now. Plus, the University and the Catholic School are back in session so our food service crews are back to work too.

Last week we took most of the DAC to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater to see "Grease". Thanks to the support of our local ARC, we were able to charter a bus and buy down the ticket price so that everyone that wanted to go could afford to travel in style. The lunch was wonderful and the singing & dancing was everything we hoped it would be. Everyone looks forward to these events for many months. Thanks for your help in making these annual trips possible for our DAC. We are already talking about next year.

Next month, during October, the county is helping us pave our lower lot and driveway over the Columbus Day weekend. We may have to park up by the car wash for a few days and walk down the stairs to get to our main building. When the paving is done though, we should have a beautiful new parking lot that will be safer and easier to use.

Also coming up is the annual ARC Luncheon and Bake Sale. We love to visit with the public at that annual event and we are busy making craft projects to sell there too. Be sure to stop by for some lunch and homemade pie so we can tell you all about our summer adventures.

We continue to hear about lots of changes at the state and federal levels too. The Department of Human Services is proposing to split our service into different categories that emphasize competitive employment in the community. This summer, the Department of Employment and Economic Development held private meetings with every DAC client and guardian in the state of MN to talk to them about working in regular jobs. This involved over 12 thousand meetings and this new initiative will repeat every year for people that receive services in group settings. Then starting in 2019, we will need to bill in 15-minute units instead of daily units so that the Department of Human Services can do a better job of reporting employment activity to the federal Center for Medicaid Services.

And of course, the federal efforts to repeal and replace Obama Care are also being used to repeal and replace Medicaid programs which will directly impact the services available to the clients that we serve. So "The times, they are a changing" and we will need to stay nimble to change with them.

Thanks,

Charlie Oakes

Stevens County DAC Executive Director