



Stevens County Developmental Achievement Center

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May 2018

We continue to stay quite busy with our work and other program activities here at the DAC. In the Workshop we continue to provide work with recycling and our packaging and assembly projects. We have been particularly busy with orders from Superior Industries. Misty Eystad is doing a nice job of organizing our fitness program, which used to be run by Susan Jost at the Regional Fitness Center. Misty and five other staff all help with this program.

Nicole Wenz has picked up extra duties with program development in the Craft room, and she is doing a good job. We are staying busy in the car wash as well and are currently booked about two weeks out. Pat Smith continues to manage our contracts, job coaches and client schedules for our community cleaning crews. Pat also does all the “behind the scenes” work to assure that our clients who work at UMM Food Service and West Wind Village are doing well.

On March 14th, we had our licensing visit from the Department of Human Services, Licensing Division. During the “exit interview” on March 14th both licensors were very complimentary of our program. They stated that they felt welcome upon their arrival and they really liked the fireplace and other amenities that we provide. They appreciated the good preparation efforts we made prior to their visit. They stated that our program demonstrates and documents excellent “Person-Centered Planning” and that the program is very person specific. They also stated that Person-Centered Planning is clearly not new to us and that it is a part of our culture here at the DAC. One of the licensors state that she felt that, after reading one of our client’s files, she would be prepared to work with that particular person. She stated that the files are “well-linked” and flow nicely. She added that our program files are among the best, if not the best, in the State. This was our first licensing visit since the conversion from Rule 245B to Rule 245D. It was gratifying to know that all of the hard work we have put into this conversion was recognized by our licensors.

Once again, we assisted with a very successful Arc Stevens County Rose Sale on April 17, 2018. We allow the east side of our annex to be used as a distribution center on the day of rose deliveries. It was fun to see all the volunteers who help deliver flowers. A hint to anyone considering helping in the future: Liz Harris traditionally provides homemade caramel rolls and Common Cup coffee on the morning of deliveries. Also, Nicole Wenz spent a few hours with several of our clients helping with flower sales at Willie’s SuperValu on that day.

It has recently come to our attention that there may be a 7% cut in rates for disability supports due to a decision by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It is my understanding that if the MN legislature does not act, then the people we serve who are not “banded” in the “DHS Rate Management System” will see a 7% cut this July and everyone else would be affected when the “banding” period ends. The “Best Life Alliance” has been working with key legislators in a bipartisan effort to correct this glitch (SF2889/HF3191). For more information and an opportunity to advocate, visit the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation website at mohrmn.org.

Thanks,

John Luetmer
Stevens County DAC Program Coordinator