



Stevens County Developmental Achievement Center

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Greetings from the DAC. 2020 will be about change and the future will not wait for us.

First, we need to learn how to record everyone's attendance in 15-minute units. The MN Department of Human Services has decided that they need to gather information about client days by tracking their activity throughout the week in quarter hour blocks. Since we have previously recorded attendance in full or partial days, this is a big change for us. We worry that staff will be so busy recording attendance 28 times per day, we will forget to give clients the attention that they need.

Another change is that all clients will now have different rates that are based on the needed staff to client ratios that the DAC and the Case Managers estimate. Therefore, all 60 clients will have a different rate while at the same time being recorded and reported 28 times per day. Further, those rates will change for each client based on what they are doing. So, we will have different rates for community employment, workshop work, craft room, exercise time, etc. Times 60 clients, times 28 fifteen-minute units. We are not sure if we can keep track of all this, but we have to try.

We also must trim expenses, because we lost several clients last year to illness, aging, and death. Our daily client numbers are down about three fulltime equivalents. That translates to less revenue. Meanwhile, our building is larger, and our staff is the same size. How do we reduce our staff and overhead costs by 5% to reflect the lower client numbers? We don't know but we have to figure it out.

Another change is in our management. I will retire at the end of 2020 and we need to find a new director. She or he will not be me. He or she will be another change for our staff and clients. We hope and pray they will be even better, and they will help us evolve into the 21st century with all the changes ahead in technology and transportation.

Just think about self-driving cars and the effect on our clients. How about talking houses like Alexa? Maybe the house will remind us to shower, watch our favorite shows, and take our medications. Probably we will have virtual visits from family and staff each day on our smart TVs. The future is about to become much different and we don't know what opportunities and dangers lie ahead. We do know that the future is coming faster every year. Get ready to see services change with the world.

Thanks for all your help and support. It looks like we need all the friends that we can get.

Charlie Oakes

Stevens County DAC Executive Director