

THE EXCHANGE

*Published for parents, family members, and guardians
of individuals served by Black Hills Workshop*

July/August 2011

BHW adopts charter for co-occurring diagnoses

Colleen Ronning

In July, Black Hills Workshop adopted a charter with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to work collaboratively to provide support to individuals and their families who have a developmental disability and complex needs with a co-occurring diagnosis. A co-occurring diagnosis can be a complex health issue, mental health issue, drug and alcohol dependence, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, effects of trauma, criminal behavior, etc.

Our staff has already made significant progress in providing person centered services to people with complex needs. We have seen people achieving hopes and dreams, career opportunities, integrated homes and increasing friendships. We plan to enhance our current services by providing hope and inspiration to individuals and families with co-occurring conditions. We will be working collaboratively with the South Dakota Developmental Center, Department of Mental Health, Department of Drug and Alcohol, Department of Social Services, Department of Corrections, school systems and others. This collaborative will be a great opportunity for our staff to benefit from additional learning and leadership opportunities.

Thank a DSP!

At Black Hills Workshop, we hear success stories every day—wonderful things happening in the lives of people we serve, accomplishments once thought impossible, dreams coming true. All of these are possible because of our wonderful Direct Support Professionals. They are the heart and soul of our organization. And we honor them September 11-17 during National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.

Direct support professionals provide an invaluable service to Americans living with disabilities. Their dedication to service is an example to us all. National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is celebrated annually to honor the tens of thousands of workers who enable our most fragile citizens and their families to live healthy community-oriented lives. At Black

Hills Workshop, Direct Support Professionals bring our mission statement to life: Creating a community where everyone can participate to achieve a life of full potential. We are grateful to them.



Stop. Look. Listen.

We're proud to announce that six performers from the Suzie Cappa Center for Art Expression and Enjoyment, Cindy Gresch, Karrin Rolfstad, Katie McOwen, Heather Morris, Dave Pigott, and Shad Bebout, will perform in Outright Dance Theatre's "Stop. Look. Listen," an original performance August 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dahl Arts Center. "Stop. Look. Listen" is an uncommon performance that, according to its director, "embodies a cacophony of words, images and sounds that contour and impact the landscapes of our daily lives consciously and unconsciously." Tickets are \$10.00 or 2 for \$15.00 and can be purchased at the Dahl Arts Center, 713 7th Street, 394-4101, or on the evening of the performance. Tickets are also available at Barefoot Dance Studio, 412 5th Street. For information, contact Andrea Schaefer at 415-1111 or at barefootdancestudio@gmail.com.

Outright Dance Theatre is based on contemporary dance and theatre and integrates dancers of all abilities, exposing the community to the possibilities of all people through their performance and outreach. Outright involves individuals with and without intellectual or physical disabilities of all ages and abilities. Choreographer and founder Andrea Schaefer and director Heather Pickering have just returned from Washington, D.C. where they were awarded the National ANCOR Award for Community Building. The two will be working on another mixed-ability piece, in conjunction with the Suzie Cappa Center next summer.

The Exchange is published bimonthly by the Black Hills Workshop for parents, family members, and guardians of the individuals we serve. Comments and questions are encouraged and may be addressed to Dorothy Rosby, Editor, Black Hills Workshop, Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709; call (605) 718-6205; or email drosby@bhws.com. We also appreciate your keeping us up to date on your address changes, corrections, or duplicate mailings.

Gala Winners selected

Congratulations Jorgia Steenberg, Heather Therkildsen, Mike Turner, and Nancy Weiss who have been selected to receive Outstanding Achievement Awards at our annual Recognition Gala on Saturday, November 5 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The Gala is our chance to recognize those who have made outstanding progress at Black Hills Workshop as well as organizations and individuals who help to make their success possible. For more information about the Gala, contact Brian Munsell at extension 207. Thanks to Black Hills Corporation for sponsoring this year's "Black and Light Gala."



If you would prefer to receive the Exchange via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to drosby@bhws.com. Your information will not be shared with other organizations.

Special Olympics

The state softball tournament will be in Brookings the weekend of September 17-18. We will be taking two teams; one slow pitch team and one t-ball team. If you have any questions, please contact John Tanner at 605-545-5337 or Joe Burmeister at 605-718-8341.

Local author donating proceeds to BHW

Local author **Sandra Brannan** plans to donate proceeds from the purchase of her latest book, *Lot's Return to Sodom*, second book in the Liv Bergen mystery series, to Black Hills Workshop. Donations will be for those books sold at the display at Rapid City Regional Airport during July and August. So when you take family and friends to the airport this month make sure they (and you) pick up a good book for the flight!

