

THE EXCHANGE

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

November/December 2009

Putting people first!

Be watching for your chance to learn more about Person Centered Thinking (PCT)! Since the concept was introduced to us by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, we have participated in training and have used new tools to make the concept of Person Centered Thinking part of everyday life. Essentially, PCT takes People First Thinking, a value Black Hills Workshop employees have long held, and gives us standardized tools to help ensure it becomes reality.

Some employees have been trained as PCT coaches to provide direction to staff on how they can apply the concept in their every day dealings. And PCT leaders, including three people we support, have been responsible for creating and implementing a plan to move PCT ahead in our organization. Tom Miller, Betty Bsharah and Keven Moulton are working with other leaders to make sure that the Black Hills Workshop's strategic plan is driven by the people it impacts the most, the people we support.

Carie Diro and Amanda Anker who are undergoing certification to be PCT trainers will soon be providing training on the techniques to parents. Be watching for more details.

BHW scores high in reviews

In November, BHW underwent the Administrative Rules of South Dakota review as it does every two years. In the Community Training Services category, BHW scored 100%, no deficiencies. We also did very well in the Homes & Community Based funding and health department categories.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer Brad Saathoff received the following note from Jeff Shoemaker from the Council on Quality and Leadership.

I visited the Black Hills Workshop on October 26 and 27, 2009 to assess the Integrated Quality Management efforts of the organization as part of the CQL accreditation. As I reported on the afternoon of the 27, I was very pleased to learn of the many things your organization is doing to enhance and maintain the quality of life of the people receiving services from Black Hills Workshop. The many people I met, from service users to direct support professionals, family members, volunteers and administrative staff, were unrestrained in their enthusiasm about all the initiatives you have undertaken to support community needs and the needs of staff and people receiving services. Service users feel that they have a greater role in determining the direction of the organization than at any previous time. Staff members indicate that they, too, are a part of a dynamic and forward-looking company.

One cannot help but be impressed with your arts programs and all of your efforts to see that people are doing those things that are interesting and important to them. Your continued integration into the community is also impressive.

While I was there, staff and service users alike credited you for being a driving force behind many of the positive things I was hearing about. I sincerely hope that you continue to move forward with all of your initiatives to improve the lives of all organizational members.

All of these results are encouraging as we strive to continue improving in order that the people we support can continue to reach for their potential.

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.

Council looking for representatives

The SD Council on Developmental Disabilities has three vacancies on the Council for a person with developmental disabilities, one for a parent or guardian of an adult with developmental disabilities who can not advocate for themselves, and two for parents or guardians of children with developmental disabilities.

The Council Office is gathering names of people who are interested and will forward these to the Governor's Office for final selection. The SD Council on Developmental Disabilities is involved in advocacy, capacity building and systems change efforts on behalf of people with developmental disabilities across the state. Through the DD Act the Council has federal funds available for training, outreach, demonstration projects, coalition building, etc. The Council's work involves requesting grant applications in areas it has defined, reviewing the applications, and making funding decisions. To learn more about the council, see <http://dhs.sd.gov/ddc/>.

The deadline for receiving names is January 31, 2010. Contact Arlene Poncelet at 605-773-6369 or 1-800-265-9684 if you have any questions. You can also contact Dorothy Rosby at 718-6205 for an application.

Upcoming events

January 18: Basketball begins in the BHW gym every Monday through March. Two sessions, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

February 12: Regional Basketball Tournament, Black Hills Workshop gymnasium.

February 7: Valentines Dance, BHW gym, 2 - 4:30. There will be door prizes and dancing to music by Yo Vinnie.

March 4 - 6: State Basketball Tournament, Corn Palace in Mitchell.

For information on any of these events, contact Bill Clucas at 718-6288.

To receive this newsletter via e-mail, contact drosby@bhws.com. Your e-mail address will not be shared with other organizations.