

Safety Corner

- Submitted by the Central Health and Safety Committee

Our Ode to Safety Check Lists

Have you heard Safety is one of the Commitments of Our Agency? Everyone be aware of everything you hear, smell, touch and see.

STOP if you come across something that could hurt somebody. **FIX** it if you can, or ask help to prevent any injuries. **REPORT** it always immediately!

Our **Safety Check List** has some Updates now - it is more user-friendly.

There's also a "**How To**", both are located on Public – clarified and trouble-free.

Questions? - ask any supervisor so they can contact the Committee!

Do you know what CARF is and how it relates to Safety?

CARF - Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, "serves as a catalyst for improving the quality of life of the persons served by CARF-accredited organizations and the programs and services they provide."

"CARF accredited organizations maintain healthy, safe, and clean environments that support quality services and minimize risk of harm to persons served, personnel, and other stakeholders..." (Our Agency has the Central Health and Safety Committee)

Do you know what else CARF is interested in?

INSPECTIONS!

"The inspection report identifies the health and/ or safety areas addressed and exact location of each inspection, the date it was completed, the agency and auditor/ inspector that conducted the inspection and any areas of noncompliance in the areas inspected." (Reminder - Safety Check Lists are to be thoroughly completed and handed in each month! Safety is everyone's responsibility!)

Thank you for your dedication as we work towards another successful CARF accreditation.

BRAVO!

Some noteworthy happenings at Ability Beyond Disability

Congratulations to **Karen Hofler** and the **Old Hawleyville Group Home, Operations, & IDT TEAMS** For achieving a citation free CT Department of Public Health (ICF) Survey. Inspectors observed the staff over several days and commented on how "wonderful the staff" interact with consumers and what a pleasure it was to be at their home.

Ridge Road Group Home received a cite free ICF inspection back in March. Congratulations to **Victor O'Creene, Marie Caprio** and the entire **Ridge Road** team for this huge accomplishment!

Congratulations to **Laura Santoro, Sandra Riberio** and all of the **Article 16 Clinic** staff in NY on their 1st OPWDD Quality Audit which resulted in no deficiencies. The auditor's noted that the therapist documentation was excellent!

The **Access, Sensory and Blended Day Programs** in NY completed their third consecutive deficiency free OPWDD audit! The auditor's noted that the paperwork and programs are well organized and the program engages the consumers in wonderful activities. Congrats to **Virginia Kearns, Dan Bond** and all of the staff on this accomplishment!

Don't forget - the "Reach for the Stars Gala" is taking place on Saturday, April 30th in Danbury, CT. We are still looking for volunteers! If you're interested, please call Robyn Wicks at 203.826.3181

Compliments/Complaints

Employees may report any compliance concerns confidentially to the Compliance Officer through the use of the Compliments and Complaints Hotline 203.826.3055 or the Compliments and Complaints e-mail group or a written complaint may be filed by the employee with the Compliance Officer or the Board President.

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BRAVO!

Upcoming Events!

4/30/2010

Reach for the Stars Gala
Amber Room Colonnade,
Danbury, CT
6:30 PM

Please visit
www.abilitybeyonddisability.org
for more information

Reunited By Passion

-Written and submitted by Darleen, a neighbor of our Squire Ct. home in CT



I have been taking my golden retriever, Passion, to an Ability Beyond Disability home for traumatic brain injuries. One resident, Glenn, particularly looks forward to our visits, as Passion nuzzles for attention.

One day as I was leaving the home, I met my friend Mary, who asked me who I was visiting. When I told her, she said she knew Glenn as a boy. I asked her if she knew what had happened to him. In 1974 Glenn was 12 years old, when he fell off the back of a jeep into a gang lawn mower; his father gave him CPR, saving his life. As Mary started to tell me I stopped her mid-sentence. I realized I already knew the story, because 37 years ago, I

took care of Glenn when he was a patient in our ICU. I just had never made the connection. In the 95 degree heat of that summer night, Mary and I had goose bumps from head to toe!

Now I know why I was drawn to the idea of training Passion to be a therapy dog. It is amazing how life came full circle and with the help of a sweet, golden retriever.

Glenn has grown into a bright young man with a great sense of humor. He lives in a home with five other individuals and a very caring staff. He is truly a gift to others, with his positive attitude in the face of adversity. He enjoys singing and doing impersonations. As for his injury, he told me, "I wasn't supposed to be here, but I fooled them!"



Look Who's Joined Our Team

We would like to welcome new additions to our team for March:

Tony Bailey, LSI

Jordan J. Bass, LSI

Barry M. Dain, VP of NY Services

Shakia Flemming, LSI

Alyssa L. Griffing, LSI

Jory A. McNab, LSI

Matika J. Miller, LSI

Michael Moore, LSI

William J. Murtough, LSI

Lonai N. Noble, LSI

Sean P. Qualey, Employ. Spec. I

Samantha J. Russell, LSI

Harold Lee Whitehead Jr., LSI

With diverse backgrounds (including many in the human services field), all of our new hires will be great additions to our organization!

Our Vision For The Future...

Ensuring a successful future for our consumers, families and employees

As an organization, we are committed to utilizing new technology that will make us more efficient and help us continue to deliver services of the highest quality. To that end, we are excited to announce that we will be implementing both a Human Resources Information System (HRIS) and an Electronic Consumer Record System (ECR).

These new systems will play an essential role in helping us:

- Prepare for future growth
- Improve communication
- Become more efficient
- Use technology and innovation to work "smarter"
- Improve quality

This development will again set Ability Beyond Disability apart from most other providers in our continuing quest for quality improvement, efficiency and growth to assure our future. While we need to invest time and effort up front to implement these systems, the long term gain for our workforce and the people we serve will be tremendous.

In the coming months, you will hear much more information about these new systems as implementation plans continue to unfold. We are very excited about all of the positive changes that these new systems will bring to the organization!



"Oh My" Employee of the Month -Grace White

Grace has been with Ability Beyond Disability for a little over one year. She started as a temp and then was offered a full-time position as the Human Resources Assistant. She has since been promoted to a Junior Recruiter.

In her new position Grace is now able to hire the people that work directly with consumers - and she finds that to be a truly gratifying role. She loves being able to make a "match" between the skilled staff she hires and the people we serve.

Grace was nominated by her supervisor, Jessica Guard, for her reliability and dedication to her job. In one instance she braved a snow storm to get into the office and ensure that someone was covering the phones.

Grace has three rescued cats! She is very artistic and loves to make her own jewelry. She attends church a few times a week and is also a member of the choir.

Thank you Grace for your commitment and dedication to Ability Beyond Disability - and congratulations on your award!

March "Oh My" Award Nominees

Jammie Wright - RA, Yorktown Heights

Margo Eldridge - Res LPN, Dodgingtown



connections

April Anniversaries



Danbury Police Detective Educates People First Group

-By Chad Sinanian of the Consumer Advocates Office

People First of Danbury, our local advocacy group for persons with disabilities had as its guest speaker, Detective Bruce Bertram from the Danbury Police Department.

Detective Bertram spent quite a bit of time educating our consumers about Internet Safety, community safety, and protecting ourselves from identity theft. There were over twenty people in attendance to listen to this enlightening and educational seminar by Detective Bertram.

People First of Danbury wishes to thank Detective Bertram for speaking to us and appreciates what he had to say.

In Loving Memory



James Saunders - a long time resident at Ability Beyond Disability - passed away suddenly last month. He had been a part of the Squire Court family since July of 1996. Everyone joked that James was full of "piss and vinegar" but had a heart of gold. He is very loved and will surely be missed.

Joe Simmons or "Jo Jo", as he was affectionately called, also passed away last month. He had been served by Ability Beyond Disability for over ten years. Joe was a long time resident of Shepherd Hill and most recently, Sweetcake and Mountainville. Jo will be fondly remembered for his love of wrestling, cowboys, music, joking around and most of all, for his sweet smile.



Patricia A. Green	24	David G. Mboroki	4
Nancy B. Schmitz	24	Lynn M. Pucino	4
Michael McLoughlin	20	Milton T. Joyner	4
Christine L. Boisvert	20	Joan M. Maderi	3
Daele M. Corna	20	Donovan Edwards	3
Jose M. Cordeiro Jr.	20	Beatriz A. Torres	3
Constance Tracey	18	Alberto O. Madera	3
Patricia Mitchell	17	David Bryant Jr.	3
Michael D. Smith	13	Ashlyn S. Godbee	3
Nereida Joseph	13	Peter Alexandratos	3
Gary E. Hull	12	Yuri Farrison	2
Doris I. Rodriguez	11	Emily J. Capodiferro	2
Joan Y. Artis	10	Shari S. Schiavo	2
Pascual Infante	10	Sean G. Tibbitts	2
Jeremy E. Redfern	9	Ranisha M. Green	2
Chris J. Prorock	9	Shishana Evans	2
Ikemba Chikezie	9	Lawrence Penny	2
Karen Hofler-Gleicher	9	Brian H. Bogholtz	2
Tessa Jack-Simpson	9	Robert J. Layok	2
Nikeisha Wright	8	Miguel A. Caraballo	2
Sharon Hall	8	Rachel J. Brennan	2
Nilsa Soto-Martinez	8	Sandra M. Ribeiro	1
Juan Angustia	8	Alana J. Moran	1
Chantell Detress Paris	7	Vania Saintfery	1
Mary L. Loveras	6	Sherilla D. Thomas	1
Arlene Vega	6	Janelle Marie Fako	1
Adam J. Smith	6	Raumad Clemons-Moore	1
Christina R. Alleva	6	Michelle I. Kuhn	1
Diana J. Bova	6	Elise B Scuderi	1
Michele K. White	5	Kevin A. Bielmeier	1
Jeffrey Huntington	5	Jean R Terzano	1
Yutheary Chhuop	5	Salena A. Brown	1
Jamie W. Ambrogio	5	Sara M. Harrison	1
Andrew Kansky	5	Shanika O. Johnson	1
Pamela J. Creaturo	5	Erin R. McFee	1
Cassandra Herbert	5	David M. Morsey	1
Sharon L. Luchsinger	5	Haley E. Shanahan	1
Daniel T. Bond	5	Jacquelynne Smith	1
Areysi A. Castillo	4	Ricardo J Rodriguez	1
Edward Loveras	4		
Kyla A. Andreasen	4		