



Safety Corner

submitted by the Central Health and Safety Committee



Every year since 1922, the US has observed Fire Prevention Week during the second week in October. The theme of this year's Campaign from October 3-9 is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound you can live with." The main message of the campaign is to know and recognize the sounds of an activated smoke detector.

All of our commercial buildings and group homes are equipped with "hard-wired" fire alarm systems but some of our SIL apartments rely on standard household smoke detectors. Special attention should be given to make sure that those residences have working smoke detectors that are less than 10 years old. Should replacements be required, please contact Operations immediately; they have a donated supply available.

Did you know?

- Having working detectors in your home **DOUBLES** your chances of escaping deadly fires?
- Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and injuries?
- Someone is injured in a home fire every 40 minutes?

During Fire Prevention Week, we can take a few steps to make sure we are safe from fire:

1. In the event of a sounding smoke alarm, your first and only priority is the safe and orderly evacuation of every consumer, guest and staff member.
2. Plan and practice fire drills. Know at least two escape routes.
3. Never leave a stove or gas grill unattended while cooking.
4. Make sure that you have properly installed and working smoke alarms.
5. Replace batteries twice a year when the clock changes. Change your clocks, change your batteries!

Life to Live

by: Zach

Every day is a new day
It starts when we open our eyes
But we do not know what that day is going to be
Do we panic or stay calm
It is not for me to say
We live to understand one another
Eye to eye to reveal who we are
Is it too much to ask for
Or is it hard to see
That maybe we do not want to open our eyes to the reality
What are you saying to me
Listen to yourself
Think before you speak
Do not be confused about the past
Look in the mirror and see yourself in a positive point of view
Without negative function

BRAVO!

Some noteworthy happenings at Ability Beyond Disability

The **TBI group** that meets at our **ACCESS** program in NY has been chosen by Mid-Hudson NYSACRA to present at their annual conference later this month! The consumers who participate in this group have been working on the creation of a website. The website will serve as a way for people living with TBI to connect with one another and share resources. With the help of some ACCESS staff, the group will be presenting their idea and the progress they have made so far to the direct support professionals who attend the NYSACRA conference.

Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in this amazing project. We look forward to seeing the finished product!

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BRAVO!

Upcoming Events!

10/20/2010

Disability Mentoring Day Kick Off

10:00- 11:00AM
WCSU - Danbury, CT

10/21/2010

Hoops for Hope

7:00PM
Danbury High School

10/26/2010

Annual Meeting

7:00PM
Boehringer Ingelheim - Danbury, CT

Please visit
www.abilitybeyonddisability.org
for more information

A man of many talents



Sean has been with Ability Beyond Disability for over 11 years. He is part of our Supported Independent Living program. As a way to make some money, Sean started mowing the lawns of his neighbors. He quickly realized how much he liked it...and how much he liked making money. Sean started saving his money so he could purchase his own



equipment. He started taking on more clients, which included an estate that boasts over seven acres of property and takes him several days to complete. Sean now works at five properties every week. He has his own riding mower, two push mowers, a weed whacker and even a leaf blower! He bought all of the equipment himself...something he is very proud of.



Sean loves music and about five years ago, he decided that he wanted to try his luck as a DJ. He started small, with only a turntable and a few records, but just like his lawn business it quickly expanded into so much more. Sean purchased additional equipment and a variety of music. Now Sean has a guaranteed gig every month at an event held by the Department of Social Services. He has DJ'd for Christmas parties, birthday parties and the Special Olympics award dinner held in Danbury. Being a DJ is a great way for Sean to make money during the winter (when he's not helping clear people's driveways with his snowblower).

When asked which he likes more, mowing lawns or mixing tracks, he said that he likes them both equally. Making money is important to Sean; that is easy to see. He also added that getting a paycheck is great because he can buy a lot of movies (another love of his). His staff noted the great strides that Sean has made through the years. He has built such incredible skills through both of his jobs. He is full of energy and greets every day with his infectious smile.

Look Who's Joined Our Team

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

- Kerzell Barnes, LSI
- Sasha Brush, LSI
- Diana Dorceumus, LSI
- Shauntee Fountain, ARSC
- Lorie Heath, LSI
- Hilary Holbrook, LSI
- Shauntia Jones, LSI
- Charlene Mellers, LSI
- Charles Perry III, LSI
- Sara Pollock, LSI
- Jason Schultz, LSI
- Stephanie Schultz, LSI
- Ashli-Choi Simpson, LSI
- Nicole Sousa, LSI
- Mark Swisher, 1st Response Tech
- Stacy Thomas, LSI

Our Vision For The Future...

Ensuring a successful future for our consumers, families and employees

Showcasing our expertise

Ability Beyond Disability has been selected to present at the YAI 2011 International Conference next May in NYC. The YAI Conference is an international conference that attracts thousands of professionals in our field each year. Nicole Cadovius and David Slater will be presenting "Reconfiguration of a Residential Service System" on behalf of the Reconfiguration Project Team. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about best practice in programming ideas and environment design to support individuals with complex medical and behavioral needs and how these approaches are shaping the future of residential services for our agency. Programming best practices will incorporate the principles of the 6 dimensions of wellness (physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional, occupational, and social) and practical approaches to incorporating these principles in support of the people we serve. Environmental best practices will include the best in technology, green building, universal design and accessibility, and approaches in designing a home that can support any population as the demand of services evolve. Many of the design features are based on the programmatic needs of individuals and how to build and maintain independence for younger individuals with behavioral support needs as well as for those who are aging.

Congratulations to Nicole, Dave and the entire Reconfiguration Project Management Team!

National Disability Employment Awareness Month!

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and Ability Beyond Disability is celebrating! There are a lot of activities going on this month that we hope you will get involved in as we strive to create employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

October 20-22 is our 3rd annual **Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) Celebration!** DMD is a nationally recognized event, but we have so many people who want to get involved, that we have to extend it to three days. On each of those days, people with disabilities from Ability Beyond Disability and the community will experience various career opportunities through tours and hands-on experience at different local companies. This year we have over 100 mentees participating at approximately 40 job sites! The DMD Celebration Kickoff will be held on Wednesday, October 20th at Western CT State University, beginning at 11:00am. We hope to see you there as we welcome the mentees, mentors and speakers, including Danbury Mayor, Mark Boughton.

October 21st, right smack in the middle of our DMD Celebration will be our 2nd annual **Hoops for Hope** event! Hoops for Hope is a wheelchair basketball game intended to raise funds and awareness in support of NDEAM. We have partnered with Danbury High School again this year and the game will begin at 7:00pm in their gym. A team of local celebrities (including the associate publisher for the Danbury News Times and Lou Milano from i-95) and representatives from companies who choose to sponsor the event will take on the CT Spokebenders, a professional wheelchair basketball team. Tickets are only \$5 and there will be snacks for sale, raffle prizes and guaranteed laughs as the Ability Hot Shots try to keep up with the CT Spokebenders. For tickets, please contact Robyn Wicks at 203.826.3181. Hope to see you there!

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



"Oh My" Employee of the Month

-Oscar Steadman

Oscar Steadman, RC at Eden Drive, has been with Ability Beyond Disability for seventeen years. He started his career as an LSI at Lanesville then was promoted to Assistant there. He was promoted again to RC at Greenview and then became RC at Eden Drive in 2000.

Oscar chose to work at Ability Beyond Disability because he likes helping people and said that "the more time I spent here, the more attached I became." His favorite part of the job is seeing the consumers progress. He has seen the progress made by consumers throughout the Agency over the years and says, "it makes my day! We all have the same goals to guide those we serve to realize their potential".

Oscar has a son named Oscar and two daughters, Mia who is eleven and Olivia who is 7. He is a "sports fanatic" and likes to play softball and basketball, both on leagues and in pick up games. Now, instead of playing football, he'd rather watch it on TV!

As part of the transition team, Oscar has been so supportive with the opening of Clapboard Ridge. Two of his staff were promoted to RA positions—one at Clapboard and one at Lanesville. He is clearly a great teacher and has trained his staff well! Congratulations, Oscar!



October "Oh My" Award Nominees

- Terri Chhuop - Life Skills Instructor
- Ashlyn Godbee - Direct Support Professional
- Jen Smith - Direct Support Professional



Consumers and staff from our Cheryl Lane group home in CT went on their FIRST ever vacation together in Wildwood, NJ last month.

It was a HUGE success and everyone had such a wonderful time!

Anniversaries

Victor O'Creene	23	Carrie Arnold	3
Cynthia Schneider	21	Maria Cherry	3
Kim Brown	20	James Clarke	3
Geoffrey MacLaren	20	Jeremiah McCarthy	3
Marvin Sheppard	17	Jessica Guard	3
Lori Pasqualini	16	Miguel Espinal	3
Genea T Murphy	15	Grayson Jackson	3
Monica L Douglas	14	Osman Sesay	3
Loretta Worthington	13	Sashauna Riley	2
Louise Vincennie	12	Bailey Corso	2
Tanya Meeks	12	Carolina Hidalgo	2
Karen Churchill	12	Constantine Ohakam	2
Geraldine Cullen	11	Tamara Harding	2
Kimberly Davis	10	Paul Aurelien	2
Elizabeth Stroud	10	Wallyn Cruz-Riodin	2
Nichelle Roy	10	Mari Manzano	2
Rhonda Granja	10	Imran Mohamed	2
Steven Kee	9	Aslan Kumantas	2
Mary Williams	8	Michelle Cabral	2
Martin Waltuch	8	Shiriki Parker	1
Carrie Moultrie	8	Serrin Jackson	1
Tanesha Mourning	8	Erin Harrison	1
Diana Stavola	8	Wendy Cueto	1
Marguerite Heyward	7	Heather Adams	1
Jose Beltre	7	Natoiya Williams	1
Rebecca Anderson	6	Enaida Mendoza	1
Virginia Kearns	6	Tania Zuccaro	1
Sarah Ossowski	6	Cedric Ward	1
Yomaira Medina	5	Ebony Durrett-Smith	1
Georgeann DeCarvalho	5	Jammie Wright	1
Theora Kellam	5	Enisha Blakely	1
Stephanie Marriott	5	Brian Medina-Betancur	1
Maren Milliard	5	Catherine Disla	1
Richard Houle	5	Audretta Burns	1
Matthew Hossan	5	Nicholas Davis	1
Patricia Caporale	4	Courtney Clements	1
Osaretin Iyen	4	David Greiner	1
Derek Newland	4	Danielle Hyatt	1
Tamera Tillman	4	Jessica DiPalma	1
Shakirrya Taft	4	Lori Thomas	1
Nancy Kile	4	Kathleen Scaturro	1
Randy Rosario	3	Elizabeth Schaff	1