

Toward Maximum Independence

A non-profit agency assisting people with disabilities
to live, work and participate in their communities.

ISSUE 20

NEWSLETTER

JULY 1995

CARF SURVEY

On June 1 and 2, 1995 TMI's supported employment and VR-WAP DDS programs were reviewed by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) surveyors as part of the CARF accreditation process. This was our first CARF review. CARF accreditation is required for Rehabilitation and Habilitation funded programs. The maximum number of years for which an organization can achieve accreditation is 3 years, with 1 year being the minimum awarded. If an organization does not sufficiently meet the CARF standards, it could be at risk of losing Rehabilitation Certification and would

thereby not be permitted to provide services funded through the Departments of Rehabilitation and Habilitation. Two surveyors from out of state were assigned to complete TMI's survey. Over the course of two days they meticulously reviewed TMI administrative policies and procedures, safety practices, and specific Supported Employment and VR-WAP DDS program policies.

CES is very happy to report that we had an outstanding CARF review. Both surveyors stated that this was the best "first time" review of an agency that they had conducted in their 15 year careers as CARF surveyors. We received many accommodations for a number of

policies, practices and accomplishments. Most importantly they both felt that TMI's staff demonstrated a genuine respect for the people they serve and were very impressed with the dignified manner in which they interacted with them, both on and off the job.

The final CARF report arrived just as the newsletter was being put together. We received a three year accreditation and strong commendations in many areas. Credit goes to the CES team, Roger Orstad, Sandra Wyspianski and her team for all their hard work!

Unforgettables, TMI's unique gift store located in Hillcrest is now under new management. Pamela Tamkin assumed her new duties as of July 1st. Pam has over 15 years of experience in the design business, both in custom floral arranging and in events planning. Home, office, and business plant and floral designs are some of the unique services she can provide. She has also developed a line of corporate business and personalized gift baskets which make great gifts. Many of the store's smaller items can be delivered within Hillcrest and the surrounding communities.

New Management At "Unforgettables"

As new members of the Hillcrest Business

Association, we want to be contributing members of the community. Most recently, Unforgettables participated in the Gay Pride Festival held in July. A number of TMI staff volunteered their time to work in the "Unforgettables" booth and we were very pleased with the sales that were generated. Many of the store's gift items are there under consignment with talented local artists and artisans. If you or someone you know would like to place something in the store under consignment, contact Pam at 683-3978.

We welcome input and ideas, so please stop by and see us; you won't be disappointed!

Family Support Services

Transition Homes

Coordinator, Debbie Callahan, has worked very hard these past few months developing two Transition Homes to begin supporting children in August. These homes will provide the opportunity to four children at a time to transition into community life while a long term Alternative Family is being developed. Children prioritized for these homes will be those coming out of Developmental Centers or diverted from D.C. placement, or those waiting in

facilities such as Polinski Center, Juvenile Hall or psychiatric hospitals. We welcome and thank Dena Prewett and Chuck Drury and Andy and Marie Reid as our Transition Home Parents. We also welcome Ruth Riordan as our new SDRC Liaison, and Jessica Rojas as the Companion for the homes.

FSS Picnic

Joellen McNamara, with the assistance of Dena Prewett, is organizing our first FSS Family Picnic to include families from the Alternative Families and Alternatives to Placement Programs. The picnic is being held at the home of

Coordinator, Darlene Jean on Saturday, August 12, 1:00 PM. It's certain the event will be lots of fun!

Protection & Advocacy

FSS hosted a Parent Support Group with guest speaker Robin Maisel from Protection and Advocacy, Sacramento on July 26. Mr. Maisel presented a wealth of information, suggestions and feedback to parents. Our hope is to have a Protection and Advocacy representative based in San Diego.

Congratulations . . .

to FSS Coordinator Darlene Jean, who passed her social work licensing exam!

P R O G R A M

Community Living Services

CLS currently provides support to 174 people throughout San Diego County. Thirty individuals receive supported living services which is a 24 hour, 7 day per week commitment for the community support facilitators, as well as the coordinators, with focus being on "fading" support where reasonable and safe.

S.L. Success

Michelle Lackman has had a neighbor providing support for several years and is now transitioning into Independent Living services. Congratulations, Michelle! Other individuals are also making plans to decrease their levels of support and becoming increasingly connected to their community by receiving natural

supports and coverage on their own. Fading back support also occurs in independent living and many individuals receiving our support are now on an "on -call" basis, requiring very infrequent supports.

CLAC

The Community Living Advisory Committee has recently completed two major projects; "The Example Forms Book" gives resource information to TMI staff, and "The Participant Handbook," a guide to people receiving supports which offers valuable information about TMI. A third project "Community Living Facilitator Handbook" is near completion. Many thanks to all the individuals involved in completing these projects.

N E W S

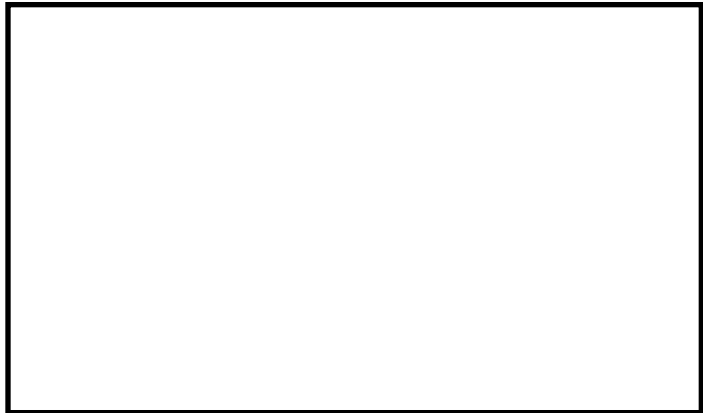
Community Employment Services

VR-WAP DDS Update

TMI was recently notified by the Department of Rehabilitation that funding for CES's VR-WAP DDS program which serves individuals at a 1:2 staff to participant ration will be fading over the next year. According to Department of Rehabilitation sources, as individual purchase of service contracts expire, each case will be reviewed for appropriateness of continued services through the Department. Only those individuals who are making progress toward

supported employment will be reviewed. All other participants will be referred back to TMI's SDRC-funded program, Integrated Work. According to TMI's current I.W. program design, individuals are served at a 1:3 staff to participant ratio. The CES Administrative Team and TMI Co-Executive Directors are working with Regional Center to develop a service delivery model which will allow for individuals who are now employed to maintain their current employment/staffing ratio of 1:2. We will be submitting a new program design for consideration within the next few weeks.

Hello there! Welcome once again to another fantastic report on a new TMI employee. TMI would like to welcome Cheryl Immonen. Cheryl is an office aide and works right along with other administrative assistants by performing a number of clerical duties. She is a graduate of Grossmont High School and currently attends Educational Cultural Complex, a junior college. Her classes consist of ceramics and computers. Cheryl has a number of hobbies ranging from reading, shopping (her favorite), bowling and softball. She told me that it is "pure pleasure" to



work at TMI and her favorite part of the job is filing. Her duties consist of xeroxing documents, filing, collating, light typing, and cleaning the kitchen. Cheryl is a very pleasant woman who really enjoys her job a lot. Mary McDougal is her job coach and is very pleased with Cheryl's determination and hard work. This is another success story and it's Cheryl's ability to work hard that makes her a part of a winning team at TMI. Way to go Cheryl!!

Employee Interview

Until next time . . .



WHAT'S UP

K.I.D.S. GRANT PROJECT

Keys to Introducing Disabilities in Schools has been supported by volunteers from TMI and other agencies since 1988. The purpose of the outreach program is to provide information and

disabilities awareness training to elementary children. TMI successfully wrote a state-wide PDF grant proposal, effective from July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996. Lisa Irving was hired in July from a large applicant pool to coordinate the project for the next year. She is also looking for volunteers for various tasks within the project. Please contact Lisa at Ext. 320 in interested.

More stories continued on page 4



So, how's the green side of your brain been working? Turning brown yet? The heat of summer is back and I surmise so are your fans, air conditioners, increasing electric bills, sunscreen and hat use - and how are those fleas prospering for all you animal lovers? Does that about cover it?

Green Notes

By Simone Ferber

If that's not enough, contact your veterinarian for information on a ground-breaking new flea birth control pill that will make Rover howl for joy!

Finally, an "earth-wise" health tip. With increasing toxins plaguing Mother Earth, the cases of asthma are on the rise. But there's good news! A study of 106 asthma patients found those who participated in a yoga program had fewer, less severe attacks and used fewer asthma

Remember, you can conserve energy and save money by contacting SDG&E for a free personalized home energy profile. Just call the toll free number and complete a short questionnaire. It's free and you will receive valuable information and money savings tips!

medications. Just think... yoga... it's not just for stress anymore!

Food For Thought. By recycling 1 telephone book you are saving 17 trees! Now how's that for some rich food?

WELCOME ABOARD NEW EMPLOYEES

CES: Rosaline Maldonado, Kathy Richards,
Joan Hardin, Cheryl Quick, Patti Smith,
Kristin Randolph, Todd Tolson, Greg
Wall, Tamy Lopez, Marlene Evans,
Raquel Coco, Carolyn Nicoll

FSS: Colleen Hart, Darlene Jean,
Deborah Callahan, Jessica Rosas

CLS: Sonja Hill, Beth Ritter, Raul Ortuno,
Scott Pamedis, Alicia Faleono,
Erin Wolcott

ADMIN: Rita Deckman, Cheryl Immonen

**CONGRATULATIONS EMPLOYEES OF THE
QUARTER - (4th)**

Darin Trammell-Admin; Jeanice Mullany-CLS;
Ana Castro and Lyn Martinez-CES

**CONGRATULATIONS EMPLOYEES OF THE
YEAR-1994**

Karen Castellanos-Admin; Cathy Cosner-CLS;
Lydia Newman-CES

**Congratulations New Board Staff Rep -
Rhonda Birich!**

Toward Maximum Independence, Inc.

It is the mission of TMI to support the value, right and responsibilities of all people with the support of their advocates to make informed choices regarding how they live, work and express their membership in community. We accomplish this by providing personalized supports to people in their homes, workplaces, schools, families and neighborhoods.

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