Executive Director’s Corner
BY: Douglas F. Reynolds, Executive Director-MDCBDSN

I have enjoyed my first six months as Executive Director of the Marion-Dillon County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs. I believe the seeds of involvement and commitment on behalf of those we serve and the agency have taken root with many of our fine staff and other stakeholders. It is in fact, “true commitment” and “sincere involvement” on the part of those who seek to improve our program that will create meaningful and lasting change in the lives of those we serve.

I have been surprised at the number of people who do not seem to be able to overcome the “pull” of the past. Their memory ties them to the past, their responses to issues and opportunities are also those of the past; finding fault, placing blame, initiating rumors and yes of course, the old standby, calling Central Office.

Over the next six months the pace and complexity of change in our program will only increase. The need for change is always part of a successful and effective agency in our field. I invite all staff and concerned stakeholders to re-examine their “commitment” and “involvement” in behalf of those we serve. It is within the power of every individual to “change” their responses and method of handling issues and concerns to one that is productive, professional and serves to move us forward.

I hope you enjoy our October Newsletter, as always please feel free to contact your son’s or daughter’s Service Coordinator, Department Supervisor, or my office should you have any questions or concerns.

HAVE A GOOD OCTOBER!!!!!

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00am-4:30pm

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE
Submitted by: Dianne Thompson, HR Administrator

The Human Resources Update for this month is focusing on YOU and YOUR ATTITUDE. What is an “ATTITUDE”? It is your state of mind when YOU approach a situation. “Today I’m going to get something done”-Positive Attitude. “Today will be lousy like yesterday”-Negative Attitude. It is the same you-the only difference is the Attitude, which only you can control. Why is your attitude so important? Because it effects how you look, what you say, what you do, and how successful you are in achieving your purposes in life. What could be more important than positive attitudes making everyday living better? Life is more meaningful. Problems are easier to handle. Goals are more attainable. Mistakes seem less disastrous. The future is more exciting. In order to have a positive attitude, you must first BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. You are unique in this world so are your talents. You need to SET GOALS FOR YOURSELF. Then WORK hard to achieve them. You should ACT for what you believe is RIGHT. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes, you’ll learn from them. CARE about OTHER PEOPLE. There’s no better example of a positive attitude than treating others the way you want to be treated. IMPROVE YOURSELF by keeping open-minded about new ideas. Don’t fight change. GET FUN OUT OF LIFE. Don’t take yourself too seriously. Remember, IT’S BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS. I CAN HELP MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

WELCOME ABOARD!!!!!!!

VIRGINIA ELLERBE-ESA-DILLON CENTER
KIMBERLY HICKSON-DSA-LEWIS CTH

NOTE: New hires are for the month of August only. All new hires will appear in the month of actual start date.

RECYCLING: by Addie Page-Recycling Contract

Aluminum can donations are needed at the Marion and Dillon workshops for the recycling contract our consumers are working on. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. The consumers visit several businesses in the counties and collect cans. The cans are then cleaned and crushed by the consumers. The consumers receive a paycheck for their hard work when the cans are sold.

Your donation of your aluminum cans can make a difference in the lives of consumers with disabilities and special needs.

If you would like to donate your cans, please contact the Marion Center at 423-4484 or the Dillon Center at 774-6775. You may drop your donations off at the Marion or Dillon Centers between the hours of 8:30am-4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

All donations will be greatly appreciated.
DILLON COMMUNITY RESIDENCE
From the desk of Myron McNeil

The lone ICF/MR facility operated by MDCBDSN is located at 506 South 14th Avenue in Dillon. The letters ICF and MR stand for Intermediate Care Facility and Mental Retardation respectively. Compliance comes under rules and regulations set by DHEC. A total of eight men live at the house. They sleep two to a room. On staff is a full time nurse and twenty four hour supervision is provided by trained staff. There is also a house manager and a QMRP (Qualified Mental Retardation Professional).

Within the past few months several developments have occurred which are certain to improve the quality of life for the men who live here. In May, Marcella Mitchell came on board as the new nurse (LPN). Mrs Mitchell brings with her years of experience and knowledge. She has worked at Pee Dee Center in Florence and Saleeby Center in Hartsville and St. Eugene’s Hospital in Dillon. Myron McNeil is the new QMRP. He previously worked at Pee Dee Center for twelve years. Victoria Greer-Casey is new to this field and works full time on second shift.

Perhaps the brightest change at the ICF is the new indoor recreation area which is presently being organized. The former garage has been fully carpeted and an assortment of new games and exercise equipment have been purchased. Plans for the area include others besides the men who live there. According to house manager, Angela Bethea, men and women from the agency’s other ten homes will have an open invitation to come by and share in the fun.

MDCBDSN Board Meeting Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 25, 2001</td>
<td>Marion Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22, 2001</td>
<td>Dillon Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 27, 2001</td>
<td>Marion Center</td>
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NUMBERS TO REMEMBER!!!!!!!
Marion Center-843-774-8106 or 843-423-4484
Dillon Center-843-774-6775 or 843-423-1499
Professional Serv 843-774-9619 or 843-464-2565
Rehab Supports-843-774-9619 or 843-464-2565

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES:
Thanksgiving Program/Dinner for Day Program Individuals (To be scheduled)
Fall Dance-November 15, 2001, 6:00pm @ Dillon Center
Halloween On Ice-October 26, 2001

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM
By: Cynthia Breeden, Workshop Supervisor

The Day Program offers center-based work programs in centers located in Marion and Dillon Counties. Center-based services provide a safe and healthy environment for consumers to develop social and personal skills for more independent and productive lives. The Day Program of MDCBDSN is a work/training development center that helps to develop and enhance work skills for consumers served by the board. The Day Program provides services for consumers transitioning from school to adult day services. The Mobile Work Crews train groups of adults to work in their communities and perform duties such as lawn care, janitorial services and land scaping services. The Enclave Services provide work for groups of adults at local industries and businesses. Participants work at job sites with assistance from a supervisor provided by the agency.

Parent Guardian Association (PGA)
The Parents/Guardian Association met on Tuesday, September 18, 2001 at 6:30pm at the Dillon Center. Guest speaker was Maris Permenter, Director of Independent Living Council. The PGA meets monthly. Pat McIntyre was elected president and Bernice Summerlin treasurer. They will take office effective October 1, 2001. If you would like to attend and need transportation, please contact Pat McIntyre at 843-423-2201 or Betty Lou Barclay at 843-774-6122. The PGA is currently planning to publish a cookbook as a fund raising project for the MDCBDSN individuals.

Any recipe donations would be greatly appreciated. You may drop them off at the Marion or Dillon Centers. If you wish to join the PGA please contact Betty Lou Barclay at (843)-774-6122 or Pat McIntyre (843)-423-2201.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEWS
Jim and I continue to take the individuals to practice bowling every other Friday night through October. The Unified Bowling Tournament will be held in Columbia on September 21, 2001. Four individuals will be participating and will be accompanied by two parents and two staff.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Mary M. Roberts, Early Interventionist, gave birth to a boy at 5:38pm, September 10, 2001. Bryce Jacob Roberts came into the world weighing 9lb. 10oz. and was 21½ inches long.
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Marion-Dillon County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs (MDCBDSN) recognizes that there are families caring for their special needs children and/or relatives at home. The board also recognizes the many financial challenges that these families are faced with. The board through state funding from the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) is able to create a Family Support Service Program to ensure that families have appropriate resources to assist them in providing the best care for their family members.

What is the purpose of Family Support Services?

Family Support Services are provided to assist DDSN eligible families in caring for their special needs family members at home, who otherwise might be at-risk for out-of-home placement. This service is intended to target those families who are committed to caring for their special needs family member at home but who do not have all of the financial resources to cover the cost of all of his/her special needs.

What types of items or services may be funded by Family Support Funds?

Family Support Services may be utilized for the following purposes: Environmental modifications to include ramps and some interior modifications such as making a bathroom more accessible, medical supplies, diapers, Ensure, summer services, and special adaptive equipment such as communication devices, corner chairs, etc. Family Support Funds are not appropriate to fund items such as routine living expenses on a regular basis. However, in some instances, if a family has experienced a recent hardship, Family Support Funds may be used as one-time payment to assist families with rent, utilities, etc. in order to avoid out-of-home placement for the special needs family member. MDCBDSN is committed to having our consumers reside in the least restrictive atmosphere and thus, Family Support Funds are allocated to ensure that families have a resource to assist them in caring for their family members at home.

How can a family request Family Support Funds?

A family may request Family Support Funds by contacting his/her Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist. Family member should explain in detail to the worker what is going on and how they feel Family Support Funds can assist in their particular situation. The worker will gather some information from the family such as their financial resources, estimates for the services or items requested and then the worker will complete a Family Support Request packet. This packet will be forwarded to the Associate Director of Support Services and/or Executive Director for approval. Families should keep in mind that not all Family Support Requests will be approved and will be based on need, family resources and availability of funds.

COMPANION SERVICES

The MDCBDSN is able to provide Companion Services funded through the MR/RD Waiver as a board provided service. Local boards are responsible for recruiting, training and supervising any person hired to perform the duties of a companion.

What is the purpose of Companion Services?

Companion Services are intended to provide non-medical care, supervision and socialization to individuals. It is provided in accordance with a therapeutic goal in the plan of supports. Companion Services are not to be confused with sitter services but is available to provide specific training to address needs of the individuals for which companion services are being provided. What types of duties might a companion perform?

A companion may assist individuals with such tasks as meal preparation, laundry and shopping, but should not perform these activities as discrete services. The provision of companion services does not entail hands on medical care, but may entail hands on assistance or training to the recipient in performing activities of daily living and independent living skills. A companion may also perform light housekeeping chores which are incidental to the care and supervision of the individual.

How can a family/individual request Companion Services?

The family may request companion services by contacting their Service Coordinator, who will work closely with the family to determine if these services are appropriate. The types of training needed and the number of hours needed for training will be determined. This information will be placed on the Plan of Supports and Waiver Budget if the person is already a waiver recipient. If the person is not a waiver recipient a waiver slot would be requested.