



Marion-Dillon County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs

September 2002

Executive Director's Corner

BY: Douglas F. Reynolds, Executive Director-MDCBDSN

Dear Consumers, Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens,

I hope you enjoy our September newsletter. A number of exciting and good things have happened in our program since I last spoke to you in our August newsletter.

New Activity Center: Recently, we were contacted by representatives of SCDDSN and informed that initial funding for our new Activity Center was being sent. It should not be much longer before we are soliciting bids and moving forward with this much needed facility. Many new opportunities will come to be available to all adults we serve as a result of this project. **A Special Thank You** to Director Butkus and others in Columbia for their support.

Transportation; we have been providing our own transportation now for about five weeks or so... with only a few exceptions things have gone well. Pick up and drop off times will soon be well established. Occasionally it has occurred that no one has been home when the van arrives at the end of the day.... I am sure you can appreciate that this causes major problems for our staff driving the vans. If you cannot be there, please try to make arrangements for a family member, friend or neighbor to be at your home when your son or daughter is suppose to arrive.

Clemson University Extension began two weeks ago providing a shopping/cooking class for a group of women at the Marion and Dillon Centers. We are very pleased to enter into this partnership with our friends from Clemson.

Who to call, who to call.... I was recently involved in helping resolve a problem involving our program and a family member of one we serve. Part of the solution was clarifying/reviewing who to contact when a problem occurs. So... here is who to contact in our agency with questions or concerns.

In our Day Program we have a Lead Staff at both the Marion and Dillon Activity Centers; in Dillon the Lead Staff is Virginia Ellerbe (Dillon phone numbers are 843-774-6775 or 843-774-6775); at the Marion Center the Lead Staff is Jeannette Gurley (Marion phone numbers are 843-423-4484 or 843-774-8106). Continued on Page 2

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Submitted by: Dianne Thompson, H.R. Administrator

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

WHAT IS SECTION 504? Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. Section 504 forbids organizations and employers from excluding or denying service to individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to receive benefits and services. Individuals with disabilities are defined as persons with a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include caring for oneself, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, and learning. From an employment focus, employers are required to take reasonable steps to accommodate the individual disability unless it would cause the employer undue hardship. If you feel you have been discriminated against and would like to file a complaint please contact, the Office of Civil Rights by calling 1-800-368-1019.

WELCOME ABOARD!!!

**HATTIE PAGE - FULL-TIME - DSA - LEWIS
BRYAN BRANTLEY - FULL-TIME - DSA - ICF
CATHY McINNIS - FULL-TIME - DSA - JULIA**

WAY TO GO!!!

**VIRGINIA ELLERBE
CYNTHIA BREEDEN
CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS
COKER COLLEGE**

Important Dates to Remember!!!!!!

MDCBDSN Board Meeting Schedule

9/26/02	Dillon Center	6:30pm
10/24/02	Marion Center	6:30pm
11/21/02	*Dillon Center	6:30pm
12/19/02	*Marion Center	6:30pm

*November and December dates changed due to holidays

For questions or concerns about the Day Program you can also contact Cynthia Breeden. Cynthia is Facility Supervisor over both the Marion and Dillon Activity Centers. Virginia, Jeannette, Cynthia or your Direct Service Staff at either center should generally be able to respond to most issues, questions or concerns.

In our Residential Program; Parents and Guardians should be able to address most questions or concerns by contacting the House Managers or Direct Service Staff of our homes. The House Manager's phone numbers are as follows;

Godbold/Gaffney-Betty Williams-678-1923
Zion/Lewis-Tammie Hill-678-1932
Julia Lane/Jefferson -Natalie Clark-660-7306
Linkside/Lee Circle-Lue Anna McLeod-660-5229
ICF/MR-Angela Bethea-678-1931
MLK/North Park-Sylvia Vandriff-678-1929

Our Marion County Residential/CTH II Coordinator is Sylvia Vandroff. Sylvia's office is here at the Marion Center (Her phone number is 843-423-4484). Jamie Maylor is our Residential Director, his office is located at our Dillon Center. Mr. Maylor is responsible for the overall operations of our Residential Program and currently is doubling as CTH II Coordinator for our Dillon County CTH II's and ICF/MR (Jamie's number is 843-774-6775 or 843-423-1499).

Parents, Guardians or involved Family members should also feel free to contact your son's/daughter's Service Coordinator at anytime. If you do not know your Service Coordinator's name, please call the Mullins office and ask , the number is 843-464-2565.

Finally, in the event a question or concern remains after contacting the Day, Residential, Service Coordinator or Supervisor; please feel free to contact me directly. My office and administrative staff always know how to reach me in the event I may not be in the office.

It is my hope that the previous information about who to call helps you. I/we will always try to address questions and concerns in a timely and professional manner.

Have a Good September.

**PGA MEETING ::
September 17, 2002 at 6:30pm at the
Dillon CENTER....**

Family Support Update

By: Elaine M. Weston, Associate Director of Support Services

We are pleased and ecstatic to announce that all Family Support funds were exhausted for fiscal year 2002. In previous years, MDCBDSN was required to return Family Support funds that were not utilized by the end of the fiscal year.

Family Support funds were used to assist a number of families in both Marion and Dillon counties. A number of families received much-needed environmental modifications such as ramps. Without these funds, most of these families would still be transporting family members by lifting or using makeshift ramps that presented to be a major health and safety issue. Family Support funds were also used to assist families with the following items and/or services: bathroom renovation; diapers, fence, air conditioner, travel assistance to medical appointments, hearing aids, daycare services, PCA services. To a limited degree, Family Support funds were utilized to assist families with utility bills such as electric and telephone bills.

MDCBDSN is fortunate in that the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN), has awarded Family Support funds to the board for fiscal year 2003. We also want to commend all service coordinators and early interventionists for their assistance in coordinating services and for the utilization of Family Support funds. For more information on Family Support Services, please contact Mullins Professional Services at (843) 464-2565 or (843) 774-9619.

SPECIAL OLYMPIC UPDATE

BY: Frank Morris

Marion - Dillon Special Olympic Team took their show on the road to the Master Bowling Tournament in Columbia, South Carolina on August 03, 2002. The Master Bowling Team had a good time.

- *Travis Boyd came in 3rd place
- *Mechelle Hamilton came in 2nd place
- *Zena Woodberry came in 2nd place
- *Denise Graves came in 2nd place
- *Herman Denton came in 1st place
- *Chris Barclay came in 4th place

The team really worked hard training for this competition. The main goal is for everyone to have a good time and that is what we had. After the bowling tournament the bowlers from all the different areas were treated to a dance where everyone could show off their moves on the dance floor. Once again I would like to thank everyone who participated in making this possible because win or lose everyone is a winner with Special Olympics.