

ArtMobile visits Day Services

The Day Hab classroom buzzed with activity as would-be artists from all Day Services made colorful fish, traced maple leaves, and other craft projects all under the direction and guidance of five interns from St. Bonaventure University's Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

"The interns from the center's ArtMobile brought all the materials and are helping the people make art projects and crafts," Deena Holcomb, Day Hab DSP, said.

"Liz Whipple set it up before she retired. We're grateful to her for this. Everyone is enjoying it."

The interns seemed to enjoy it even more.

"We typically go around to different libraries and schools during the summer months. We do an art project for different age groups," Lindsay, a junior majoring in math and minoring in education, said.

Lindsay especially appreciated Paul's enthusiasm as he worked on his art project tracing a maple leaf design.

"This is the first time we've worked with people with disabilities," she said,



approving the work of the creative art students at her table.

"We have students also come to the center and we take them on tours around the Quick Center. Then we set up projects that relate to what they see in the center's gallery. It's a great way for them to learn."

Liz said the idea to have the ArtMobile visit Day Services came to her during a visit to the Olean Library a couple years ago outside which the ArtMobile was doing an art craft. She thought it would benefit the people in Day Services. Due to the ArtMobile's popularity, it was two years before it was available for this visit.



Agency stays ahead of state regulations

Changes in the service delivery system for people with disabilities in New York State was the focus of discussion at a Parent's forum hosted by the ReHabilitation Center in July. The event was attended by more than 50 parents and family members.

Service providers such as the ReHabilitation Center are currently faced with unprecedented challenges driven by tightening federal oversight of Medicaid expenditures in New York State. New York has consistently been one of the highest users of Medicaid funding to support disability-related services in our nation.

"New York State has been spoiled by a lush amount of Medicaid funding over the years in comparison to other states and is now faced with increased federal scrutiny," Mari Howard, President and CEO, said.

A significant policy change already in place for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities is the implementation of a "front door" for anyone entering the service system. This is an intake process controlled by NYS OPWDD that scrutinizes each individual's eligibility for service. That assessment prioritizes the person for the appropriate level of service.

(Continued on page 3)

Next Parent Forum
6 pm, Thurs., Nov. 2
ReHab Center
1439 Buffalo St.,
Olean, NY 14760

Sweet Meredith's Fudgery

Where dreams come true . . .

Sweetness comes in many flavors at Cuba's newest business enterprise.

It's in rich supply in the delicious, creamy chocolate, peanut butter, caramel, even blackberry cheesecake fudge Meredith Doyle sells in her *Sweet Meredith's Fudgery*.

Starting a business was always a dream of the SubCon employee, a dream in which she never stopped believing.

"It's always been a dream of mine to have a business and I've always loved fudge. So it's a perfect match," she said. "I love seeing everyone come in."

She talked the idea over with her parents, Connie and Michael, who supported her dream by suggesting the Palmer Opera House in Cuba as a good location for her fudgery. They also helped with the purchase of the fudge kettle and other items needed to open the fudge shop in the opera house.

Cuba's Friends of Architecture, under Michael's leadership, began restoration of the antiquated opera house 10 years ago and is now operating it as a business incubator.

In addition to the *Sweet Meredith Fudgery*, it's the



location of the Cuba Cheese Museum, The Perfect Blend coffee shop, and Light of the Moon, which is a uniquely creative consignment shop. All rent proceeds support the opera house.

"It makes me feel really good that I can sell fudge that benefits the Opera House. And, I get to see lots of people and that feels good." Meredith said.

"Peanut butter is the business' best seller. My favorite is chocolate," she said, pointing out an abundance in flavors behind the glass.

Her dad, Michael, is proud of her vision and hard work.

"Meredith's pretty independent," he said, "she only needs a little help."

As an entrepreneur, Michael understands the unique combination of passion and hard work that goes into any new enterprise. He shares those qualities with his daughter which were evident in his plans to restore a deteriorating old opera house into the beautiful historic building it is today.

The Friends of Architecture wrote its first grant for \$.5 million for its reconstruction.

"There were a lot of naysayers in the beginning," Michael said, adding while there were only a handful who thought the opera house was worth saving, their belief was enough.

"There were just a handful who believed the opera house was worth saving."

Then, after another grant, came the hard work of demolition, cleaning and restoration.

Today, the economic development project is a beehive of activity in a village that, like other New York State towns and villages, is reinventing itself with an eye toward customer service as well as economic development.



Agency stays ahead of state regulations

(From front)

"This process has led to not only longer waiting periods for service but also has produced extensive waiting lists for specific services such as residential placement," Russ Hahn, Chief Operating Officer, said.

"It will become increasingly difficult for people requesting residential placement to find options in their local communities. Placement will be based on the level of need established by New York State and placement options will be based on where in the state the open beds are located."

Another change is the statewide roll out of the Comprehensive Assessment System or CAS. This is an assessment tool that has been carefully developed by New York State to accurately assess the level of support an individual requires based on the level of disability and identified functional limitations. This assessment is currently being piloted throughout New York State in an effort to further refine the tool.

Mari reminded parents they should schedule the assessment at a time and day that allows for the most accurate evaluation of their family members abilities and that because the assessors do not know the individual responses should not be reflective of the best day a person has ever had but, an average day that most accurately reflects their current skills and abilities. The purpose of the assessment is to define the services and supports an individual will require to maximize their ability to participate in their community on a daily basis.

An additional change in New York State policy discussed was the phasing out of traditional work centers like SubCon Industries in 2019. There has been a growing movement at the state and federal levels to reform service models perceived to be segregating. The replacement of the traditional model will be referred to as an integrated work environment where people with disabilities work alongside people without disabilities.

Russ indicated that the ReHAbilitation Center has already initiated the process of moving toward this model with the development of InTandem Solutions, a social enterprise business model which utilizes a workforce of people with disabilities and people without disabilities.

"SubCon is not going away by any means. We remain committed to assuring that people who have the desire to work are afforded that opportunity. The program model is just being redesigned," Mari said.

The final area of significant change discussed was service

coordination. Historically, parents with a family member that is intellectually or developmentally disabled has been assigned a service coordinator that assists them in accessing the services and supports needed for an individual to be as independent as possible. In most cases, the service coordinator is employed by the

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- Mari Howard, President & CEO

same agency which provides the services. A reform of Medicaid regulations at the federal level rendered this model unacceptable if the services were truly developed and implemented in a person centered manner. There was a recognition that as system slowly moves toward a managed care model, there was a need for the service coordinator role to manage the overall health of an individual also.

NYS OPWDD is presently developing a model which will replace Service Coordinators with Care Coordinators whose focus will encompass the whole person. In addition, in order to assure that Care Coordinators' sole focus is on the person and their individual preferences and goals, and to be in compliance with federal regulations, the role of Care Coordinator must be independent of the service provider organization. To accomplish this OPWDD is establishing regional care coordination organizations, or CCO's.

"Our agency is staying ahead of this challenge by teaming up collaboratively with other agencies in the western region, many within the NYSARC network to form a regional CCO in which we would have an active voice. This organization would potentially employ our existing service coordinators in an independent relationship with as little disruption to families as possible," Mari said.

The attendees expressed a desire to continue Parent Forums on a quarterly basis to stay abreast of the system changes and actively participate in responses to those changes on the local level. The next meeting is November 2.

Agency provides a lifetime of enrichment

A bright smile spread across Billy Jo Olkosky's face as he shared memories from his many years at the ReHAbilitation Center, which has been home, rehabilitation provider and employer for most of his 67 years.

"It's been a long time," he said, smiling at his mother, Estelle, and step-dad, Keith, who stop by once a week to visit him and take him home for an occasional weekend and for holidays.

"We're so grateful to the ReHab Center," Estelle said.

"He's safe and happy and you can't imagine

how much peace that gives me."

"Billy started out in regular school but when he had to repeat kindergarten, the nurse told us he needed special classes," Estelle said, recalling that Billy Jo lost some cognitive ability due to a series of high fevers as a young child.

"He was a beautiful child. Now, he's a handsome man," she added, smiling warmly back at her son.

"I like it here," Billy Jo said, pausing as he reflected on his experience. "It's nice. I have friends and I like my teacher, Sandy. I like math and can do addition and subtraction."

"He also colors beautifully," Keith added. "He doesn't go outside the lines and especially likes flowers."

"My favorite color is purple," Billy Jo said, adding he also loves music, especially drumming, rock and roll, matchbox cars and going to old car shows with Keith.

He is an active participant in the ReHab Center's recreation programs which have taken him to the Bahamas, Hershey Park, Pa.; Florida, Niagara Falls where he rode on the Maid of the Mist.

While Billy Jo needs to use a wheelchair, that hasn't slowed him down. He continues to work at SubCon where he's worked for 45 years and is now active at the Linwood

Center. He enjoys bowling with his friends and attending shows and going out for dinner. He also attends St. Mary of the Angels parish regularly.



"Billy is a great guy," Deborah Poydock-Whipple, his Medicaid Service Coordinator, said. "He may take his time to absorb what has been said to him before responding, but when he says something, he speaks from his heart."

"Billy Jo is very independent with his care," Michael Reynolds, Agency treatment supervisor, said. "He does not require any treatment at this time."

In his early life, Billy attended several local schools in which the ReHab Center held special education programs.

In 2004, he began attending the Agency's Lifeskills program.

For a few years Billy Jo lived with others with disabilities in Rev. John and Lenore Lounsbury's home in Olean which was one of the Agency's first Family Care residences. Ten years ago, he moved into the Delaware Street residence, which he shares with people he considers family.

Today, while Billy Jo could retire, he enjoys his job at SubCon well enough to continue to work there occasionally.

"Billy Jo set a good example to other people in his residence. He wanted to go to work every day," Estelle said, proudly sharing some of the many milestone achievements his son has made at the ReHab Center.

COMEDY NIGHT

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NOVEMBER 4TH

GOOD TIMES OF OLEAN

HEADLINER:
D.J. DEMERS



D.J. has appeared on America's Got Talent, twice on Conan, and was the winner of the 2014 Homegrown Comics Competition at the prestigious Just For Laughs festival in Montreal.

D.J. was also a featured performer at Toronto's JFL42 comedy festival in 2014, the winner of the 2013 Toronto Comedy Brawl, was a finalist in NBC's Stand-up for Diversity, and won 'Best Breakout Artist' at the 2015 Canadian Comedy Awards. D.J. wears hearing aids, and is currently on a national tour to de-stigmatize hearing loss.

HOST & OPENING ACT: JOSE BARRIENTOS

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THE REHABILITATION CENTER

The ReHAbilitation Center is a non-profit agency supporting people with developmental disabilities, behavioral health issues and Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Agency provides comprehensive services to more than 850 people.

Since 1958, the ReHAbilitation Center has been improving the quality of life and maximizing independence for people in our community.

OUR MISSION

Enhancing the lives of people with disabilities through supports and services.

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3799 South Nine Mile Rd.
Allegany, NY 14706
716-375-4740

Medicaid Service Coordination Rehab Center Clinic

SubCon Industries

338 North 15th Street
Olean, NY 14760
716-375-4770
info@subconindustries.com
www.intandem.org

The Employment Connection

301 N. Union Street, Ste. 201
Olean, NY 14760
716-375-4770 ext. 424

Subcon Industries - Salamanca Day Habilitation

65 South Avenue Salamanca, NY 14779
716-945-4430

The Compass is a quarterly publication of The ReHAbilitation Center

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