



Eldridge Press

Message from the Executive Director

by Karen Faria

Town Hall meetings were held at McDougall Hall on April 30, May 1 and 2. The Town Halls were scheduled at different times on each day to accommodate all staff. There were a variety of items covered during the Town Hall Meetings, including:

- Pica is the persistent ingestion of nonnutritive substances. It is important that all staff be mindful of throwing trash in garbage bins and cigarette butts in the cigarette cylinders.
- Medications have been found on the floor on many residences. We are addressing the issue systemically with environmental sweeps, training, CPP (client protection) process and policy revisions. I would like to thank the housekeeping department for assisting the level of care staff on the residences. Additionally, eight out of the ten ICF residences now have two med carts, to assist with a more meaningful and engaging quality medication pass, for the people who live here.
- Discussion regarding what we have to do to improve and why. **STEHO**DEA, which stands for **S**taffing, **T**raining, **E**nvironment and **E**quipment, **H**ealthcare, **O**ppportunity, **D**ocumentation, **E**nabling, and **A**ccountability are the eight things we have to do to get SDC back to being the exceptional developmental center that it can be, that it has been, and that it should be.
- The Preamble Agreement defines what must be accomplished and by when, before our next ICF survey. It is available on the Department of Developmental Services website on the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) news tab. Timelines were discussed.
- The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is the tool for accomplishing the Agreement.
- NF Survey Prep team is meeting for the upcoming survey, which is expected during the summer months.
- Four staff are volunteering to organize a Staff Appreciation Picnic on their own time. I would like to thank Father Leslie, Chaplain Kuglar, Firefighter Dan Becker and Teacher Adam Basler, who have agreed to co-chair the event. Contact these individuals if interested in assisting.
- There are changes in Clinical Management teams per discussion with Nursing Coordinators, Program Assistants and Program Directors. People with knowledge of the history of the programs, specific levels of expertise and best matches of talent, were all factors in the changed assignments.
- Specialized Rehabilitative Services will now report to the Medical Department.
- Smith Residence will become a part of Program 4, to balance out population within Programs 4 and 6.
- We continue to address barriers with hiring. We currently have 50+ people in the hiring process.



Karen Faria

Karen Faria, Executive Director, said, "We have one shot to get it right! I believe the staff at SDC can do it because it is the right thing to do for the people who live here, the people who work here, and the taxpayers of California." Ms Faria went on to say, "SDC must do this **now**, and I believe we will."

Take Pride Moments at SDC

- The gym is open for parties and dances. All residents have the opportunity to have fun, relax and socialize. (Submission by resident residing on Corcoran.)
- Would like to thank the SDC staff who mentored the students from the Napa Valley College–Napa State Hospital Fast Track Psychiatric Technician Program. The staff were excellent role models, exhibiting warm and compassionate care for the residents.
- While walking with a group of residents, several of whom have issues with pica, I observed zero cigarette butts on the grounds. The residents and staff were able to relax and enjoy the walk, without having to worry about residents ingesting them and impacting their health.
- Sallie Weller, Registered Dietician, has been helping a few individuals who reside on the Corcoran residence make smoothies and vegetable dips, and teaching them about healthy foods. This helps promote independence and the individuals enjoy the fun activity. In addition, they learn about healthy snacks.
- During a week in April, all Individual Program Plans (IPPs) reviewed included discussion of dental restraints, along with all the other requirements for discussion of sedation. This assures that the Whole Person Review process is effective and meaningful to the people who resided here.
- So many staff, IPCs, MDSCs, and Recorders are stepping up and getting IPP's written for residents who are having their Whole Person Review meetings. They completed 100% of the required IPP's and are feverishly working on the next group of IPP's.
- An individual living on the Poppe residence did not want to leave her residence for quite some time, except to her day program. The other day Lori, an AM staff person, and the resident walked up to the store, had a bite to eat and walked back to the residence. Mika, the Music Therapist, trailed in a car and an Office of Protective Services officer (who happened to be on the residence) volunteered to trail also. The trip was a huge success.



- Elvis Neal de Stanton, Individual Program Coordinator, calls the Corcoran residence every morning when he is on vacation, just to make sure things are going well. One day he was informed of a serious injury that a resident had sustained. He called Patty Bullington, his supervisor, just to make sure she was aware of the incident.
- Program 4 residences Bemis, Corcoran and Malone were recognized for working together and planning a community outing to Sugarloaf Park for many residents. Everyone on the trip had a great time and enjoyed being out in nature.
- Jerry Curtemen, Unit Supervisor, was recognized for starting a weekly self-advocacy group on the Bemis residence. The word has spread and now Carmen Bidad, Unit Supervisor on the Malone residence, is starting a self-advocacy group. This helps the residents speak up and speak out and talk about their rights and what is important to them.
- The SDC Operators, specifically Roberta Sarkela, with Nancy Flack, Central Program Services, updated and completed the SDC phone book. This allows employees to contact their peers in a timely and resourceful manner.

Take Pride Spotlight: 1st & 2nd Impressions

One of the areas at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) that is well known to some and a well-kept secret to others is Impressions, the facility's clothing store. Located on the corner of Sonoma and Laurel Streets in the Wright Building, Impressions clothing store offers both new and used apparel.

What some might not know is that 1st Impressions offers new items, while 2nd Impressions offers a variety of used clothing items. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The store employs three

continued next page



*At 1st Impressions:
Near right:
women's clothes
Far right:
men's clothes*

1st & 2nd Impressions, continued from previous page
 full-time staff and two retired annuitants. Recently, (see March-April 2013 issue of the Eldridge Press) a resident from SDC has started working there as well.



Mark Hermans at Client Town Hall

The store employees include a Clothing Manager, who oversees the entire operation, including ordering, budgeting and completing reports. The store also employs a Material and Stores Specialist, Stock Clerk, Office Technician, Seamer and Tailor, and an Assistant Seamer. Their job duties include ordering clothes, receiving items, inventory, keeping files organized, assisting customers with clothing needs, altering clothing according to the needs of the

individuals and taking measurements, and much more. Impressions clothing store has been operational for over 15 years. The staff has also been instrumental in participating in a variety of other venues. They put on a yearly fashion show, showcasing the latest styles. Every year prior to the Black and White Ball, Impressions puts together formal attire for the event. They have also attended Advocacy meetings and Town Halls where they talked about all the wonderful items available at the store. The employees are always ready to help other departments with special projects as directed.

Mark Hermans, who is the Clothing Manager, says, "Everyone at Impressions takes pride in everything we do for the clients here at SDC. It is an honor to serve the citizens of Eldridge. When we can provide a service or item to someone in need, and receive a smile in return, this is when we become proud and feel justified in our daily routine and operations."

Advocacy

Marcia Dinkelspiel (see February 2013 issue of the *Eldridge Press*), who is on the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) will be in Sacramento May 7 and 8 attending the semi-annual meeting, held at Hawthorne Suites.

The agenda for this meeting includes:

- Olmstead Report
- Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered Report
- CAC members report

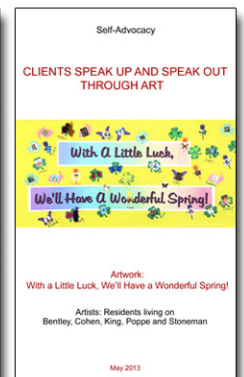
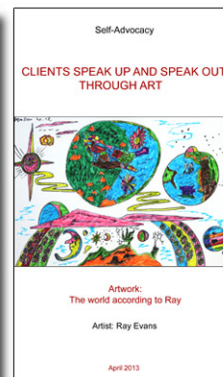
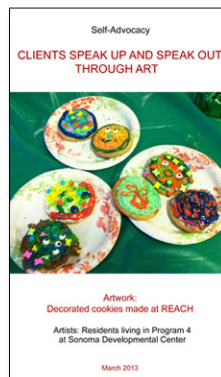


Cindy White
CAC member

- "Feeling Safe, Being Safe" Webcast
- Coordinator of Consumer Services Report
- National Core Indicators Report
- Supported Living Services Presentation
- Sonoma Developmental Center Update
- Nominations, Speeches and Election of Officers
- Certificate Presentations

Marcia is looking forward to the meeting and will report back on who the newly-elected officers are, in a future issue, of the *Eldridge Press*.

Advocacy Posters, January-May



Mark Your Calendars!

Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area Board Four, will co-host an Opportunity Fair at SDC on June 6 from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. This yearly event features several vendors that provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and showcases a wide spectrum of work, leisure, and living opportunities out in the greater community as well as within the Center.

The People First of California Statewide Gathering, "People First... The Next Generation" will occur June 28

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Did You Know?

Mark Your Calendar, continued from previous page
through June 30 at the Holiday Inn in San Jose. There is still space available to register. For more information about the event or to register online, go to <http://www.people-firstca.org/convention.html>.

Management Changes and More

Medical:

- Specialized Rehabilitation Services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology) is now under the Medical Department.
- Judy Curme is the Acting Program Assistant in the Medical Department and oversees Specialized Rehabilitation Services.

Administrative Services:

- Brenda Dukes is the Acting Human Resources Director.
- The SDC phone book has been updated and is available with current listings, including a Developmental Centers Division section.

Clinical:

- Aleana Carreon is the Interim Clinical Director.
- Changes in management teams are as follows:
 - NF Services (Program 2 and 3)
 - Program Director Mary Antone
 - Program Assistant Paula Prideaux
 - Nursing Coordinator Trina Blankenship
 - Nursing Coordinator Stacey Dunham, Acting
 - Program 4
 - Program Director Charlotte Jones
 - Program Assistant Renee Bliss
 - Nursing Coordinator Allison Berger (Covering as PA)
 - Nursing Coordinator Ed Fauble
 - Nursing Coordinator Marie Fay
 - Program 6
 - Program Director Tori Mathis
 - Program Assistant Suzanne Schrier
 - Nursing Coordinator Nathan Reid, Acting
 - Central Program Services
 - Program Director Liz Stoddard
 - Program Assistant Laura Lopez
 - Nursing Coordinator Linda Herrera
 - Unit Supervisors
 - Jerry Zablockis is the Unit Supervisor for Nelson D residence.
 - Alma Flores is the Unit Supervisor for Lathrop residence.
 - Laura Crafter is the Acting Unit Supervisor for Johnson A residence.

- Sally Lamore is the Unit Supervisor for Johnson B residence.
- Desiree Northrup is the Unit Supervisor for Johnson C residence.
- Linda Young is the Unit Supervisor for Thompson residence.
- Susan Webster is the Acting Unit Supervisor for Bane residence.

Quality Assurance Department:

- Terri Sievers is the Director of Quality Assurance.
- Lenijane Fong is the Individual Program Coordinator for the Cohen residence.

Central Nursing Services:

- Nayeli Hidalgo is an acting Health Services Specialist.
- Caroline Furth is an acting Health Services Specialist.
- Nursing Policy M601 was revised and sent out for training.

Psychology Services:

- Brad Backstrom, Sr. Ph.D, is covering as the Psychologist for Lathrop.
- June is Client Rights Awareness Month and the Human Rights Committee is hard at work planning events for the month of June.

New Hires

Sonoma Developmental Center would like to welcome its newest employees that were hired during the month of April:

- Manuel Ablaza, Psychiatric Technician
- Bremar Aquino, Psychiatric Technician
- Modesto Defiesta, Psychiatric Technician
- Mary Ediral, Psychiatric Technician (Retired Annuitant)
- Charles Pavon, Custodian
- Ester Waller, Psychiatric Technician
- Melinda Agustus, Registered Nurse
- David Aguilar, Teacher (Retired Annuitant)
- Teveena Bans, Psychiatric Technician
- Amanda Elliott, Office Technician
- Domonique Hamilton, Registered Nurse
- Catherine Mutua, Registered Nurse
- Kim Silveria, Psychiatric Technician (Retired Annuitant)
- Bererly Sperry, Office Technician
- Clayton Wehrer, Custodian



New Employee Orientation takes place at McDougall

Public Health Corner

by Barbara Simbulan, RN/BSN, PHN

Got Immunized?

Often times we think immunizations are for kids. Did you know adults, and especially we healthcare providers, have immunizations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)?

Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations*:

- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)

Other Adult Vaccination Recommendations:

- Zoster (Shingles)—age 60 years old or above
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV)—age 65 years old or above; may be given earlier to individuals with certain medical conditions.

See <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html> for more information.

This year, we at Public Health will be evaluating everyone's immunization records. We want to make sure that when contagious diseases occur, we will be able to ensure you are immune. If not, we would like to be able to offer immunization or treatment as soon as possible. All your records are protected by HIPAA laws. Can you help us by providing your most recent immunization records?

*Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, 12th Edition. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations, A-20.

Sonoma Valley Footrace & Festival

It is not too late to register for the Seventh Annual Sonoma Valley Footrace and Festival, which will be held on the grounds of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

The footrace will start at 9 AM with a 5k run/walk and an advanced 10k run. The 5k run/walk course runs throughout the beautiful streets of SDC, with the advanced 10k continuing on through the campus and surrounding hills. There will also be a kids' fun run during the festival.

Advance registration fees for the footrace are \$30 for

adults and \$20 for children 18 and under. On the day of the race, registration will be \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. All race participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt and goodie bag. In addition, adults will receive a souvenir glass and two drink tickets.

The Festival will be open from 9 am to 2 pm, featuring events and activities to entertain people of all ages. There will be a car show, beer and wine tasting, food vendors, a raffle, carnival games and attractions, and music all day by Harvey and the Wallbangers. Sorry, no pets are allowed.

For more information regarding the footrace or the festival, or to get involved at the event, contact Becky Zyskowski at (707) 938-6713 or check the website at www.dds.ca.gov/svff. To register for the footrace, go to <http://www.active.com/running/eldridge-ca/sonoma-valley-footrace-and-festival-2013>



The 2012 10k footrace



Barbara Simbulan



The 2012 festival

Spring Fling

The Spring Fling occurred inside the SDC Gymnasium on Saturday April 6 due to the wintery weather. The gymnasium was decorated with a variety of



Executive Director Karen Faria (right) at the Spring Fling

dangling pastel decorations including, flowers and Easter eggs. The live band played during the morning event, with audience members cheering them on. There were bright and colorful cupcakes and refreshments for all to enjoy. There was an Easter egg hunt with prizes. There was a nicely decorated photo booth where the Easter Bunny was waiting to have her photo taken with you. Good times were had by all.

Community Happenings...

Volunteer and Donor Recognition

Sonoma Developmental Center recognized its many volunteers and donors at the Annual Volunteer and Donor Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 27. The event's theme was Mardi Gras. Chef Zack Leventis prepared the evening's scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, marvelous dinner and delicious dessert. Those in attendance were also treated to an array of refreshments and a night of live entertainment, including music by Fourth Street Jazz Band.

The night ended with certificates of appreciation being handed out to each Volunteer and Donor. Speakers at the event included Karen Faria, Executive Director of Sonoma Developmental Center; Becky Zyskowski, Coordinator of Volunteer Services; and invocation by the facility's Catholic Priest, Father Patrick Leslie.

Volunteers are needed in all areas of SDC, including classrooms, work sites, residences and recreational areas. Volunteers help provide additional life opportunities for the people who live at SDC, to help them achieve their fullest potential and greatest independence.

To sign up as a volunteer you must be at least 14 years of age (those under 18 must have permission from their parent or guardian to volunteer). If interested in volunteering at the facility, contact Becky Zyskowski at (707) 938-6713 or via email at becky.zyskowski@sonoma.dds.ca.gov.



Volunteer Coordinator Becky Zyskowski speaks to the crowd at the Volunteer & Donor Recognition

Cinco de Mayo

Sonoma Developmental Center celebrated its annual Cinco de Mayo festivities on Thursday May 2. Like most communities, the Center has been observing Cinco de Mayo for many years.

The festivities kicked off in the morning with a large centralized event, which continued in the afternoon. The event location was covered in red, white, and green décor and a Mariachi band made its way throughout the event. There were some game booths including the Fling-It and Cactus Bowling, as well as photo opportunities with Mijo and Sunny, donkeys from the Eldridge Farm. Flan and non-alcoholic margaritas, as well as other refreshments, were served during the event for all to enjoy.



Carlos Cruz of the Eldridge Farm introduces Sunny the donkey to a client

Note:

If you would like to receive the *Eldridge Press* electronically, please e-mail your request to Jorge.Fernandez@sonoma.dds.ca.gov.

Submitting articles to the *Eldridge Press*:

The *Eldridge Press* gladly accepts submissions of articles about events at Sonoma Developmental Center, news about the Center's departments and programs, employee recognition, and other information of interest to the Center's employees, consumers and other stakeholders. Articles may be edited for grammar, punctuation, and clarity. To submit your article, send it to the Office of Planning and Communications, Room 102, Sonoma Developmental Center, P.O. Box 1493, Eldridge, CA 95431. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the publication date (for instance, May 15 is the deadline for the June 2013 issue).

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