CEO News

from Greg Sorrentino

Welcome to the first edition of Center Connections. Thank you to the “editorial staff” for their commitment in producing this newsletter, and for those who contribute to its content. We hope you find this communication to be helpful, and we welcome comments and questions, as this is intended to be informative. We are proud of the programs and services we provide at the Center for Disability Services, and are proud of our dedicated staff who make it all possible. We hope you enjoy the inaugural version of our Newsletter and thank you for believing and supporting our Mission.

Residential Parties Set the Tone for the Holidays

The Residential Division kicked off the holiday season with parties at the Marriott on Wolf Road. People we support, staff, family, board members and friends gathered for two nights of good food, good conversation, festive clothing, and some truly spectacular dance moves!

Thanks to all of the staff for the attention to detail that allowed these events to be enjoyed by all and special thanks to Kathy Costanzo for putting it all together!

Congratulations to the 2019 UCP of NYS Award Winners!

On October 29th, Stephanie Knaust, the Center’s Chief Accounting Officer, received the John R. Horvath Award of Distinction from Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State! This award is given to acknowledge a member of the CP of NYS Family who has made an extraordinary contribution to their community or created opportunities for people with disabilities to be more fully involved in mainstream society.

The following evening 4 staff from across the agency received Staff Recognition Awards. These staff were nominated and chosen by their peers as true examples of role models for the Center.

Congratulations to: Betsy Dames, Assistant Manager, Bradford St. Residence; Mary Miller, Senior Day Program Counselor, Schenectady Day Hab; Chris Morris, Driver, Transportation Division and Patti Roberts, Office Manager, CloverPatch Preschool, Glenville.

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding, dedicated staff on these well deserved awards.
February is National Children’s Dental Health Month

By Joanne Aloisi

Center Health Care Dental will be joining forces with Langan School for an outreach day celebrating National Children’s Dental Health Month. We will be teaming up with Langan School staff to demonstrate proper brushing techniques and oral health education. We will be sending informational packets home for parents to review.

Center Health Care Dental is accepting new patients. New patient applications will be available on our outreach day – date to be announced soon!

A Message from CMO
Dr. Maria Kansas Devine
Center Health Care- A TEAM Sport

I am very proud to be part of Center for Disability Services and Center Health Care. As a family physician for 30 years, I have supported patients throughout their lifespan, from birth to advanced age. I have had the honor to share personal and family triumphs and trials and to do my best to assist patients through life’s many transitions. Joining the Center has been a logical step in my career as I have joined you in supporting individuals with their health every day, in all parts of our agency. By working as a caring community to make health care more accessible, we can support the people we serve and help them through life’s challenges. We can make lives, not just longer, but better. My vision and mission is to continue to work across departments in developing a collaborative mindset and culture across all parts of the agency. In doing so, we improve the care that we provide and we improve ourselves as individuals, as leaders and as an organization.

Thank you all for all you do every day.

Telemedicine Launched at Center Health Care

By Dan Baxter

What is Telemedicine?

Telemedicine is the use of technology which allows patients to see their health care provider from a distance. Patients may now attend a medical appointment without leaving their home! In order to use this service, you must have access to a computer, tablet or smart phone with webcam and internet access.

How does it work?

After the appointment is confirmed, you will receive a link to a secure website where you will have a face-to-face visit with your health care provider. The provider will ask questions about your symptoms, provide a visual assessment and offer treatment based on the clinical data gathered during the virtual visit.

Is Telemedicine right for me?

This service is ideal for patients who need a follow-up for a wound, rash, cold, depression, etc. If you have a medical condition or socioeconomic hardship that makes traveling to an appointment difficult, you may be a candidate for Telemedicine. Depending on your condition and your insurance, you may need to be seen in-person for a comprehensive evaluation.

For more information on Telemedicine or to schedule a Telemedicine appointment, please contact Center Health Care at 518-437-5900 Option 2

Center Health Care Services:

Behavioral Health  Dental
Neurology  Outpatient Physical Therapy
Physiatry  Primary Care
Psychiatry

Call for an appointment today: 518-437-5900 Option 2
Q. What made you decide to work for CFDS?
A. I started as a Residence Counselor at Ontario St after I graduated from college. I was only going to work for a year and go to college to complete my master’s degree. After about six months, I knew I wouldn’t be leaving. I love my job, the people I supported and the people I worked with. I came for a job and stayed for a career!

Q. What are some of the positive changes you have seen in Adult services?
A. The Adult Programs have changed a lot over the past 30 years. Activities have become more individualized as transportation became more available. Our outings are coordinated to accommodate people with similar interests. We are now able to contribute to the community as opposed to just being part of it.

Q. What does the future look like for Adult services?
A. There have been a lot of changes in the Adult Division over the past year. We have restructured the leadership and added supervisors at most of the 13 programs. I believe that we have created a great team in the Adult Division. Everyone is committed to the Center’s mission and is ready to take on any new challenge that may arise.

Leadership Development Program
As a learning organization, we are committed to continuous employee growth. Now in its 13th year, our Leadership Development Program, under the direction of Laura Bradley, Learning and Organizational Development Specialist, offers employees opportunities for professional development. One goal of the program is to collaborate, build relationships, and establish trust. In the spirit of all Center teams working together, this year the class was comprised of staff from across divisions including, Residential, Adult, Center Heath and IT.

Class participants work in teams on projects that need to be developed at the Center. One of this year’s projects was to come up with ideas for this newsletter. The team collaborated to come up with a title, layout and stories from around the Center. Thank you and congratulations to all of the graduates!

Fun on the Ice!
Over the Winter students from the Langan School went on a field trip to the Albany County Hockey Rink to skate. Students were able to skate 1:1 and used their adaptive equipment. For many of the students it was the first time they were able to skate. This was all made possible because of the MOVE program, the hard work of the students, clinical staff and classroom staff.

Stars for our Troops
By Sheila Jansch
On November 14th the Langan School hosted the not for profit group Stars for our Troops Inc. Students participated and cut stars from old tattered, faded U.S flags retired from service. Stars for our Troops passes the legacy of their embroidered stars onto veterans, U.S. military men and women and first responders. The stars are placed in a small pouch with a note that states: “I am part of our American flag that has flown over the USA. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that YOU are not forgotten.”
Calendar of Upcoming Events

♦ January 26—#518gives Fundraiser, 12-7pm Colonie Center
♦ February is National Children’s Dental Health Month
♦ March 21—National World Down Syndrome Day

Do you have a story, topic or photo that you’d like to see in a future edition of the newsletter? If you do, please e-mail your suggestions to Lynn Pedreira at pedreira@cfdsny.org

Contact Us

For more information about our services call our People Services office at (518) 437-5664 or visit us on the web at www.cfdsny.org

Center for Disability Services

Where people get better at life™

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Enclose completed matching gift form from the company.

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For Gifts of Securities, contact Anne Schneider Costigan by calling 518-944-2121 or e-mail schneider@cfdsny.org

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