

HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY



Helping People Achieve

THE UMBRELLA

*HSA Behavioral Health
HSA ATCO*

Volume 25, Number 1

Published by Human Service Agency
P.O. Box 1030, Watertown, SD

Spring 2008

ATCO TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Human Service Agency, ATCO, has been recommended for a 4-year accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). Reviewers from CQL visited ATCO from March 31 through April 4, to review several areas relating to the practices, policies and procedures that ATCO has in place to ensure the health, safety and welfare of those people supported at ATCO. We anticipate the confirmation of this recommendation within 3-6 weeks. A large portion of our review was focused on the dreams and desires for those that receive services from ATCO. The communities surrounding us play a huge role in the success of this area. Many people in our communities reach out to the people we work with to include them in activities and organizations, regardless of ability or disability. This only makes our community stronger.

CQL is the recognized leader for quality of life for people with disabilities and people with mental illness, and the people, organizations and communities who support them. This 4-year accreditation would not have been reached had it not been for the people that we support at ATCO; for without their hard work and desire for more in life ATCO would not be where it is today. The Human Service Agency has very dedicated employees who work hard everyday to support people to achieve their wants, dreams and desires.

There are only 4 agencies in South Dakota that have been accredited with the 2005 measures from the Council on Quality and Leadership. Worldwide, we are 1 of 50 agencies that have reached this accomplishment. The reviewers indicated that our evaluation placed us in the top 5% of all adjustment training centers in the United States. We take great pride in this 4-year accreditation and look forward to continuing to enhance the services that we provide.



***HSA is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.***

NE PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER

NE PREVENTION Resource Center

The NE Prevention Resource Center has a new training which is available to schools in NE South Dakota. Dodi Haug, Prevention Coordinator recently became a trainer in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. This program is a model program that has been proven effective at reducing bullying behaviors in schools. To stop bullying, the issue needs to be addressed at all levels of the student's experience. This means that it is addressed at the school-wide, classroom, individual, and community levels. Because bullying has such wide-range effects, this program is designed for all students, not just those who are bullied or those who bully others.

The goal of the program is to change the norms around bullying behavior and to restructure the school setting itself so that bullying is less likely to occur or be rewarded. The implementation of the program needs to be seen as a long-term effort – not something that is “completed” in a year.

For more information contact Dodi at the NEPRC at 605-884-3516 or email dodih@humanserviceagency.org.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Chuck Sherman, PhD, President/CEO

At the end of the legislative session a significant event took place. The Appropriations Committee approved funding that will be used to increase the daily rate of reimbursement for six adjustment training centers (ATC's). ATCO was one of the centers and we appreciate the increase.

Why were only six centers given the increase? Because they were receiving a rate of reimbursement less than all the others. Why is that? Because historically, the other ATC's spent more and/or had higher costs in operating. When rates were frozen in 1995 the reimbursement system favored those who had higher costs. Since then, those at the bottom of the rate structure have continually experienced lower funding levels than other ATC's.

How significant is the difference? ATCO is currently being funded at 91% of the rate some others receive. With the number of people we serve under this rate structure (170), if we were funded at 100% (like some ATC's, our total funding would go up by over \$500,000 annually.

ATCO will receive an additional \$130,000 starting July 1 from the rate increase. This means that we will be closer to what some other ATC's are getting already but still significantly less. It's a good start and with a concerted effort by many, the first step in a long journey to restoring equity in the South Dakota developmental disability system. The increase in funding approved by the Appropriations Committee moved the six ATC's to 95% of fully funded rates.

A big note of thanks to Senator Jean Hunhoff for initiating this funding increase and to our local Appropriations Committee representatives Brock Greenfield and Val Rausch.

P.S. The HSA Board of Directors approved a \$0.50 per hour increase for all direct service personnel in ATCO effective February 8. Annualized, this increase will cost \$156,000 or \$26,000 more than what we will be receiving from the increase. The Board took this proactive action due to high turnover in staff positions, and well before the action taken by the Appropriations Committee. I commend the Board to taking this bold action.

The folling article was included in the Fall 2007 Horton Industries newsletter, the Horton Ink. April 21st marks the 5th Anniversary of our people working at Hesco. ATCO moved people to the Hesco building because of our work with Horton.

Human Service Agency and Britton are Helping People Achieve

"Helping People Achieve" is the slogan of the Human Service Agency (HSA) of Watertown, South Dakota. This unique organization provides both mental health and adjustment training services for several communities in eastern South Dakota.

Through its Adjustment Training Center (ATCO), HSA offers a variety of services to about 180 people with developmental disabilities. ATCO creates personalized plans to meet the individual needs of each person.

The Day Program at ATCO offers vocational training by negotiating with area businesses for jobs that can be completed in ATCO's workshop. Horton is the benefactor of one of these programs through the purchase of "goodie bags". Each bag contains screws, O-rings, and small piece-parts used during the assembly process in Britton. Bags are purchased on a consignment basis, with ATCO procuring and packaging the parts and shipping them to Horton as needed. This accomplishes a dual purpose: it allows Horton employees to dedicate time to production needs, plus it develops work skills and generates income for those people who work at ATCO.



ATCO workers preparing small-parts bags for Horton. This valuable service allows Horton employees to spend their time on production jobs.



ATCO develops work skills and provides a source of income.

ATCO also assists people with health, education, and residential needs. Its Project Skills job program helps students with disabilities by locating at least one part-time job per site per year. Outreach programs are also available in Grant and Roberts counties to serve individuals outside of the Watertown area.

ATCO provides a valuable service to businesses like Horton while offering great opportunities to members of the community. Its mission is to help people achieve self-reliance, exercise control over their lives, and realize their dreams and desires. We at Horton say thank you to ATCO for all of their accomplishments.

ATCO

GREETINGS from Supported Living!

Summer is approaching and we are feeling the urge to get out and about. Nice weather brings on thoughts of being outside, picnicking, eating some grilled burgers, dancing in the sprinklers or simply just laying in the sun. Get your sunglasses on, turn the radio up, and let the wind blow through your hair! We can hardly wait!

Awareness in the community is a key factor for all of us who work with challenges on a daily basis. Building social capital takes time but as we look over the past few years, we can see how many changes have come our way, all of which are positively outcome based. We have people getting involved and making awesome decisions. We have people driving and owning their vehicles, we have people going to the bank and solving problems without staff support. We have people registered to vote, attending church circles, and participating in TaeKwonDo. One person owns his own business; utilizing his bicycle and a bicycle cart converted to carry his lawn mower. He made his dream come true!

Vacations also come to mind when thinking of summer. We have people planning a get away to an amusement park; this may be in Minnesota, Florida, or California. Another person will be taking a trip to Pierre to speak at a conference. Others will be enjoying Watertown and spending time with family and friends. Lots of people enjoy giving back to the community by participating in Relay For Life, serving dinner at the Grace Lutheran Church, and assisting in setting up for Friday night concerts.

Wheels are rolling for us in Supported Living and everything we need is out there. We have the great staff to support people to achieve their dreams. This will lead all of us to new and different experiences and ideas.



SELF-ADVOCATES for Change Year 3

Year 3 of the Self-Advocacy project funded by the South Dakota Developmental Disabilities Council has started. This year the existing sites (Watertown, Sioux Falls, Spearfish and Rapid City) are partnering with new sites to expand the program. Watertown is partnering with the People First group from the South Dakota Developmental Center in Redfield. Other new sites are Pierre, Brookings and Mission. Watertown self-advocates Erik Brubakken, Jamie Norvell and their advisor Cyndi Spieker will be attending further training in Pierre the end of April to learn how to train our new partner site. We have already traveled to Redfield once to meet their group and proposed a plan which was received very positively. Also in Year 3, we will be planning a statewide self-advocacy convention next year as well as developing a quarterly newsletter for self-advocates in South Dakota.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CHANGING THE WORLD: Starting at H.S.A.

Over the past year the Human Service Agency has been participating in several initiatives aimed at transforming the provision of behavioral health services. These initiatives had included "Systems of Care" for services to children and families, "Recovery Oriented Services" for adults with severe and persistent mental illness, and "Comprehensive Continuous Integrated System of Care (CCISC)" for individuals with co-occurring disorders.

In the process of participating in these separate initiatives at a state and local level, it quickly became evident that these were not separate projects to be completed in isolation but were actually critical pieces of the larger goal of transforming behavioral health services. Transformation must occur at all levels of the system if it is to be responsive to the needs, priorities, and goals of the people it serves.

SAMHSA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, has identified transforming the behavioral health delivery system as the "Single most important goal" for the behavioral health delivery system.

To assist with implementing transformation within the Human Service Agency, we will be establishing a Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CIQ) to lead the way. The CIQ will be responsible for providing training on attitudes, values, knowledge, and skills that support transformation.

Transformation implementation will focus on best practice implementation, system fidelity assessment, program competency standards, clinician competency standards, and clinical practice guidelines.

The Human Service Agency is excited to be part of the Transformation project and we are looking forward to changing the world starting at the Human Service Agency.

Human Service Agency

P.O. Box 1030

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HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY



Help For Life's Biggest Problems

The Human Service Agency is a private, non-profit organization served by a Board of Directors representing the communities served by the Agency. The Board of Directors meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last Monday of each month.

**THE DIVISIONS OF THE
HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY ARE:
HSA ATCO and
HSA Behavioral Health**

Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Help for mental health or chemical dependency emergencies is available at all times by calling 886-5841 or 800-444-3989

The Human Service Agency Foundation – An Investment In The Future

The Human Service Agency Foundation was established to promote the long-term financial strength of the Human Service Agency. Charitable contributions and bequests to the Foundation are administered by recognized financial experts for the benefit of the Agency's programs. The Foundation provides, at no cost to the individual, confidential assistance for those considering charitable giving as a part of their long range financial planning.

For More Information, Call or Write:

**Dr. Charles Sherman
Human Service Agency**

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