

THE UMBRELLA

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Fall 2016

Watertown Employers – You Rock!

On September 14th the third annual Employer Recognition Luncheon was held at the Watertown Library. The theme this year was “You Rock Watertown Employers”. This luncheon was held to recognize and thank the Watertown Employers who have employed people with disabilities. It was also a chance for New Horizons Employment Services to get our name out there and to open more opportunities for the people we support. There were six people supported who participated and assisted the day of the luncheon.

During the luncheon there were opportunities for the invitees to win some amazing prizes. There was also a fun opportunity to win a TV. Due to the theme being “You Rock” there were different rock displays sitting out on the tables. Each rock was decorated to resemble some sort of saying, TV show, or item. So, in order to win the TV you needed to guess what each rock resembled and the person who guessed the most won the TV. This year the winner of the TV was Joel Urban from Papa Murphy’s. The rock game was a huge success as almost everyone who attended participated in the game. One of the employers liked the rock game so much that they asked if they could have it to use at an upcoming employee get together!



HSA staff members celebrated a great year with community business representatives.

You can check out the rock game and the answers on our website. Go to

<http://www.humanserviceagency.org/images/Employer%20Recognition%20luncheon.pdf>

We do want to thank all those who helped make the luncheon a success. We are looking forward to another GREAT luncheon next year as well!

Mayor to Honor Deb Griffith for Making a Difference in People’s Lives



Deb Griffith will receive the 2016 Transition Services Award at the NDEAM Event in October. Congratulations Deb!!

Deb Griffith has been employed by New Horizons as a Project Skills Job Coach since October 2013. Deb works with students attending high school to provide community work experiences. She continually finds ways to assist the students to be successful in their job, based on their wants and needs. She works hard to help students overcome difficult situations. Deb displays a genuine care for the students she works with. She consistently goes above and beyond to assure the best experience for both the employer and the student.

The NDEAM event/Mayor's Awards Ceremony will be held on October 26th at 11:30 AM at LATI.

We would also like to congratulate Deb on her new position with New Horizons. Deb was hired as the Project Skills Coordinator. She began this new adventure on August 27th.

Deb Griffith, Project Skills Coordinator, will be honored by the Transition Services Award given by the Mayor's Committee

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO...

Chuck Sherman, Ph.D.

There never seems to be a lack of challenges in this field of human services. New initiatives always come around each year. This year is no exception. Two of the more challenging ones are described below. Let it be known that the professional staff at HSA is up to the task.

Senate Bill 73 during the last legislative session changed the face of juvenile justice and the usual responses from the court system and state's attorneys. I recently attended a meeting in Milbank where the level of frustration was clearly being expressed by school officials from Sisseton, Wilmot and Milbank. The phrase "no consequences" was the most commonly expressed perspective from those in the audience. Teenagers were described as being openly defiant of authority - parents, school personnel and the police - due to the belief that nothing will happen to them for minor violations of law.

In fairness to the legislature and to the justice system, SB 73 was also married to an initiative to create a more impactful intervention called Functional Family Therapy (FFT). Every mental health center in South Dakota trained staff in this new model of intervention for adolescents. The model seems to be working and having a positive impact with the families who are participating. However, the number of staff trained is relatively small and we are not able to provide this service in all areas - Milbank being one. We still offer an array of other services there and in all other locations. We hope to have more staff trained in FFT and expand this to all areas by the end of this fiscal year.

Conflict Free Case Management is another new initiative within the Community Support Providers (CSP's) of South Dakota. Case management services to people supported must now be provided by another

agency and not the CSP providing direct care services. HSA decided to become a case management provider in Brookings, Madison and Aberdeen. We opened offices in those locations and hired case managers. All of this began in June. So far, we have not been able to receive any payment for the services and the accumulated debt is becoming troublesome, to say the least. We have been assured that by the end of this month, we will be able to send in billings so we can receive payments.

People receiving case management services can make a change in their provider at any time. We hope to demonstrate that we provide a great service and with offices in each location, we think we offer something other providers do not - a private place to meet. We think that is important. Stay tuned.



Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) participants role play as they learn through the joint HSA/Codington County Sheriff's Office session. The use of professionally trained actors heightens the realism of the training scenarios.

HSA and Sheriff's Office Team Up for Crisis Intervention Training Series

In cooperation with the Codington County Sheriff Office, the Human Service Agency is in the process of completing the third Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement and correctional officers in the county. Currently there are seven participants.

This training consists of presentations from many community providers about mental health subjects such as assessing suicide, education on mental illness and substance dependence and the laws associated with both a mental health and substance addiction involuntary commitment. CIT is a national training offered in metropolitan communities across the nation. Codington County is one of three counties in South Dakota to provide ongoing CIT trainings with the other two being Pennington and Minnehaha. The essence of the training is within the role plays conducted every afternoon. The training employs professionally trained actors from a theatre company in Fargo, ND. This allows participants to get what appears to be a "real life" interactions with individuals struggling with a mental illness, mental health crisis or substance use dilemma.

It is a goal of Sheriff Wishard and the Human Service Agency to host an annual training for new law enforcement officers or for officers in surrounding counties. Funding is provided by the Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health through a one-time grant of \$10,000.

Making Dreams Come True

Twins Game – Mickael Witlock

On Sept. 25th, seven people went to the last Twins game of the season. Leaving early in the morning some slept and others talked and laughed or joked around with staff on the drive. Everyone had a blast riding the tram to the stadium and watching the different buildings as we went by. We even caught a glimpse of the New Vikings Stadium.

Arriving at the Stadium everyone got even more excited to see the game start and cheer for the Twins. Making our way to the seats you could feel the excitement of everyone that was there.

All had fun cheering for the Twins, even though it was the Twins 100th loss of the season. All enjoyed themselves and talked about their favorite players. Due to unexpected events in the downtown area the tram was shut down and we had to take a bus to a part of the tram that was running. On the journey we had a better look at US Bank Stadium (Vikings Stadium). We were all excited to see this.

The van ride back was quiet as almost everyone slept until we stopped for food and to stretch our legs. The rest of the trip was still quiet; very little talking and they were all happy to be home when we arrived at Watertown and to be able to be in their own beds for the night.



Our group of seven among the many fans in the stands at the Twins Game.



2016-2017 Flu Season is Here!

Amanda Kannas, RN Nursing Services Manager

Receiving an annual flu vaccination is best way to protect you and your loved ones from getting the flu.

Flu vaccination can help decrease flu illnesses and severity, missed school and work, doctor's visits, and hospitalizations related to the flu. It is most important for older adults, very young children, pregnant women, and persons with certain health conditions to get the flu shot.

A few things are new this flu season:

- Only injectable flu shots are recommended for use this season.
- Flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating viruses.
- There will be some new vaccines on the market this season.
- The recommendations for vaccination of people with egg allergies have changed.

Flu Vaccination Clinic for People Served is scheduled for Friday, October 28th.

Get your Flu Shot!



Human Service Agency
P.O. Box 1030
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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:**

**New Horizons 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:

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