



THE MCP NEWSLETTER

Many Caring People

A Message from Marta E. Morin, M.Ed., Executive Director



Greetings to all,

I am pleased to provide you with an update, as we begin our new fiscal budget year July 1, 2010 – June 30th, 2011. Our goal this year is to ensure finances remain stable - so that MCP can continue to accomplish its vision. Our goal was to

immediately cut expenses and develop a balanced budget for 2010 – 2011 that advances the priorities of our agency, on behalf of the people we serve, while safeguarding our workforce – once again this year. As in the past two years, maintaining this delicate balance has not been easy.

Although MCP ICF/DD facilities received a rate increase, these increases were absorbed by rising costs - specifically related to employee health insurance, workers compensation and unemployment premiums.

As the administrators and I weighed each budget reduction measure, we recognized our moral and fiscal obligation, and we continue to double our commitment to not let MCP enter dangerous financial straits. Cut backs described below were enacted to once again align our budget to this fiscal year to meet the current financial challenges.

Cuts made were painful, but every decision made was weighed against five important guiding principles, as follows:

- MCP will continue to protect the Lifelong Learning Program, residential, nursing and therapy services.
- MCP will protect our current workforce.
- MCP will maintain and preserve current salaries and work schedules, although we are unable to provide any increases at this time.
- MCP will preserve the fiscal liability of our agency.
- MCP will preserve the integrity of our program and agency.

Based on these five guiding principles, some of the cuts implemented include the following:

- Continued freeze on all salaries/pay rates.
- Elimination of vacant c.n.a. position and transfer of impacted staff to vacant position within the agency.
- Elimination of a nursing position due to reduced client need at Sunset Facility.
- Elimination and or reduction of overtime – unless it can be offset against other funds and maximizing the use of on-call personnel for vacant positions, hospital coverage, etc.
- Elimination and or reduction in agency nursing allocations, as applicable to the facility.
- Elimination of hospital coverage specific funding. We will continue to provide coverage, however this will be accomplished with existing staff resources & guaranteed on-call personnel.
- Elimination of all seminars and travel.
- Freeze on capital expenditures.
- Reductions in chart of accounts unrelated to the care of the people served.

Continued on Page 2

Exec. Dir. Message, continued from Page 1:

As in other years, administrators, directors, and the human resources department are charged with paying particularly close attention to monitoring the above, along with patterns in sick leave, timely scheduling of vacations, safety in the workplace, and maintaining assets in good repair.

On the national front, I am extremely pleased to announce that MCP was selected by Training Magazine for the third year in a row as one of the top 125 companies to work for in the country, ranking 54th on a list among Fortune 500 companies in 2010. MCP continues to be only one of two non-profit organizations to ever be recognized for training tied to business objectives, demonstrable results, number of trainers, employee turnover and retention, leadership development, tuition assistance, training technology and infrastructure, certification, and much, much more.

Best practices and outstanding training initiatives were also recognized this year.

MCP will continue to remain involved at the national, state and local level, in promoting staff training and the work of our direct care personnel, nurses, therapists and teachers. Our efforts to raise public awareness and drive support for NADSP, DDNA, ANCOR's National Advocacy Campaign, UCP, grassroots work with FARF, and staff recognition will continue. Our affiliation agreements with multiple colleges, universities, and vocational schools, providing internship, externship, and volunteer opportunities and advisory board involvement will also be at the forefront.

At MCP, we believe strongly that supporting the individuals we serve also involves and requires supporting our staff well. When we fall short in our efforts, not only does staff lose out, but so do the individuals we serve.

Our staff plays a crucial role in carrying out our mission. For this reason in the coming fiscal year we will continue our on-going commitment to providing our staff with the tools and professional development and opportunities to enhance their work knowledge and skills. Through our networks, partnerships with universities and professional organizations will continue our quest to provide staff with opportunities to participate in certificate, on-line study, mentoring, in-house training and scholarship support.

The education and improvement of our staff continue to be essential in creating opportunities for the individuals we serve to lead dignified, fulfilling lives. Therefore, we will continue utilizing The College of Direct Support and College of Supervision, an internet based learning tool for all our staff.

The initiatives outlined above will assist us in continuing to refine our services and agency, allowing both the individuals we serve and our staff to further their capabilities, knowledge, be given better opportunities, supporting needs and honoring their value and worth.

In summary, supporting the individuals we serve well involves supporting our programs and staff well. It requires all of us understanding that we are all in this together. In good times and in bad times, moving forward is the key. As the executive director of MCP I continue to feel blessed, honored and privileged for the opportunity to serve all of you and to move forward, together – with all of you in our endeavors.

Sincerely,

Marta E. Morin, M.Ed.
Executive Director

***Human Resource Department,
Patricia Riboul, B.A.
Human Resource Director***



MCPRS continues to professionalize the career of Direct Support Professionals and recognize our Direct Care Staff for all of their dedicated efforts. On Friday, June 18th, 2010, we recognized 12 newly Registered Direct Support Professionals who took the initiative to complete all of their assigned College of Direct Support lessons, and who were approved by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) to become registered. During the ceremony the newly registered employees were provided with a certificate of recognition, a new ID Badge with their new titles, a bonus check and a scrumptious lunch.

During the ceremony Marta E. Morin, Executive Director, mentioned "this celebration is a unique opportunity to bestow deserved recognition on our invaluable Direct Support Professional workforce for obtaining the first phase of credentialing – Registration at the national level. Becoming registered and then certified demonstrates employees are committed to not only improving their knowledge, but also committed to a code of ethical practice that improves the lives of the people we serve."

"Credentialing sends a message to families and people receiving support from us that quality and expertise counts, and that they have a voice and commitment to

the direct support profession". Newly registered DSP personnel were encouraged to take the next step toward seeking NADSP certification.

Staff wishing to become DSP-Registered can do so by first completing their assigned College of Direct Support Lessons, have experience in the field of developmental disabilities for a period of six months, be recommended by their supervisor to begin the process, have a recent cleared background screening check within 1 year, prepare a letter of commitment indicating their reason for being in this field, including goals and desires. A letter from Human Resources indicating the employee has met all requirements and there are no infractions is also required.

To become DSP-Certified staff must complete 200 CEU's and have 3,000 hours of employment in the field of Developmental Disabilities. MCP, pioneers in the field of developmental/intellectual disabilities is the first agency in the United States to require all Direct Support Professionals to become registered. The number of DSP's registered with NADSP continue to grow. MCP has a total of 120 Direct Support Professionals now registered by the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals. For more information on how to become certified or learn about the next phase DSP-Specialized, staff should attend workshops offered at the adult Life Long Learning Program. Please contact the

Human Resources Department for additional information.

DSPR staff were all presented with Life without Limits Teddy Bears, Certification of Achievement, new DSP Registered identification badge and bonus.



***Congratulations to this year
newly registered
Direct Support Professionals
You did it!***



Front row (left to right): M. Santiago, Associate Director, C. Mazarella, Med-Waiver Administrator/Psychologist, and Marta Morin, Executive Director with newly registered staff. Center row (left to right): Barbra Alvarez, DSPR, Adela Pulido, DSPR, Surama Garcia, DSPR, Angier Gordon, DSPR, Back Row (left to right): Susan Gamble, DSPR, Luders Fils-Aime, DSPR and Sophia Bowman.

Staff Development



*Elizabeth Das, M.S.,
Staff Development
Director*

As part of our continuing efforts to increase community awareness of

MCP and to establish additional partnerships with the community, MCP is aligning with Community Committee for Developmental Handicaps (CCDH) by offering classes at MCPRS. These classes are open to all agencies countywide in the developmental disabilities field. Upcoming topics will include:

- 1. Reading Strategies for Students with Disabilities** which introduces seven different ways that children learn, and explores how to make accommodations that can increase successful literacy. Participants will leave with materials and resources to use in their programs. (2 hours).
- 2. An Administrator's Overview of Inclusion Requirements.** This is a 4-hour training for program administrators focusing on an agency's legal requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act, developing policies and procedures insuring compliance and

promoting inclusion, introducing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA), learning how the Individual Education Plan can be used as a tool for out of school programming, and conducting an environmental scan for accessibility.

We look forward to much successful collaboration with them.

Our Staff Development Department continues to look for ways to extend its outreach to the community and at the same time bring quality training to our employees.

As part of this initiative, this department offers quality, certified training to interested parties in the community. A participant can attend one of our courses and receive quality training approved by organizational, State and Federal Guidelines. These trainings include: AHA Heartsaver First Aid, AHA Healthcare BLS, and AIDS for the Healthcare Worker. Also, Physical and Nutritional Management training is delivered on a monthly basis to train caregivers providing services to individuals living with developmental disabilities in proper physical, range of motion, and nutritional procedures. Watch our monthly calendar posted here on the website for details of upcoming courses. The number to call for further information is 305-599-0899, ext. 255.

Life at the Life Long Learning Program,



*Migdalia Santiago, B.S.
Associate Director*

The Life Long Learning Program has been making great and significant strides. I would like to take this opportunity to announce the promotion of Rachel Pinder, MCP teacher to the LLLP Coordinator position, as well as to introduce to you MCP's teachers by way of this newsletter. Click the Bios link.

[Bios Teachers](#)

With the combined efforts of MCP teachers /employees, the interdisciplinary team and our partnership with Miami Dade County Public Schools Adult Education Program, MCP is affording the students who attend the Life Long Learning Program with great and meaningful activities. The Life Long Learning Program has a year round program and for the

most part follows the



established Dade County Public School schedule. This past June, the program instead of having a graduation celebrated the student's personal achievements and program accomplishments. Of significance for the Life Long Learning Program is the development of our ceramics class and student led MCP Café where students not only get to learn but to have fun! This celebration of achievements highlighted many of the student's

personal achievement and how they were able to contribute to the various events. This teacher led event was enjoyed by all and brought to realization that virtually nothing is impossible! Enjoy the following write-ups regarding the MCP Café and Ceramic program. Click the links.

[Ceramic Program](#)

[Café](#)

Nursing Corner



It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I have joined Miami Cerebral Palsy Residential Services and the great team of dedicated professionals that form part of this organization. Like in any other health care setting, delivery of nursing care is one of the areas that require constant attention, support, innovation, growth-but most of all commitment. I am determined to work diligently with the nursing team to achieve this goal.

MCPRS administration and the Human Resources Department were very involved and supportive in putting together a wonderful Nurses' week luncheon celebration. There were videos shown that reflect the human quality of exceptional professional nurses. Raffles, team building games and of course food were part of the fun. As part of this event nursing department goals were also shared with the staff present. A poem was presented to all nurses inspiring all to be nothing but the best. Nurses had the opportunity to participate in a mini-survey to identify areas in which the nursing department can continue to improve. One of the areas noted was quality improvement (QI).

QI must be meaningful to nurses and not seen as just a regulatory requirement. QI must be linked to professionalism. The processes used in the protocols must be driven by best practice, and nurses must be able to see a direct link between nurse interventions and patient outcomes. To this end, the nursing and staff development departments at MCPRS embarked in the development of educational and skills competency tools that will further enhance our nursing care delivery system. This year's survey process was a challenging one for two of our facilities with relatively new Health Care Coordinators as well as a number of new nursing staff members; Q.I, QA (quality assurance) and PI (performance improvement) will be at the forefront of MCPRS nursing department as part of our nursing department commitment to this organization, but most of all, to the individuals we serve.

Maura B. Bourne, RN, BSN, MBA

Director of Nursing

Happenings from the Dietary/Nutritional Services:



The Dietary Department over the past year has been focusing on training and quality improvement. The Director of the Department completed the National Registry of Food Safety Professionals coursework and test and is now a Certified Food Safety Manager in addition to holding her license. The department staff lead cooks all just completed their food handling certificate by SerSafe with the goal for alternate cooks to complete their food handling certificate within the coming months. These certifications are not mandated by our regulators, but it is a goal of MCPRS, Inc. to have all personnel staff excel and exceed beyond the requirements.

The Dietary Department completed four separate surveys by the State of Florida and did not receive any food service citations. The Department is regularly inspected by the Health Department and by internal quality assurance monitors. The Department consistently scores well during these external and internal audits.

The Director of the Department had the pleasure of having four dietetic interns rotate through MCPRS, Inc. of the past six months. Each intern has truly learned so much about our team, our individuals and the role of the dietitian at MCPRS, Inc. The interns always leave this rotation having learned so much from all our disciplines. The internship coordinator continues to report to MCPRS, Inc., that this is one of the interns most liked rotations.

The Department is in the process of converting to online ordering of food and formula. This is in conjunction with the MCPRS, Inc. goals for having all inventoried items online for purchasing. The Department actively participates in the organizations recycling commitment. We strive to minimize waste and work closely with each facility to support our “green” efforts.

The Director of the Departments upcoming yearly goals include on-going facility wide training in both foods service and nutritional needs of the individuals that we serve. The department continues to provide each individual served with their personal food service needs. Parents, guardians and family members are encouraged to help the dietitian and cooks with meal preferences and the nutritional assistance on their loved ones. The cooks always go above and beyond their duties to assure that each individual is satisfied with their menus. The Dietary Department and the interdisciplinary team work as a unit to provide meaningful mealtimes for our individuals. The Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), Occupational Therapist (OT), Residential Services Coordinator (RSC), Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP), teachers, and Direct Support Professionals (DSP’s) all provide the Department with invaluable information on each individual. This is TEAMWORK our mantra.

*Elaine M. Lanaris, RD, LD
Director of Nutritional Services*

Physical Therapy Department



Migdalia Santiago, B.S.
Associate Director

It is with great pleasure that I announce the promotion of Luis Paz-Soldan, Physical Therapist to Director of Therapies. Luis will be overseeing the speech therapist, occupational therapist, P.T. Assistant and the adaptive equipment department. Luis has been with MCP for ten years and has recently taken a great deal of initiative in restructuring the adaptive equipment department as well as successfully transitioned a physical therapy assistant, Natalie Perez to the department. The department has done a wonderful job this past year and has significantly impacted the quality of services for the individuals that we serve under the leadership of Luis. We look forward to all of Luis' new initiatives and feel confident that he will continue to take the department to the next level.

Luis Paz-Soldan, Registered Physical Therapist (RPT)
Director of Therapies



The Physical Therapy Department oversees various areas related to providing supports to the individuals at MCPRS. Assessment of and prescription of mobility devices is one of the primary areas. The goal is always to provide therapeutic and postural equipment to enhance individual's alignment, comfort and –when it is possible- correct deformities while promoting participation in activities of daily living. The department has been very diligent in 2010 and has been able to up-grade many of the “Individualized Positioning Devices” (IPD), by replacing them with new generation “Quickie Iris®” and “Invacare Solara®” wheelchair frames in addition to new seating system. These new wheelchairs have proven to be beneficial for both the individual and the staff providing support. For the individual, it affords them comfort and added safety features. For example, the tilting system mechanism built in these chairs provide for smoother mobility and alternative for pressure relief for the individual when in the community. Another great feature is the “transportation kits” attached to the frames adding extra security to the transportation process while riding on the vans. For the staff, they no longer have to bend, squat or use their hands to apply the brakes as with previous models due to the new model including “attendant brakes” activated by a pedal – what a back saver! As always, our goal is to assist individuals to perform at their best physical capacity. After evaluation and much consideration for their motor ability and safety awareness, two individuals were provided with the latest standing wheelchair system – the “Life Stand”. The “Life Stand” not only accommodates the individuals seating need but it also offers opportunity for weight bearing, trunk and head control, balance reactions, vestibular stimulation and of course greater participation with their environment when they use the standing feature. Both individual's are excited with their new chair!





***Occupational Therapy,
Bill Cummings, Registered Occupational Therapist
(R.O.T.)***

Over the past three months, we have had the added bonus of two occupational therapy interns who are completing their masters' level occupational therapy clinical affiliations with us at MCPRS. We have secured an affiliation with Florida International University, which allows us to mentor and train students as they progress through their studies. Level II students have completed all of their coursework and come to us to gain an entry-level proficiency in the provision of occupational therapy services. At MCPRS, they gain invaluable skills, knowledge and exposure to our unique population that will assist them as they pursue their specific career paths. In addition to providing mentoring to students, occupational therapy at MCPRS has provided Florida International University with training in the use and development of the Multi-Sensory Environment and how it impacts on the individuals we serve. The Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Keiser University is a newly acquired affiliate of MCPRS. We are scheduled to provide them with clinical training starting in August of this year. We are excited about our university affiliations, as this interchange provides fresh insight and creativity to our programs, and gives us the opportunity to give back to the community in ways that only we can.

***Physical Plant Operations Department,
Jeff Cornett,
Director of Physical Plant***



I am very pleased to announce that the operations department has just completed several building renovation projects. First, we had all the existing cabinets in the nursing areas, tub rooms, shower rooms, kitchens and

bathrooms repaired and resurfaced using thermofoil on the doors and matching color material on the frame and exposed sides. We also replaced the chipped mica counter tops in the same areas with new granite counter tops and backsplash to give our facilities a much needed make over.



We have also just recently waterproofed our existing roofing system at all our Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) buildings using a silicone coating that seals watertight. This silicone coating also reflects the sun to keep our buildings cooler reducing the amount of energy we use to keep the building cool. Our new roofing system was inspected by Florida Power & Light after completion and we did qualify for a rebate on all roofs waterproofed.



I would also like to mention that our transportation department has just added five new 2010 Ford E-250 vehicles. These vehicles were purchased to replace older more costly vehicles to operate. Our transportation department currently has 28 vehicles and we will continue to evaluate our current fleet to ensure we replace older vehicles in a timely fashion, as funding permits.

Agency Happenings



As you all know, our facilities go through a rigorous annual survey process. The administrators along with the interdisciplinary team, residential staff (nursing/DSP's), teacher's and the Operations Department are all part of this intense process. We have a tremendous work force and together they achieved positive outcomes just to mention a few:

- The Operations-Environmental Department/Life Safety - received zero citation for all four (4) agency surveys.
- The Dietary Department received zero citation for all 4 surveys.
- The Life Long Learning Program received zero citations for all 4 surveys.
- Support Staff Services received zero citations for all 4 surveys.
- Last but not least join me in congratulating Chris Mazzarella, 144th Court. Administrator, Nancy Esprit, Program Supervisor and all the 144th staff on a 100% compliance survey.

As we continue to move forward and strive for excellence, the leadership group of MCPRS has convened and has taken action steps to refine the following process:

- Improved collaboration with outside services to include public schools, and day programs.
- The nursing and staff development department at MCPRS embarked in the development of educational and skills competency tools that will enhance our nursing care delivery system to include health tracking, program implementation and medication administration.

MCP is confident that the 2011 survey process will continue to yield positive outcomes. For a complete detail of the 2010 survey results, please go to the Myflorida website for posted survey results or please see the posted results at each of our locations.

On a different note, this past year, United Cerebral Palsy of South Florida recognized Ricardo Rego at the UCP of South Florida Community Awards Reception held June 8, 2010. Ricardo was honored for his generous support and sponsoring of the NW 2nd Street Annual Family Day, as well as other events and activities held at this facility throughout the year. Ricardo has sponsored these events for many years. His spirit of generosity does not go unnoticed and is appreciated by all of us. Thank you Ricardo!

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to allow the administrators to share with you all the fun and exciting activities that have taken place in the homes this past year. A lot of great things go on at the residential facilities with the staff, individual's we support and participation from the local community. **Enjoy!**

Marta E. Morin, M.Ed.
Executive Director



*Sunset,
Claudia Jimenez, B.S., CBA,
Administrator/QMRP*

Aloha!



Brianna, one of the residents from Sunset House invited all of her roommates and friends from MCPRS's day program to help celebrate her 30th birthday. Brianna's family threw a luau for all to enjoy in celebration of her big day. Staff members were very festive, dressing up in Hawaiian shirts, hats, leis, and grass skirts. Brianna's older brother even flew in from Boston to join in on the fun. "We had great food, great fun, lots of music and of course grass skirts," said Brianna. "The music made the house rock and my friends and family brought me so much joy!!"

Sensory Exploration:

We learn about the world constantly through our senses and by interacting with it. Sensory stimulation programs are designed to provide environments in which people with disabilities can have the opportunity to use their senses to learn about and interact more meaningfully with the world. Sunset Facility House B is definitely working to provide to our residents a better opportunity for them to explore and use their sense in a functional way as shown in the pictures. The individual from House B had a great experience while touching and identifying different textures, while relaxation music was playing in the background.





***Braddock
Kellen Hassel, B.A., M.A.
Administrator/QMRP***

Delio Cabot and Alicia Rocamora have always both absolutely loved water, and when with it and sharing its spirit, their smiles undeniably tell their family members, loved ones, and all those around them how happy they are.

However, despite spending their entire lives born and raised in Key West, FL, neither Mr. Cabot, nor Ms. Rocamora had ever experienced its beaches first-hand. After decades of years spent in various Nursing Facilities down in The Keys, Delio and Alicia had the opportunity recently this year to come to live at MCPRS – Braddock Facility; a facility best suited to support them in their pursuit of happy, healthy, and enriching lives.

Never before in school, nor having the opportunity to live in a I.C.F., not only have Delio and Alicia been experiencing a variety of “firsts” in their daily routine – making their own choices, attending the Life Long Learning Program, participating in their own care with increasing expectation and ability – since joining the MCPRS family, but they will now have the chance to continue their love affair with water by extending it, at long last, to the swimming pool and to the ocean.

Driven by a collaborative effort between individual residents, parents, families, staff,

and supervisors, Braddock Facility has made a commitment to continually exploit the riches and unique environmental and cultural opportunities here in Miami and South Florida.

“It’s truly amazing,” says Alicia’s sister, Melba. “She’s lived in Key West all her life,



and while it’s far from us, we know she’s in a really great place. I mean, already she had the opportunity to do so many things she’s never done before. She’s going to school! She’s already been swimming in the pool!

Every time I think about it, I just start to cry it makes me so happy... and, look, she’s happy too! We feel so blessed that y’all are here.” We feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve new residents Delio and Alicia along with all of our individuals here at the Braddock Facility and the MCPRS family.

*The water is your friend.
You don't have to fight with
water. Just share the same
spirit as the water, and it
will help you move.
~ Aleksandr Popov*

From the Eightieth Street Facility



The Eightieth Street Facility is very pleased and honored to announce that, through the coordination of our secretary, Jackie Small-Gray, we have developed a partnership with Home Depot.

This initiative is a collaborative effort aimed at developing the creative talents of the individuals who reside at the Facility through exposure to arts and craft, gardening, bird watching and other indoor and outdoor events.

The participants from Home Depot spanned a wide cross-section of their workforce and have totaled as many as fifteen employees in one session.

Individuals from each house at the Facility worked one on one with Home Depot employees and Facility staff personnel in planting and painting bird houses, and just This venture also allowed our textures through participation engage in follow-up programs on an ongoing basis.



watering potted plants, constructing and generally enjoying social interaction. individuals to experience a variety of soil in the planting process, and then to which require them to nurture the plants

Our next project is aimed at being a 'Nature Path' on the Facility property, where the individuals will participate in planting trees and shrubbery which will eventually create the perfect ambiance of peace and tranquility for their enjoyment in the cooler months. Some of the bird houses which were a part of a prior project, will be utilized at this time.

As a Facility we are very proud of our relationship with Home Depot, and will remain forever grateful to Jackie for making it all happen. The expressions on the faces of the individuals as they participate in these projects have been so gratifying and welcoming for the Home Depot employees, that they have committed to ongoing projects. Many stated that they were never aware that the people we serve were capable of these achievements and felt the Home Depot employees were the true beneficiaries.



We will keep you posted!



***Camille Tapper, B.S.
Administrator/QMRP***

Second Street News Counter



*Maria Rego, B.S.,
Administrator/ Q.M.R.P.*



The individuals at N.W. 2nd Street are socially involved and engaged in many community outings throughout the year. This past February we had an individual that was selected to participate in a popular T.V. night talk show program, “Esta Noche Tonight”. She was very excited as she was able to sit and interact with the rest of the people in the audience. She



met the host of the program and pictures were taken with other important celebrities. Jessica had a spectacular night out in town.

The City of Miami Department of Parks and Recreation at Sandra DeLucca Development Center Facility, sponsors monthly special events for people with developmental disabled in our community. Second Street individuals have been participating in these events for over a year now. This year Toriano Coley was invited to participate in their annual Valentines Dance. At the dance, the individuals socialize with others in the community and enjoy listening and dancing to their favorite tunes. Parents and guardians are also invited to attend the activities making it a special night out with loved ones.

The 144th Court Group Home



***Christopher
Mazzarella,
M.S., CBA,
Administrator***

Welcome once again to all staff, family and consumers.

The Medicaid Waiver program continues to be the target of legislative cuts and proposed Medicaid reform such as placing individuals with developmental disabilities into a managed care system. Fortunately, managed care for our individuals is on hold for now, however, will require continued lobbying efforts on behalf of our parents/guardians to prevent this from being passed during future legislative sessions. The Agency for

Persons with Disabilities (APD) will be implementing capped tiers/categories within the Medicaid Waiver in order for the State to balance budget deficits. We are happy to report that all of our individual's remained in the tier 1 level and were not impacted by rate reductions or having to give up services due to capped allowances. We would like to thank our individual's guardians who took time to call State representatives to voice their concerns.

We would like to recognize one of our consumers, Audrie Evans, for her contributions to MCP. Audrie has participated in coaching sessions so she, along with another consumer, can present a portion of our staff pre-service orientation. Audrie is excited about this opportunity. It will be great to hear from those that actually walk the talk. Audrie is also the Vice-President of our Resident Government Committee. She has done an excellent job soliciting input from other committee members, expressing their

views at meetings and coordinating very successful social events.

144th Court again received a citation free annual licensure inspection in April. In May, the Delmarva Foundation, contracted by AHCA to conduct Medicaid audits, conducted a review of services provided by MCPRS. We are happy to report a near perfect score on this very thorough audit process.



***Audrey Evans,
Vice President
of Resident
Government***

Resident Government Committee

The function of the resident government committee is to provide the individuals living a MCPRS with a voice in policy development and to assist the individuals in expressing his or her needs, wants and interests, or to file a complaint and to utilize community resources. Current President Rodney Rhoulac and Vice President Audrey Evans, would like to highlight some of the activities that they have been instrumental in making happen under their office.

In late October of 2009, they were responsible for coordinating a Halloween Bash hosted at N.W. 2nd Street with all attendees dressed up in their favorite costume and with lots of treats.



In February, a Valentine's Dance Gala held at the Life Long Learning Program with great food, D.J. games and lots of dancing. All attendees were dressed to kill and as they went down the red carpet to enter the dance, they were met by Rodney who handed all the ladies with a beautiful rose!

The most recent event was on Memorial Day whereby Rodney hosted a get together at his home, Sunset Facility for a basketball game with refreshments afterwards to include watching DVD videos dancing. Rodney and Audrey along with the other facility officers (Jessica, Vanessa and Joey) have all been doing a wonderful job! While all the activities appear to be social, it must be noted that the group has also addressed serious matters as well. Elections for new officers are in full swing. The election process for the new officers of the Resident Government Committee are done via nomination by peers and recommendations by administrative staff.

