



From the Executive Director:

For the past several years, our Adult Services staff in the residential and vocational programs have had increasing concerns about the kinds of service options that have been available to a group of aging consumers. Over one-third of the people we serve in these programs are in their mid-50's to mid-70's—it just has not made sense to us that we should be preparing these individuals for competitive employment or independent living when their life needs are changing so dramatically. Non-handicapped individuals in this age range are looking forward to a less demanding schedule, are planning for retirement, and are experiencing physical changes which may include declining health and stamina. This is not a situation unique to BCDC—our figures closely mirror those of the 9000 individuals served statewide in community rehabilitation and residential programs.

To some degree, BCDC has been “boxed in” by state service definitions, funding streams, and unrealistic expectations that every citizen with a disability—regardless of the severity of that disability—could live and work independently in the community. I disagree—none of us are ever really independent. All of us, with or without a disability, need and usually have a support system to shore us up when we hit a rough patch in life. At best, we are inter-dependent on one another—we have a sort of understanding with friends and family that we will take turns “being there” for each other when needed. That is often times not the case for a person with a disability, as those long term supports frequently must come from paid professionals. Mental health officials at both the state and local level have recognized this need and are allowing a shift in service delivery.

BCDC will be adding a new component to its Adult Services programs this July. We will be offering a different type of day service to those individuals who are aging and for those individuals who have such a severe disability that independent work and living may not be a realistic expectation. Be assured that we will continue to offer our vocational and sub-contract work programs for those persons for whom work and vocational training *is* appropriate—and that group represents the majority of those we serve. But at a separate location, we will begin to offer a program that is more activity-based, with an emphasis on skills of daily living, continuing education, recreation and leisure. We have already begun to provide specific training opportunities to our staff, and recently sent 17 of them to a 12-hour seminar on the effects of aging among those with disabilities.

If you are a consumer or family member of an adult consumer here at BCDC, expect to hear much more about this in the next few months. We will be scheduling a meeting for Thursday, May 12th at 7 p.m. to discuss this service option in more detail. While staff are prepared to make clear recommendations about what we believe might be the best service strategy for you or your family member, *you* will make the final decision. Remember my last Beat article?? The one about informed choice??? We'll give you all the information at this May 12th meeting so you can make the decision that is right for *you*.

Chris

Chris Kiricoplos

Executive Director, BCDC

MISSION:
TO EMPOWER CITIZENS
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
CHALLENGES THROUGH
SERVICE ALTERNATIVES
WHICH PROMOTE:
SELF-ADVOCACY
SELF-RELIANCE
SELF-DIRECTION
SELF-SUFFICIENCY
SELF-ACTUALIZATION

Winter 2005

Self

An individual's awareness of what constitutes his or her essential nature and distinguishes him or her from all others.

Disability Mentoring Day 2004: A Huge Success

In October, BCDC served as Local Coordinator of Disability Mentoring Day for the fourth year in a row. BCDC teamed with Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to hold a successful day for mentors and mentees. Total, there were 12 mentors and 12 mentees participating in the event. Everyone met at The Meeting Place for a quick breakfast before leaving to go "learn a new job" at the mentors business. Mentors came from various business in town including Wal-Mart, who mentored three people, Lifestyles Fitness Center, Vocational Rehabilitation, Washington Tourism Authority, Washington High School, JobLink, Beaufort County Community College and The Sheriff's Office, who both mentored two people each. We felt it was important to hold the event in the community this year so employers could see the capabilities of the mentees. Local sponsors for the event were PCS Phosphate, Wachovia, The Planning Group and Pepsi who donated products. Our hope and goal of DMD is to see future employment of people with disabilities in the community. We are already recruiting for mentors and mentees for DMD 2005. If interested, give us a call!



Lentz Stowe, BCCC, mentors Derrick L. in the Small Business Center.



Tommi Bridgemon, Sheriff's Dept., mentored Samuel W. and Renauld H. They are both interested in criminal justice.



Jane McCotter, BCCC, mentored Clover B. in Early Education. She was determined to make Clover an early education teacher.



Alice Matthews mentored Nakia B. in the furniture department of Wal-Mart.



Steve Hewitt mentored Charlie H. in the garden center of Wal-Mart.



JoAnn R. presents the plaque to Mrs. Jean Lupton.

We are sad to say that BCDC said good-bye to Derrell A. who passed away in October of 2004. Derrell lived in Group home 2 and had been a part of BCDC for 28 years. Our sympathy goes out to Derrell's family. Mrs. Jean Lupton, Derrell's sister, accepted a plaque in honor of Derrell at a celebration of his life on February 2, 2005. JoAnn R. presented the plaque to Mrs. Lupton from BCDC staff and consumers.



"Receiving the special plaque from BCDC staff and consumers in memory of my brother is one of the nicest surprises I have ever had."

BCDC Has Been Busy!



Allen B., Patti W., and Thelma G. were the three dance contest winners at the Annual Consumer Breakfast.



Terry Conner was honored by the staff, consumers, and board of BCDC at the Annual Christmas Breakfast.



Patti W. enjoys Thanksgiving Lunch provided by the First Christian Church Youth Program.



Sandra W. is busy working on completing an order for Pactiv. They were recently honored at our Luncheon.



Employers enjoyed a catered lunch at the Annual Supported Employer Luncheon.



John F. is working hard completing an order.

Thank you to everyone who donated to BCDC in 2004!

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Alligood
 Mr. Tod Addison
 Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Alligood
 ARC of Beaufort County
 Mrs. Jean Baltimore
 BCDC Employees
 Beaufort County Mental Health Assoc.
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Blount
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 Ware's Chapel United Methodist Church
 Mr. & Mrs. Tuell Waters
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 Mr. John Wiley
 Mrs. Dorothy Willard
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Williams
 Mrs. Myra Wingate
 Women of the Moose
 Mrs. Pat Wood
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Woolard
 Mr. & Mrs. Don Wrought

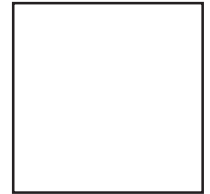
*The ability to speak up for yourself, or
 to speak up on behalf of another.*

Advocacy



The aging of adults with Developmental Disabilities (DD) and the aging of their family members present extraordinary challenges. As adults get older, NC's waiting list will grow. Some with DD will be inappropriately pushed into rest homes and other settings well outside the present purview of the state DD authority. It is essential that the single portal system and emerging approach to DD "level of care" keep this at risk population in mind. Assistance with guardianship issues and estate and long-term planning is a must to ensure that choice and quality of life characterize later life for older adults with DD.

NC Council on DD, NC 5 year state plan



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Chris Kiricoples

Executive Director

Did you see us on WITN-7?

April F., a BCDC consumer, was featured on WITN-7 on February 10, 2005 telling her life story and how BCDC has helped her achieve her goals in life. If you missed it, call our office and we will send you a copy. It truly was a great way for people to find out about BCDC and the people we serve.

Thanks WITN-7!!

It's a Girl!

Caroline Elizabeth Williams
was born on February 21st
to Madge & Lee Williams.

*Madge is the
Finance Manager
at BCDC.*

Congratulations Madge!

BCDC was recently awarded an Incumbent Workforce Development Grant to receive ISO-9001 training from NC State Industrial Extension Service. This grant will allow our VOICE program to receive training to become ISO-9001 certified. By receiving this certification, we will be assuring our customers that the work we complete is of the highest standards. BCDC should receive this certification by the end of the year.