

From your Chief Executive Officer:



Advocacy...that is a very important word in human service circles. If you were to look it up in Webster's dictionary, you would find the definition is "the act or process of supporting or defending a cause". Most of you know that the word "advocacy" is included in BCDC's mission statement—we humbly define it as "speaking up on behalf of yourself or somebody else". I think that's close enough to Mr. Webster's meaning that we are talking about the same thing.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the North Carolina General Assembly will have convened for their 2006 "short" legislative session. In recent months, there have been a number of news releases and reports about the state's efforts to implement mental health service reform—quite a few of these have focused on information that has come out of the joint Legislative Oversight Committee, including the fact that the state's Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services delivery system is under-funded by a whopping \$250 million a year! Other reports in the news have recently ranked our state's services near the bottom of the nation, have described huge changes in service definitions for both state and federally funded programs, and have described a process by which utilization management and review (which is the process used to decide what kind of service, and how much service, a particular consumer and family will receive) will be moved from the local publicly-operated mental health programs to a privately-owned nationwide for-profit corporation over the next 5 to 6 months. Those are just a few of the items in the news, and there are and will continue to be many more.

Many people believe that this state's service-delivery system for persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse needs is at the most critical point of the reform or "transition" process—I have to tell you that is a very kind, neutral description of what I have heard others say about the system changes. There is tremendous tension throughout the system, and more than a good bit of disagreement between the state, the area mental health programs, and the providers of services. Responsibilities for all kinds of functions, funding, and service authorizations are being shifted from the state to local government, or vice versa, and most of us in the provider community are in a period of great confusion. Of course, it's the consumers of these services—and their families—who stand to gain or lose the most.

That's why this article is about *advocacy*: we need to be sure that our elected officials—who ordered this reform five years ago—know what is going on in our communities and across the state. They need to hear personal and real-life stories about the way you or your family has been affected. In the first few weeks, and throughout the duration of this "short" session, the disability community needs to be in regular contact with our legislators—educating them about the needs of our citizens and asking for continued and expanded services. Whether you represent a child or an adult with a disability, or speak up directly for yourself, we must all take a part in the legislative process!

The Coalition of service providers will be sponsoring a legislative rally on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and many of us will be there! But one day's effort will not be nearly enough, and we must all take responsibility to regularly communicate with our legislators. You have an opportunity to influence "the system" when it is in a period of great transition—*one that will probably shape the future of service delivery for the next ten to fifteen years!* If you are too shy to do this on your own, please think about joining one of our local advocacy groups (like the Arc of Beaufort County or the Mental Health Association) so our collective voices can have the biggest impact. I know that these organizations would be delighted to welcome you as a new member!

*Chris*

Chris Kiricoples

Chief Executive Officer

*MISSION:*

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

Spring 2006

## BCDC IS ISO 9001-2000 CERTIFIED

The Beaufort County Developmental Center has become ISO 9001-2000 certified. BCDC's registration date is March 24, 2006. Being ISO-9001 certified means that



BCDC's Subcontract and Production Department will be providing the best possible service and quality available. ISO-9001 is concerned with "quality management." An ISO-9001 organization is committed to enhancing customer satisfaction by meeting customer and applicable regulatory requirements as well as continually improving its performance in this regard. BCDC started preparing

for the certification in March 2005. The training, contracted through NC State Industrial Extension Services, was paid for by an Incumbent Workforce Development Grant received in 2005, and allowed BCDC to become fully prepared for an audit which took place in January 2006. A special thanks goes to Phil Mintz who provided our training and prepared us for ISO certification.



Phil



works for NC State IES Services. Special thanks also goes to NISH and Jim Querner for earlier training support, Dan LeRoux, Doug Bonds and the ECVC staff, and Stanadyne Corporation for their support in on-going work opportunities and technical assistance in various areas. "This is a huge accomplishment for BCDC. There are few CRP's that become ISO certified and this speaks volumes for our Vocational Staff and

the work they provide," Adult Day Services Manager Elizabeth Leggett stated.

Let BCDC help you with your subcontract, packaging, and everyday production needs. Newsletter packaging and sorting is one of our specialties! Give us a call at 252-946-0151.

### We Attended the Self-Advocacy Convention

8 Consumers and 2 staff members attended the Self-Advocacy Convention held at the North Raleigh Hilton on March 24-26th. During the weekend, they enjoyed various seminars on topics that included health, exercise, and job attire. They also participated in a Fashion Show as well as a banquet and dance.

### Welcome to our Board of Directors 2006



Lynn Lewis (Chair), T. Dalton Elks, Carol Boyd West, Pam Shadle, Allen Pittman (Secretary), Peggy Simpson, Fred Conner (Treasurer), and Paul Mattoon (Vice-Chair). Not pictured is Judy Jennette and Sue LeMay.



The Child Development Center was visited by a special friend on April 13th. The Easter Bunny visited all the classrooms and enjoyed each Easter party. Here the Easter Bunny is visiting the infant room!

## SHE'S 30!!



Teresa Sawyer has been with BCDC for 30 YEARS. She is the first BCDC employee to hit the 30 year milestone. Teresa came to work for BCDC when BCDC had just been open for 2 years. She is now the Assistant Finance Manager. Congratulations Teresa!

### Shoot for Empowerment



Congratulations to the winners of our 1st Annual HORSE Basketball Shoot-out. Pictured left to right are Mike Davenport (3rd place), Austin Thomas (Fitness Unlimited), Mark Hendrix (1st place), Taylor Coleman (2nd place) and Catherine Glover (BCDC). The event was a huge success and helped raise money for BCDC. See you next year on the courts!

### Thank You to these local businesses for supporting BCDC's ISO 9001 Certified Production Department!

Stanadyne  
Package Craft  
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Cox Textile Service  
Washington Tourism Authority  
Defense Supply Center Columbus



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

# Advocacy

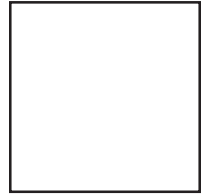


**Thank you to everyone that has supported BCDC in the past and to our donors in the future. We couldn't continue to provide services and programs to over 300 children and adults with developmental disabilities daily if it wasn't for your support. All contributions to BCDC are tax-deductible and memorials are a great way to celebrate the life of someone special.**

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*CEO*

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**Thank you to our 2005-2006 Donors**

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