

DDS WAIVER NEWSLETTER

A R K A N S A S D E P A R T M E N T O F H U M A N S E R V I C E S

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NOT GOODBYE, BUT JUST A "SEE YOU LATER" . . .

The time and season has come to an end for me as the DDS Waiver Newsletter Editor. I will continue in DDS Waiver in another capacity. I have learned much in my current position. I have enjoyed bringing you issues and comments that I hope were educational, that stirred your soul and even made you think. My only goal was to begin to be a positive starting point of communication between all areas in the Division of Developmental Disabilities and DDS Providers. With all of the changes that

are about to take place for all of us, we need to read, and have a discussion about something positive. This newsletter is your newsletter, and to keep it going we all need to contribute to its contents. I am looking forward to begin my new position which is a DDS Specialist located in the DHS East County Office. I hope that I will make a positive contribution to the staff there. I will miss all the coworkers in my current unit. I am also looking forward to the next issue of the DDS Waiver Newsletter.

These are exciting times and I know that the newsletter will be full of great things that are going on with DDS Providers and DDS Staff. This is not a goodbye but just a "see you later." Yvette Swift Christopher will continue with the next level of the newsletter. Any comments, articles, dates to report, case studies, or questions can be sent to her. Share the newsletter and enjoy!

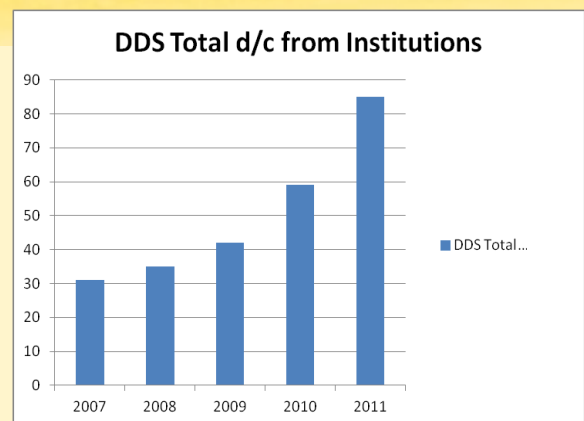
~Carolyn Ford

Transition Coordination from AR Human Development Centers

Submitted by James Hayden, DDS Transition Director

For the purposes of this article, when speaking of "Transition" we are referring to the various aspects of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities moving from Arkansas Institutional settings (primarily HDCs) into community-based supports. Though this is not always the preferred and therefore chosen service option, community-based supports are an excellent opportunity for many who are served and supported in Arkansas. It is also fair to note that many more people

are choosing community-based service options and, as a result, there is a strong upward trend of persons moving from institutional supports and into community-based opportunities, as seen in this chart.



Dates to remember: *2012 Developmental Disabilities Provider Association (DDPA) Fall Conference~ November 14 (www.arkansasddpa.org)*

Friendship Community 40 Years Celebration~ November 17 (www.fccare.org)

Transition Coordination cont.

Those of you who are advocates for HDC-based services need not worry. The demand for HDC-based services is continuous and the movement into community-based service simply makes the entire service delivery system more effective for all who need help. Without movement, the institutional service sites would simply fill up and no new needs could be addressed until a current recipient passed away. This is hardly the opportunity most of us want to offer some of Arkansas's most vulnerable citizens. One of the reasons for this acceleration of community choice is due to the initiation of leadership positions at each of the five HDCs plus the Arkansas State Hospital (ASH). Dr. Charlie Green, DHS Developmental Disabilities Services Deputy Director, began these positions which are to be filled by persons Licensed as Clinical Masters in Social Work. The professionals filling these positions have the expertise to help guardians, staff members and service recipients to recognize and develop a plan to work toward community-based service opportunities. These capable folks have quickly improved the options for persons served in Arkansas institutions and they lead preparatory activities to improve the success of the moves into community services. By no means does this fully describe their function because they are seen as universal assets to each HDC. They fill other roles as assigned by the HDC Superintendents. These roles including admission, discharge and annual service planning for persons living in Arkansas's HDCs. The Transition Coordinators (including some alternate titles) also make sure follow up reviews take place to insure that needed services and quality supports are in place after the individual leaves the HDC. This fine group is listed below. They are a great and continuing asset to developmental disability services in Arkansas.

Arkadelphia HDC (870) 246-8011 Position not currently filled.

Booneville HDC (479) 675-1431

Linda Morton, LCSW, Transition Coordinator

Conway HDC (501) 329-6851

Kathy Marsden, LMSW Transition Consultant ext. 467

Jody Nichols, LCSW Transition Consultant ext. 435

Jonesboro HDC 870-932-4043 ext.149

Rebecca "Becky" Burns, Transition Coordinator

Southeast Arkansas HDC (870) 226-6774 ext. 6510

Jeannie "Rebecca" Tucker, LCSW Transition Coordinator

Arkansas State Hospital (501) 686-9135

Gerald Canada, DDS Liaison to ASH

Case Studies

Suggestions for case studies or inquiries, may be submitted for consideration by the 10th of the month.

Guest Writer's Pen

Submissions for guest writer's pen, may be submitted for consideration by the 10th of the month.

DDS Newsletter

Now In DHS Share

DDS newsletter is now on DHS Share !

You can view all issues using the following link:

<http://dhsshare/DDS/waiver/Current/Newsletter/Forms/current.aspx>

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