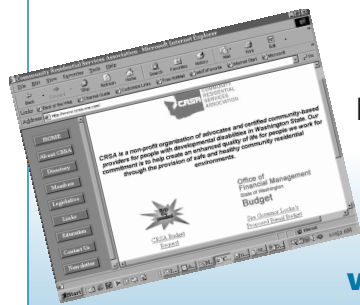


Continued from Page 1

“As community based service providers we have many things in common. Number one is the support we provide for an individual with a disability. It is vital for providers to work together on many different levels so that our clients can live and work successfully in our communities,” says Roger Krebs, Executive Director of Tri-Cities Residential Services and President of CRSA.

There are many examples of similar partnerships throughout Washington state. The successes of these creative partnerships are a fine example of how we can better the lives of the people we serve by working together.



For more information on our organization and its members, visit our website at www.crsa-wa.com

What's Happening

**REW (Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington) quarterly meeting
December 3-5, 2002**

Doubletree Hotel Airport in Seattle
KING-5 Anchor Dennis Bounds Keynote Speaker at Dec. 4th luncheon. CRSA members invited to attend.
For more information, call REW at (360) 943-7654

**2003 regular session of the
58th Washington state
Legislative convenes
Monday, January 13, 2003**

**CRSA Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 21st
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Location to be determined



P.O. Box 77048
Seattle, Washington 98177

CRSA is a non-profit organization of advocates and certified community-based providers for people with developmental disabilities in Washington State. Our commitment is to help create an enhanced quality of life for people we work for through the provision of safe and healthy community residential environments.



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CRSA



An alliance of
service providers
supporting
people with
developmental
disabilities

NEWS

Successful Partnerships

By Eric Latham, Washington Mentor

For the past year, CRSA and Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington (REW) have been working to increase the ties between the two organizations. The reason is simple: to enhance the work of community-based providers of services to people with developmental disabilities. This quarter's newsletter focuses on the benefits of working together.

For any person to be successful in his or her job, it takes a strong partnership made up of the individual, family, friends, an employer, and, in some cases, special supports (i.e., counseling, nursing). This network provides the needed encouragement, skills training, accountability and motivation to succeed.

A strong partnership between residential and vocational services is one of the keys to independent living for people with developmental disabilities, as one impacts the other on a daily basis. Both entities must have mutual and consistent expectations and the understanding that the ultimate goal is building independence both at home and on the job.

In the Tri-Cities, such a partnership exists to help many individuals with developmental disabilities be successfully employed. Tri-Cities Residential Services and Columbia Industries have collaborated through the years and developed a great relationship that focuses on the "participant's success".

“We have a very complimentary relationship in terms of the services we offer. I believe that one agency makes the other one better in terms of how we can best serve our clients,” says Darlene Pinney, program manager for Columbia Industries.

The staff at both agencies work together to ensure that the person is well prepared to transition into the workforce. For example, the employment agency will communicate what clothing or uniform requirements there are to the residential agency. The residential agency will take care of those needs along with providing transportation training so the person can get to work on time.

“If problems occur that could place the participant's job in jeopardy, we have a reliable source of information through Tri-Cities Residential Services to explain what is going on at home. We can work together to solve these problems or prevent ones from occurring,” says Pinney.

Continued on Page 4



Columbia Industries helped Tri-Cities Residential Services client David Sullivan find a job. Read related article on page 3.

2002 Legislative Agenda

The following are the priorities CRSA has set for the upcoming 2003 Washington state legislative session:

- **State Budget**

Lobbying efforts to preserve funding in the state budget for all needed services and supports for citizens with developmental disabilities.

- **Staff Wages**

Continue advocating for the need for enhanced wages for workers in community based residential programs with the eventual goal of achieving 80% parity with state employees doing the same work. Educate new legislators about this important issue.

- **Housing**

Work on affordable housing issues so that more consumers in community residential programs have long term, affordable housing options. Lobby for the continued need for the "DD set aside" in the State Housing Trust Fund.

- **B & O Tax Exemption**

Continue to support the B & O Tax Exemption for for-profit providers.

- **Abuse and Neglect Bill**

Involvement on any bills to be introduced during the 2003 session that affects our consumers and implementation of residential supports.

- **Nurse Delegation**

Work on bills that affect community residential services for people with developmental disabilities.

- **Increasing Service Hours for Consumers**

Follow the Arc Lawsuit Settlement and advocate for consumers who are under-served in community residential programs.

- **Collaboration with Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington (REW)**

Work with REW on issues of mutual interest that will benefit consumers.

- **Collaboration with the Advocacy Coalition**

Continue to work closely with the statewide advocacy coalition on bills and issues of mutual interest that benefit people with developmental disabilities.

If you would like more information about any of the above items, please contact the CRSA Legislative Committee: co-chair Sylvia Fuerstenberg, (425) 778-1878, co-chair Leslee Currie, (206) 286-9002, lobbyist Sharon Case (360) 943-5489.

L&I Increase Bad for People with Disabilities

In January, the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries plans to increase worker's compensation rates an average of 40.5%. For CRSA members classified as Boarding Homes the increase is 57%. In order to pay the L & I increase providers must cut some level of consumer services. Providers must either cut staff wages and benefits or non-staff expenses including client transportation and house maintenance services to make up the difference. Either way there is a direct impact on the amount and quality of services to individuals with disabilities.

An Outstanding Achiever

By Mary Bishop and Darlene Pinney, Columbia Industries



For more than a year, David Sullivan has been living his dream of working and living independently.

David Sullivan first learned of Columbia Industries (CI) while he was in high school. The Pasco School District referred him to the agency in 1991 when he expressed his interest in wanting to build work skills in an effort to live independently.

After his graduation, David started working at CI where he packed Welch's juice products. He also joined a janitorial crew that cleaned an Eagle Hardware store. In addition to learning new work skills, David also learned about how to be a good employee and how to manage his job expectations.

In October 2001, the staff at CI successfully placed the 28-year old David in a janitorial job at the Columbia Center Mall. David combs the parking lots, keeping them free of litter and debris for his employer, Varsity Contractors. He reports to work at 6 a.m. After he checks in with his bosses, he works without supervision, asking for help and direction only when he needs it. David puts in 20 hours a week and earns \$6.75 an hour for his efforts.

"David is a joy to be around and is an inspiration to all he comes in contact with, spreading his good nature and wonderful personality," says Mary Bishop, Columbia Industries employment specialist.

Tri-Cities Residential Services has provided David with residential support for the past four years. He lives in a home in Kennewick with three other people with whom he gets along. He has the support of TCRS staff to help him with his every day living skills, provide him with a safe and secure environment, and offers the encouragement to be independent in managing his personal affairs.

David takes great pride in his job and earning his own way. In September, he was honored with an "Outstanding Achievement Award" at the Columbia Industries picnic. Through the cooperative efforts and dedication of the staff at Columbia Industries and Tri-Cities Residential Services, David has become a shining example of achieving his dreams of working and living independently.

Members

Region 1

ARC Residential Services, Spokane, WA
Partners for Community Living, Spokane, WA
RISE, Inc., Spokane, WA
S. L. Start & Associates, Inc., Spokane, WA
Spectra Community Services, Spokane, WA

Region 2

Community Living, Inc., Yakima, WA
Community Living, Inc., Sunnyside, WA
Elmview Residential, Ellensburg, WA
S. L. Start & Associates, Grandview, WA
Tri-Cities Residential, Kennewick, WA
Valley Residential Services, Walla Walla, WA

Region 3

Hampton Heights GH, Inc., Bellingham, WA
Holly Community Services, Bellingham, WA
PROVAIL, Lynnwood, WA
Quilceda House, Marysville, WA
REHABCO Skagit, Inc., Mt. Vernon, WA
RISE, Inc., Lynnwood, WA
Soundview Association, Stanwood, WA
Soundview ITS, Mt. Vernon, WA
Sunrise Services, Inc., Sunrise Community Living, Everett, WA

Region 4

Alpha Spring Meadow Homes, Seattle, WA
Alternative for Residential Opportunity, Inc., Shoreline, WA
Banchemo Friends Services, Shoreline, WA
Camelot Society, Seattle, WA
Centerpoint Services, Shoreline, WA
Community Living, Inc., Bellevue, WA
Community Living, Inc., Kent, WA
Dolphin ITS, Shoreline, WA
Evergreen Community Tenant Support, Tukwila, WA
Good Shepherd Lutheran Homes, Renton, WA
Greenwood Home, Seattle, WA
Inglewood Residential and Community Services, Kenmore, WA
Integrated Living Services, Kent, WA
Mentor, Federal Way, WA

Nellie Goodhue Group Homes, Seattle, WA
NW Group Home for the Deaf, Seattle, WA
Parkview Services, Shoreline, WA
PROVAIL, Seattle, WA
Puget Sound Residential Services, Renton, WA
Res-Care Washington, Inc., dba Creative Living Services, Seattle, WA
Residence East, Bellevue, WA
Residence East, Issaquah, WA
Seattle Specialized Residential Supports, Seattle, WA
State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA) Region IV, Seattle, WA
S. L. Start & Associates, Seattle, WA
United Friends Group Home, Seattle, WA
United Friends Lincoln Park Group Home, Seattle, WA

Region 5

C.A.P.A., Tacoma, WA
Gig Harbor Group Home, Gig Harbor, WA
Kitsap Tenant Support Services, Bremerton, WA
L'Arche Tahoma Hope Community, Tacoma, WA
Options Unlimited, Inc., Puyallup, WA
Puget Sound Assisted Living, Lakewood, WA
Res-Care Washington, Inc., dba: Creative Living Services, Puyallup, WA
Valley Supported Living, Sumner, WA

Region 6

Arc of Clark County, Vancouver, WA
Brighton Enterprises, Inc., Battle Ground, WA
Cedar Apartments, Inc., Montesano, WA
Clallam County Hosteleries, Port Angeles, WA
Frichette Associates, Port Angeles, WA
Homes for Community Living, Vancouver, WA
Kimberly Group Home, Aberdeen, WA
Lauridsen Residential Services, Port Angeles, WA
My Family, Olympia, WA
Relationship/Care NW, Inc., Vancouver, WA
Residential Opportunities & Activities Representatives, Vancouver, WA
Residential Resources Association, Longview, WA
Solo ITS, Inc., Vancouver, WA