

Continued from Page 1

is his extremely positive outlook. I think that people could learn a lot from him, no matter their circumstances.”

But Laethan's commitments don't end with politics. He's been involved with ARC of King County's LEAP program for almost a year. LEAP stands for Leadership Education Advocacy Partnership, and is an innovative project that helps outstanding people with disabilities gain “the tools necessary to be leaders in whatever capacity fits their individual interests and passions.”

Also, this year Governor Locke appointed Laethan to the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC). This is a stakeholder-driven policy development group that meets every other month. Laethan's first meeting with the DDC will be in November and he says he wants to discuss the closure of institutions for people with disabilities and moving those residents into community settings.

Laethan is very active in his Church, where he is an usher and plays softball with the church team. Each Easter he dons a bunny suit and hides eggs for the youngsters. He also bowls with the Special Olympics, and has won many medals for his prowess.

With all of his commitments, Laethan is a blur. Laura Clark, who works with him at Banchemo Friends Services, says, “Laethan has never slowed down. He has such drive, and such dedication to his community. I'm glad to see them taking notice, and I can't wait to see how far he'll go.”

# What's Happening

## CRSA Membership Meeting

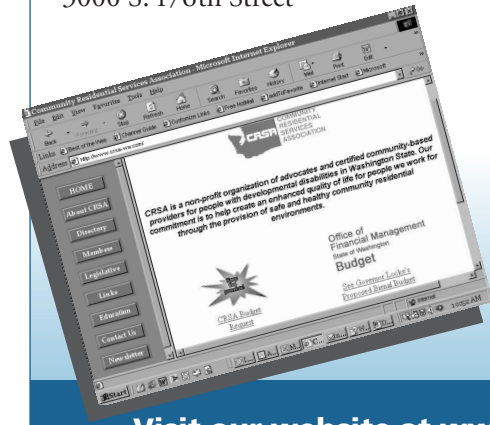
Tuesday, November 16, 2004 and

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Clarion Hotel, Seatac

3000 S. 176th Street



Visit our website at [www.crsa-wa.com](http://www.crsa-wa.com) for more information on our organization and its members.



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.

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 1046

FALL 2004

Published by Community Residential Services Association

# CRSA news

An alliance of service providers supporting people with developmental disabilities



## Carving out a Place in the Community

By CaraLee Cook, Banchemo Friends Services

On September 25, in the Seattle suburb of Shoreline, City and community leaders gathered to celebrate the thirtieth birthday of Laethan Wene. Packing into Spiro's Pizza were the friends and contacts that Laethan has built over several years of community involvement and leadership. Among those present were Mayor Ron Hansen, Rev. Chris Chase, the Fire Chief and several firefighters, who arrived complete with their engine. Throughout Shoreline and the State of Washington, Laethan is a respected leader on disability issues and volunteers constantly for political campaigns. He has even been prominently listed as an endorser for political candidates.

How did Laethan Wene rise to this level of prominence in his community? Hard work.

Graduating from Edmonds-Woodway High School in 1993, Laethan worked a series of jobs; at Fred Meyer's, the Ballard Locks and the Federal Building, finally arriving at Arby's in September 1996. Eight years later he still has his job, and in addition to tidying the place up, he trains all new janitorial employees.

But Laethan wasn't content to just work and live. He wanted to be involved in his community. he joined Patty Butler's first campaign for the Washington State House 32nd district representative in 1996. “Laethan was always willing to help. His attitude

was pleasant and I probably couldn't have won without him,” says Ms. Butler. That initial contact created a lasting bond. “I continue to enjoy a good relationship with him. In fact, I consider him part of my family.”

Ms. Butler now serves as Board President of Banchemo Friends Services, where Laethan Wene receives case-management services. Banchemo is a long-time member of CRSA.

After Butler's successful campaign, Laethan was hooked on political adrenaline. He has since volunteered for campaigns on every level. He was involved in both Gary Locke's re-election campaign and Al Gore's presidential bid in 2000. In this election cycle he is working for Ruth Kagi and George Nethercutt.

From 2002, he has attended almost every City Council meeting in Shoreline. He's become friendly with all the council members, but has become especially close with Mayor Ron Hansen. Mayor Hansen presided at Laethan's recent birthday, and plans to present Laethan with a

proclamation commemorating his efforts as a community volunteer. Hansen describes Laethan this way: “He brings a great interest to everything that he does. He has a great memory – better even than those of us who aren't so-called disabled – and has a very positive attitude. I'd say that the most important thing about Laethan

Continued on Page 4



Laethan celebrated his birthday with Shoreline Mayor, Ron Hansen (right).



# CRSA to Highlight Education Opportunities

By Eric Portnoff, Residence East

What do caring legislators, slot machines, sand castles, and services for people with developmental disabilities have in common? All four converged and blended beautifully at the joint annual retreat of CRSA and REW (Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington) held at Ocean Shores in early September. As the newly appointed Chair of CRSA, it is my pleasure to provide a quick summary of the retreat and the plans members made for the coming year of Association efforts and activities.

The retreat opened on September 7th with a lunch address by Representative Jim Buck (R) of the 24th District. CRSA and REW appreciate very much the time he and Representative Lynn Kessler (D) took to join us, share their thoughts about the upcoming legislative session, and answer our questions. Next, Renee Pietrangelo, CEO of American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), delivered the keynote address, focusing on the critical roles of leadership and mentoring in social service organizations. These presentations launched three days of informative classes, strategic discussions, and good company in a beautiful northwest location.

CRSA members developed an ambitious agenda for the coming year, making it a priority to reach out to members who wish to become more involved in the Association, and service providers that are not yet members. Participants reached a consensus that CRSA should focus anew on inspiring and educating the caring individuals who work directly with our clients. In the coming year we will also strive to improve our administrative system and processes, and welcome the contributions of new members and agency representatives. It was exciting to see a number of people step forward into new roles of CRSA leadership and responsibility during the retreat.

In closing, I'd like to express what a pleasure and honor it is to begin my year of service as Chair of CRSA. I look forward to a very productive year working with CRSA members and legislators to improve services for Washington residents with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your willingness to work this year to move our Association forward. I'm excited about the things we can accomplish together.

## CRSA Elects New Officers

Here are your 2004 officers elected at the September planning retreat.

**CHAIR:** Eric Portnoff, Residence East, Region 4

**CHAIR-ELECT (Vice Chair):** Scott Livengood, Alpha Spring Meadow Homes, Region 4

**TREASURER:** Debra Stephenson, Communitas, Region 6

**SECRETARY:** Cindy Starkey, Nellie Goodhue Group Homes, Region 4

**PAST CHAIR:** Bill Morris, SL Start, Region 1

### AT LARGE MEMBERS:

Roger Krebs, Tri-Cities Residential Services, Region 2

Tiffany Sparks, Community Living, Region 4

Paula Conn, Walsh and Associates, Region 2

### LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Sylvia Fuerstenberg, SL Start, Region 4

Leslee Currie, Rescare, Region 4

### CONTRACTS COMMITTEE CHAIR:

CaraLee Cook, Banchemo Friends Services, Region 4

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Leddie Small, Integrated Living Services, Region 4

Suzi Fode, Directions in Community Living, Region 1

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

#### CRSA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs:

Sylvia Fuerstenberg  
(425) 778-1878

Leslee Currie  
(206) 286-9002

#### Lobbyist:

Sharon Case  
(360) 451-7686 or (360) 943-5489

## 2005 Legislative Agenda

**Staff Wages and Vendor Rates** continue to be a primary concern for providers. CRSA will continue to advocate for this and the other items listed below.

- **B & O Tax Exemption/Reduction**
- **Professional Liability Insurance**
- **Workers Compensation**
- **Caseload Forecasting**
- **State Housing Trust Fund Set-Aside**
- **Dental Care**
- **Unserved population such as high school graduates and family support**

## Hot Topics in Health-care Highlighted at Symposium

By Suzi Fode, Directions in Community Living

In October DDD and CRSA jointly sponsored a Healthcare Symposium focusing on training topics for direct care professionals. In both Eastern Washington and again in Western Washington the topics focused on the unique healthcare challenges faced by providers. Topics included, "How to Get a Doctor to Serve Your Clients", "Maximizing Healthcare for the People You Serve", "Aging Issues: Facts and Practical Tips", "Basic Psychopharmacology/Psychotropic Medications", "Nutrition and Exercise", and "Skin Integrity and Skin Care"

The response to this training was overwhelmingly positive and well attended. Ideas flowed into action as presenters shared information that could be put into use as soon as attendees left the symposium. Those who attended received useful items such as health care checklists from by Dr. Asha Singh that guide support staff to access the right routine testing at the right times, as well as color coding system that help identify foods according to nutritional content. The Medicaid Billing Administration shared information on billing codes to compel medical professionals to recommend vital services during appointments for those we support. Experts also shared their findings on healthy aging, psychoactive medication side effects, and protocols on skin care. There was a wealth of information shared by experts throughout the day.

Suzi Fode, CRSA Education Committee co-chair, says they have many goals for the upcoming year to provide opportunities similar to the healthcare symposium for those who support people with developmental disabilities. She and her co-chair, Leddie Small, Integrated Living Services, are exploring ways to pass along the expertise of veteran CRSA members to the next generation of service provider leaders.



Kathy Watson, Ph.D., RN, Lynn Medina, RN, BSN, and Angela Rapp-Kennedy each presented information at a symposium session.

## Members

### Region 1

ARC Residential Services, Spokane, WA

Directions in Community Living, Moses Lake, WA

Partners for Community Living, Spokane, WA

S. L. Start & Associates, Inc., Spokane, WA

Skills'kin Community Living Services, Spokane, WA

Walsh and Associates, 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

Walsh and Associates, Kennewick, WA

Walsh and Associates, Yakima, WA

### Region 3

Community Residential Services, Inc.\* Bellingham, WA

Eagle's Nest AFH\* Marysville, WA

Holly Community Services, Bellingham, WA

Puffin Island, LLC,\* Everson, WA

Quilceda Residential Services, Marysville, WA

REHABCO Skagit, Inc., Mt. Vernon, WA

Soundview Supported Living, Mt. Vernon, WA

Sunrise Services, Inc., Sunrise Community Living, Everett, WA

### Region 4

Alpha Spring Meadow Homes, Seattle, WA

The ARC of King County,\* Seattle, WA

Banchemo Friends Services, Shoreline, WA

Centerpoint Services, Shoreline, WA

Community Integrated Services, Inc.\* Federal Way, WA

Community Living, Inc., Bellevue, WA

Community Living, Inc., Kent, 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

Nellie Goodhue Group Homes, 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

Seattle Specialized Residential Supports, Seattle, WA

State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA) Region IV, Seattle, WA

S. L. Start & Associates, Seattle, WA

Total Living Concept\* Kent, WA

United Friends Group Home, Seattle, WA

Walsh and Associates, Mountlake Terrace, WA

### Region 5

C.A.P.A., Tacoma, WA

The Communitas Group,\* Bremerton, 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

Tahoma Associates Gig Harbor, WA

Valley Supported Living, Sumner, WA

Walsh and Associates,\* Tacoma, WA

ARC of Clark County\* Vancouver, WA

### Region 6

Another Option\* Kelso, WA

Brighton Enterprises, Inc., Battle Ground, WA

Cedar Apartments, Inc., Montesano, WA

Clallam County Hosteleries, Port Angeles, WA

Diversified Resource Center SLS, Port Angeles, WA

Frichette Associates, Port Angeles, WA

Homes for Community Living, Vancouver, WA

Kimberly Group Home, Aberdeen, WA

LGH Residential Services, Lacey, WA

Life Force Services, Inc., Lacey, WA

Port Townsend Community Options, Inc., Port Townsend, WA

Relationship/Care NW, Inc., Vancouver, WA

Residential Opportunities & Activities Representatives, Vancouver, WA

Residential Resources Association, Longview, WA

Solo ITS, Inc., Vancouver, WA

VanCare, Inc.,\* Vancouver, WA

\*new members