

Berry Gazette

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2014

From the Sr. Exec. Directors Chair:

We have almost reached the end of the first quarter for 2014 and we will be celebrating our 10th Year Anniversary – Where has the time gone!

Over the past ten years we have faced many challenges and great successes. We went from working out of our home to our first office within the first year of operation. The second year we moved to our next office where we stayed until we moved into our current building two years ago. We have seen staff come and go to other ventures. We have survived a fire, many surveys and the ever changing rules coming out of Austin in all programs. We are now servicing over 800 individuals across three programs. We have opened twelve group homes, and this year we will be opening more as the need arises. I would be remiss if I did not thank our amazing staff for helping us to achieve the successes. On a personal note, over this past 10 years Tom and I welcomed a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and grandson. It has been a great 10 years

We are now busy preparing for the remainder of this year and the next 10

years to come. The trips to Austin have started again to visit with our State Representatives to keep them informed of the continued needs of the population we serve. The only way to achieve the goal is to keep meeting and communicating with them as much as we can. This includes each and every one of you.

There are a few informational items that I would like to share with you that are very important.

Earlier this year we learned that the IRS finally made a decision regarding the taxation of Natural Parents receiving Foster Care Payments. The answer was favorable and the bottom line is: *Natural Parents that are providing Foster Care do not have to pay taxes on the reimbursement.* In fact, if anyone has paid taxes on the Foster Care reimbursement over the past three (3) years they may file an amendment to their taxes and hopefully get some of that money back. To review the complete information Please go to: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-14-07.pdf>

In September of this year each individual receiving HCS and TxHmL will have a major change in their Medicaid services. Beginning September 1st all Acute (medical) services will be switched to managed care. This is a huge change for everyone. Unless your current physician has signed up to be under managed care then you will need to pick a new one. The managed care groups are working very hard to meet with all of the physicians that serve our individuals in order to get them under the managed care umbrella. In *June* you will be receiving a letter regarding getting setup with a managed care group. **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU NOT IGNORE THIS LETTER AS FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL AFFECT YOUR HCS AND TxHmL SERVICES. BOTTOM LINE: YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE YOUR HCS OR TxHmL SERVICES.** We will be providing more information as the time gets closer and we will provide as much assistance as we can to help you through this process. Also, we would like to alleviate any concerns that this is part of the Obama Care Plan, as it is not. This has been in the works for some time.

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Lastly, I would like to remind each of you that is the Representative Payee for your child or loved one it is very important that you always keep the balance below \$1999.99. We have had several individuals that have allowed the bank accounts to go over \$1999.99 and their loved ones services have been placed on HOLD and they will have to reapply for Medicaid and could end up not getting their services back. If you ever receive a letter from Medicaid **do not ignore** it – if you don't understand it please communicate with us as we will be happy to assist.

As Spring gets underway and Summer is just around the corner everyone will be getting out more and taking trips please remember to keep us updated when you will be traveling as "Survey Time" is coming!!



Parent Training: How to Make Sure the Care Continues. Presented by Antoinette Bone

When: March 4th 2014

Time: 11:30a.m.-
12:30p.m.

Where: 5700 Rowlett
Rd #110

Rowlett TX 75089

Space is limited to 30
people.

Refreshments Provided

Please RSVP to Maria
BY March 1st. EXT 251

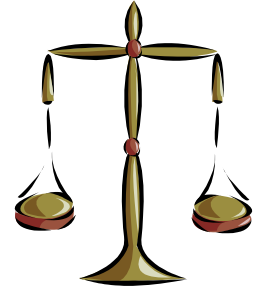
Insights to be gained from training include:

~ What estate planning is, and how to get started.

~ The different kinds of special needs trusts, and how special needs estate planning can help them ensure the continuing care for loved ones.

~ How the right kind of estate planning can leave

a legacy for all of YOUR children while minimizing the burden of care placed on siblings.



Summer camps



Camp Summit is now accepting applications for all camp sessions. If you think you are interested, go ahead and get your application in now and reserve your camper's spot! They will fill up quickly.

<http://campsommittx.org/>



GH PARENT TRAINING



We have been working to prepare some solid training for families who are considering group Home placement for their loved ones future. From this training you will gain a practical working knowledge of what to expect in a group home setting, As well as a timeline and rules and regulations. If

you have questions or are curious., This is the informational meeting for you.

When: April 10th

Time: 1st Session 9-11a.m.

2nd session 6-8p.m.

Where: BFS OFFICE

5700 Rowlett Rd #110

Rowlett, TX 75089

Please RSVP TO Maria by April 3rd.

*Space is limited to 25 people per session. We will be offering 2 sessions per day.

Please join us at whichever session works best for you.

Email:

Maria@berryfamilyservices.cm



Focus on the service: Nursing

Greetings, from your Berry Family Services Nursing Department!

As we turn the corner toward a new season, we are busily preparing (once again!) for survey season. Did you know that BFS has been free of deficiencies for three consecutive years? We congratulate you - our Foster Care Providers and Supported Home Living parents - on this streak of excellence; you are an integral part of maintaining our continued excellence! With your help, we look forward to reporting a fourth deficiency-free year.

The BFS nursing department is dedicated to assisting our consumers maintain an optimal level of health. For our FCPs and SHL parents, this can be as simple as keeping the BFS team up-to-date as changes occur - medical/dental visits, medication changes, and, in some cases, hospitalizations.

We know our families lead busy, demanding lives. Often, we are all faced with less-than-ideal circumstances and a general lack of time. These things make it easy to forget or simply overlook making a call or sending an email to report even the slightest of changes to the nursing team. Those details - even the ones that seem trivial - are what will allow us to proudly bring you that fourth year of no deficiencies mentioned above. Our eyes are on the prize, but we can't do it without you!

With that in mind, we want to share a few quick reminders that will help keep your nurse in-the-loop while minimizing your time and effort doing so:

1. Be sure to use the most up-to-date and correctly-dated Monthly Medication Report forms (MMRs). This means using only the February 2014 MMR for February 2014. If you're unable to locate a current month's forms, contact the nursing department. We will get the appropriate forms to you immediately.
2. Always have these "must-have" forms: Medical Visit Report, Dental Visit Report, and Medical/Dental Appointment Checklist. These are part of your "toolkit", They will ensure you're always able to efficiently report important details back to BFS. Missing a form? Contact your nurse, who will be happy to get it out to you!
3. Always strive to provide supporting documentation with any reported changes to your Monthly Medication Report. Supporting documentation may include: Medical Visit Report (completed only by the practitioner), a copy of any prescriptions received during the visit, and/or the practitioner's visit note (this can be requested from the practitioner at the time of, or just following, your visit).

Sometimes, for any multitude of reasons, one or more of the suggestions listed above are not possible. We, the BFS Nursing Department, are here to assist you whenever that's the case. Please never hesitate to contact us at any time via phone or email.

Happenings in the Community

Many of you have heard about or participated in the March for Respect in the past. We wanted to let everyone know that this year, March for respect will not be held in 2014. The ARC & Developmental Disabilities Network of North Texas hope to be back in 2015 with an enhanced March for Respect Experience.

Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt!

Presented by: Special Ones Net Work

Date/Time April 5th 1-3:30p.m

Where: Jerry Carter Softball Complex
550 W. Oates Rd.

Garland, TX

Please **RSVP TO** Kristal @972-979-5244

**The egg hunt will begin @2p.m with the youngest ones first. All ages are welcome!*

**BERRY FAMILY
SERVICES**

Berry Family Services
5700 Rowlett Rd #110
Rowlett, TX 75089

Phone: 972-412-4707
Fax: 972-202-0314

*"Meeting the needs of the
Disabled and their Families"*



Our Mission:

"To provide persons with disabilities the necessary support to increase independence, dignity, personal growth, and inclusion in the community."

Our Philosophy:

"We believe that all individuals deserve the same opportunities to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.

We will provide these opportunities in a nondiscriminatory, respectful, and financially responsible manner."

Contacts:

Administration:

Cindy Berry -Sr. Executive Director ext:: 223

Tom Berry -Financial Director ext: 222

Jason Berry -ext: 230

Jessica Berry -Public Relations ext: 227

Kamie Berry – Billing

Brad Alldredge -Operations Director ext: 232

Vicki Flores -Human Resources ext: 236

Monica Taylor -Group Home Manager ext: 393

Support Staff:

Maria Cardona ext: 251

Tina Cagle ext: 242 -Accts payable

Jennifer Flowers ext: 239 Accounting

Cheryl Gibson GR/TXHML Admin ext: 234

Margarita Gamino ext: 272

Susan Wells ext: 221

Shelby Berry ext: 243

Patty Brown –Behavior Specialist ext:392

Residential Service Monitors (RSMs):

Ana Ortiz ext: 250 Sr. Manager

Carolina Gonzalez ext: 271 Sr. Manager

Katie Beth Massengill ext::270 Sr. Manager

Andy McLane ext: 238 GR/TXHML Sr. Manager

Ahn Vu ext: 241

Aida Lenarduzzi GR/TXHML ext: 396

Andria Scully ext: 387

Brenda Stolte ext: 233

Carol Montoya GR/TXHML ext: 388

Dani Pham ext: 228

Georgina Garcia Cain ext::231

Jessie Aguilar-Redding ext: 249

Julie Diffenderffer ext: 244

Lien Roberts ext::279

Lilia Velasquez ext: 278

Liza Rios GR/TXHML ext: 280

Megan Formosa ext: 277

Rita Flinchum ext: 226

Tabita Gonzalez ext: 267

Tara Shoemaker ext: 240

Alexandra Jodaitis-Rodriguez ext: 394

Nursing:

Kay Medlin RN ext: 252

Vivian Davis RN ext: 276

Jessica Head RN ext: 398

Thuy Le RN ext: 275

Eliza Jones-Lead Nurse LVN ext: 225

Michael Johnson LVN ext: 273

KaShonna Pridgett LVN-ext: 224

Vickie Campbell LVN ext: 237

Brenda Rush LVN ext: 248

Donna Cox ext: 235 Nursing Admin

Irma Aguilar ext: 221 Nursing Hispanic Admin