

THE SCOOP

January 16, 2019

Richland Newhope awarded remote support grant

Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities has received a \$20,000 grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center.

The grant is one of 13 awarded since last September to support initiatives that expand remote support or remote monitoring availability in Ohio.

“The ongoing workforce crisis often leaves county boards of developmental disabilities and providers without sufficient staff to fill vacant positions,” says Nisonger Center Technology Project Coordinator Jordan Wagner. “Ohio is now a ‘Technology First’ state, and the grants are offering to advance this mandate by harnessing the benefits of technology to mitigate the workforce crisis and promote independence among individuals with developmental disabilities.”



Richland Newhope plans to use the grant dollars to create a demonstration site where those with developmental disabilities, their family members, staff, and provider partners can experience first-hand remote monitoring and other technologies that are available.

Specifically, the grant money will be used to buy equipment, such as a two-way audio/video screen, cameras, wireless sensors, automated medication dispensers, and other devices, that work with a remote support system. The goal is to have the demonstration site ready by April 1.

“This grant is just the start of educating our staff, individuals, and their supports about how technology can make people more independent and improve the quality of their life,” adds Mary Dalbey, Richland Newhope’s coordinator of Provider Recruitment and Development.

Newhope’s Vision – Always There

By Greg Grambush, director of CQI, Planning, Information Systems, Operations & Transportation

The start of a new year marks the implementation of a new three-year strategic plan for Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Work on the plan began last summer. Under the leadership of our new Superintendent Michele Giess, the planning process was expanded in a couple of ways. First, Michele added additional representatives from all of the departments to join the Leadership Team in the planning process. Thus, the planning team was comprised of 18 different perspectives as they pondered the future of Richland Newhope.

She also brought in a well-known consultant, Melinda Marsh of Acorn Consulting, to facilitate the various planning meetings and input-gathering initiatives. Michele felt strongly that this plan would be a critically important one as Newhope has restructured, added new leadership in many areas, and would be considering the timing of a levy request as part of this planning cycle.

The Planning Team obtained input from a wide variety of sources before formulating its plan. Focus groups with staff members, interviews with board members, a focus group with family members of individuals being served, and a survey of People First members were all conducted in order to consider what an ideal future might be.

The resulting plan contains revised mission and vision statements, a new defined set of values from both the individuals served and the agency's perspective, and five long-term goals and their accompanying objectives.

Our Service and Support Administration and Community Contracting Departments continue to play key roles in connecting people to service providers in order to satisfy the needs and desires of individuals we serve. And while Richland Newhope still provides the funding for Adult Services and Transportation, the agency continues to provide direct services in Help Me Grow, Early Intervention, Preschool, Therapy, and Residential Services.

The strategic plan was completed in time for board review and approval in early December.

Click [here](#) to read the 2019 - 2021 Strategic Plan, "Newhope's Vision – Always There," on our website.

In Memoriam

Evelyn Taylor - Jan. 1, 2019

Jason Frisby - Jan. 3, 2019

January Employee of the Month

Name: Dawn Trooper

Position: Coordinator of Service and Support – Group Homes

Employed since: Sept. 7, 2012

Nominators Comments: Dawn's peer says she goes above and beyond her job description and her heart is displayed on a daily basis. "Her heart is tremendous when it comes to our individuals. She shows compassion and understanding. She visits the homes and wings quite often. She puts the needs and wants of the individuals above and beyond her own. She is always encouraging the team and is always staying to support them. She is always asking others what she can do to help them. There have been several times in the past few months that she has taken extra time out of her day to spend time supporting supervisors and the individuals."

Employee of the Month Comments: Dawn says being selected as Employee of the Month is an honor. "I am truly blessed to be able to work for an agency that I love and believe in (the) mission statement. I am grateful for the support I have from my director, manager, and the group supervisors. They are helping me continue to grow within my position." Dawn says what she likes best about her job is the



interaction with the individuals who live at the group homes and Raintree. "Seeing smiles on their faces as you walk into a home or a wing is priceless and complete joy. The Residential Department is a family. We support each other in any way possible. It does not matter if you are from the group homes or Raintree we work as a team."

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

19 Years – Ronda Sherman

18 Years – Shannon Mahoney

17 Years – Laura Brackett

14 Years – Star June & Nicole Maglott

13 Years – Claudia Strong

8 Years – Alicia Bailey

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