



Employee Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 7

March & April 2021

Welcome New Hires

New-Beginnings:

Nancy Jordan
 Karen Schmitt
 Constance McCulley

The Clinic:

Joseph Mellinger

CIT:

Brittney Filips

Merryfield:

Katherine Wright

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment began on April 13th for the plan year starting 7/1/21.

You should have received an email from Isolved if you are eligible for benefits.

This is only for Health Insurance.

Even if you are not making changes you need to confirm your elections in the system prior to May 15th.

If you are making changes you'll need to complete an enrollment form.

Thank you!



Calendar

4/5/21-Medication Management Training (32hr course)

4/9/21- Pay Date

4/9/21-TOVA Full Day

4/13/21-Developmental Services is Sponsoring a Blood Drive at the YMCA

4/13/21-Medication Management Refresher & Overview

4/14/21-CPR/First Aid AHCS & Blended Course

4/16/21-TOVA Refresher

4/23/21-Pay Date

5/7/21-Pay Date

5/12/21-CPR/First Aid AHCS & Blended Course

5/14/21-TOVA Full Day

5/18/21-Medication Management Refresher & Overview

5/21/21- TOVA Refresher

5/21/21-Pay Date

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March:

- 03/12: Tiffany Madison
- 03/15: Adam Kenny
- 03/16: Cheryl Morris
- 03/19: Wanda Nugent
- 03/22: Jagadamba Pandit
- 03/25: Kelsey Tolley
- 03/26: Jessica Biniszkiwicz
- 03/31: Violet Potter

April:

- 04/01: Kimberly Kurnath
- 04/02: Kenneth Crowder
- 04/04: Lisa Pritt
- 04/15: Rhonda Adams
- 04/15: Teresa Hull
- 04/16: Bethany Hagy
- 04/19: Oliva Nicotera
- 04/20: Anne Kinsey
- 04/20: Bobbie Gillispie
- 04/23: Karen Schmitt
- 04/24: Rachel Meyers
- 04/25: Elizabeth Dame
- 04/27: Sarah Deffinbaugh



Developmental Services Update

Friendship

Individuals at Friendship participated in an Easter egg hunt across the street from the park.



Club House

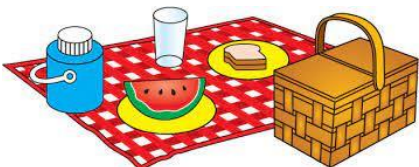
March and April have been busy months for clubhouse with the warm weather starting to show.

The Clubhouse has enjoyed more outdoor activities such as a picnic at AET with another one planned for the end of April.

At the beginning of April, the Clubhouse had the movie theater to themselves and enjoyed being able to get out and have some popcorn.

More fishing trips and picnics are planned for May.

In addition, they have had several new members that are enjoying and benefiting from the program, and taking advantage of the fun arts and crafts that are being offered.



LSC Gardening Club

The Spring Sale was a huge success! The members of the "Grow Thru What You Go Through" gardening club enjoy planting and nurturing the lovely succulents and flowers. They appreciate everyone's support with the sale. The proceeds will be reinvested into the mini business. They are excited about growing their own outdoor garden this year and also having more seasonal sales. Keep an eye out for the specials and watch them grow!



Infant and Toddler

May is Early Intervention Awareness month and they are preparing for it by facilitating a book reading with the Alleghany Regional Library in as part of their regular Toddler Time program. Julie Connor, author of It's My Time to Fly has produced a video (with American Sign Language), and she has shared it with the library.

In addition, they are also filling boxes with candy and information about early intervention that we will be distributing them out in May to area partners.



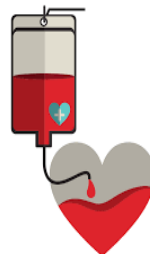
Infant & Toddler
Connection of Virginia



Blood Drive

There were 30 donors that attend the Blood Drive sponsored by AHCS's Developmental Services program on April 13th. It was a great way for staff and those we serve to be involved in the community and also create awareness. When one of the donors was asked why she chose to donate blood, she said "I donated because I care about people".

We appreciate everyone who participated in this great event!



Mental Health Update

On April 24, Allegheny Highlands Healthy Youth Coalition, Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, Covington City Police Department, and Lewisgale Allegheny participated in the DEA sponsored National Drug Take Back Day at Walmart in Covington and CVS in Clifton Forge.

This event is held twice a year and allows community members to dispose of their unused or out of date medications in a safe way.

Many community members expressed thanks for this event, as they wanted to dispose of their medications in a safe way that would keep them out of the wrong hands and out of the water supply.

The Healthy Youth Coalition also brought along medication lock boxes, trigger locks, and other prevention items in order to spread the word about locking your medications and talking about ways to secure lethal means.

There are presently medication drop boxes located at Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, Covington City Police Department, and we will soon be unveiling a new location at the Clifton Forge Police Department.



In addition, New Beginnings is now open and has their first resident as of April 6.

Thanks goes out to Lynn Brackenridge, Lee Nichols, Rhonda Adams, Susan Chittum, Patricia Spangler and Nancy Jordan who were all integral to the program's successful reopening.

Patricia Spangler, Lisa Drewry, Tiffany Bowser, and Nancy Jordan have been a part of the interview process in order to find individuals who would benefit from living at this amazing transitional home.

The individuals who live at New Beginnings are given the opportunity to attend our Clubhouse Program, work in the community, volunteer, as well as continue their education.

It has been refreshing to see and hear from the individuals who look forward to moving to our area and begin their recovery process with AHCS.



Amanda Webb-

She worked consecutively on a 2p-10p shift with only one day off during the outbreak. Amanda did this even though her own family was at home struggling with COVID. At one point a resident became extremely ill at Friendship and Amanda advocated for this individual to be seen by the ER and evaluated. Since this was one of her guardianship clients, she stayed at the hospital until the individual could be placed in a room and made comfortable. Amanda spent half the night in the ER speaking for the individual and calming them in order for them to get the appropriate medical care. She likely saved his life by being proactive with the prompt action and intervention. During the pandemic, Amanda has encountered 3 deaths in her guardianship program due to COVID and other illnesses. Amanda has encouraged the nursing home to let her in so she could sit with the individuals during their end of life. Otherwise, they would not have anyone with them during their passing.

Mikayla Miller-

Mikayla exudes excitement and positivity in service planning at the day support program. She was creative in offering opportunities for the individuals to attend activities at LSC even when the program was closed to the public. She coordinated an event with the Mill Mountain Zoo, movie matinees and a Mardi Gras Party.

Mikayla has embraced the gardening club and expanded on the initiative. She sought out donations from businesses locally as well as from surrounding areas. She has been able to secure monetary donations as well as lots of plants and gardening supplies. Mikayla is innovative with her ideas and follows through with supporting the individuals to express their creativity.

Linda Southall-

Linda is a personification of our Mission statement. Linda provides amazing support and guidance to both her adult and child clients. She recently provided transportation and emotional support to a client who had severe dental anxiety with having all of her teeth pulled and having impressions done in order to restore her smile with dentures. Linda provides resources to her fellow coworkers and works cooperatively with our community stakeholders.