Technological Advances Support Efficiencies and Empower People with Disabilities

As I sit here in front of my computer screen, it amazes me how far technology has come in our world. I remember MRSI’s first IBM 286 which was used to process payroll instead of by pencil and paper. It made the job a lot faster and with fewer mistakes. We also used the old machine to look up information by dialing up ARCHIE, one of the first online browsers. The speed was very slow and it seemed like it took forever to retrieve the information that you were interested in reading. We still have the old typewriter somewhere in storage, but it was long ago replaced by its electronic version.

We have come a long way from the early days of computing. Most of the people we work with disabilities have access and use smartphones, tablets, and streaming devices. There are Apps that can translate sign language, turn on lights and appliances, and even remind us when to take medication. The use of technology seems limitless and has empowered people with disabilities in ways I never dreamt of or thought possible. Soon, there will be self-driving automobiles that will expand the horizons and empower the transportation needs of people currently not able to drive or explore their world. Think of all the possibilities! With the current staffing crisis, we are exploring providing more supports by using remote technology. Remote technology has also made advances over the past few years. Sensors and logarithm formulas have replaced video cameras and monitors.

MRSI continues to seek ways to use technology to provide better services, be more accountable for the services delivered, and make it easier for our staff to fulfill their responsibilities. This month we transitioned into the new Advisor Anywhere, an online timekeeping and documentation software solution from Primary Solutions. We have used their Advisor software for the past several years for our HRIS (Human Resources Information System) and consumer information tracking. We are in the process of transferring all documentation of consumer supports and outcomes online to Advisor Anywhere. This has been a long process that has not been easy but is necessary for MRSI to continue to evolve and provide the tools necessary to support the needs of our stakeholders.

I am certain someday we will look back in amazement at the continuing evolution and use of technology to supplement the supports for people with disabilities. The future is very bright and exciting.

Garry Mosier, CEO
Celina has been doing a lot of small group outings. They truly enjoy being able to go somewhere with two—three other people, rather than a large group. It is always great to see all the smiling faces and listening to their stories when they return from the outing.

Both facilities will be hosting their Open House soon. This is an annual event that the clients use to raise money for their activities. The clients utilize the money raised at these events to buy tickets to events, purchase items for in-house ADS activities, and anything we may go and do in the community that the clients may not normally be able to afford. We will get the dates out as soon as possible.

We are going to try something new this year… The clients have been asking to have a “Prom”. They want to dress to the nines and everything!! This will be in September. More information will be coming soon!!

Since the Celina and Van Wert ADS’s have been growing we will soon be spreading the program into Auglaize County. Everyone is very excited about this next adventure!

As always, I want to thank my entire staff for their continued dedication to the program, the clients, me and to MRS!!!

Monica McKinney
ADS Coordinator
ADS FUN

Coffee/Social time

Ready for take off at the Neil Armstrong Museum!

Genealogy looks interesting!

Go Kim!

Van Wert ADS Easter Party... Is that the Easter Bunnies?! Wonder if they got away??

Skills station fun at Mercer ADS

Animal Shelter smiles

Prepping the garden!

Dance practice for Prom
Reminder...

Just a reminder that both ADS Facilities are continuously doing various fundraisers to raise money to offset the costs of activities and outings that the clients choose to attend. We recently held a garage sale which was very successful!! We also continue to collect cans!! You can drop cans off at the Celina office, 420 South Sugar Street, Celina, Ohio. You can also attend one, or both of the Open Houses, where the clients sell their home made crafts and artwork!! They have been busy making a variety of new items this year!! Can’t wait to see everyone’s reaction to how hard they have been working.

We are always looking for people who would like to come speak to our groups, or teach them a skill. If you are interested in doing this please contact Monica McKinney at 419-586-4709, or 419-217-3484 to make arrangements. We love meeting new people and learning new things.
MRSI Fundraiser

On April 20th, MRSI held a soup & sandwich fundraising event at the Vantage Career Center in Van Wert. Along with the supper, a raffle, 50/50 drawing and bake sale was held. Over the past few months, committee members have volunteered many hours preparing for the big event from contacting businesses for donations, posting flyers in the community to working the night of the event. Anything I asked staff to do they did it with great compassion and commitment.

Committee members consisted of: Linda Anderson, Tim Dull, Jeneane Garwood, Dawn German, Jasmine Goins, Michelle Miller, Heidi Leiendecker, Melissa Martinez, Mary Jo Smith, Missy Stevens and Dustin Taylor. This committee was able to make connections with community members that led to numerous donations for raffle and for supplies that were needed the night of the event. This committee also lined up family, friends, past and present MRSI employees who volunteered the night of the event. This committee worked together to ensure everything ran smoothly. It was wonderful seeing all the family, friends, past and present MRSI employees who helped out.

Staff in all locations were asked to help out by selling tickets and preparing a dessert to help cut down on the cost of the meal tickets. I would like to thank the staff in Van Wert who sold tickets and made desserts for this event. Without your help this event would not be a success.

There was a lot of positive feedback on the desserts that were prepared. This year’s top sales person for raffle tickets goes to Kirsten Tuckerman.

The top sales person for meal tickets goes to Jeneane Garwood. Congratulations Kirsten & Jeneane!

I truly appreciate all the help received. MRSI is extremely grateful to all the businesses and private donors who generously gave donations for the fund raiser. Congratulations to all the raffle winners. Congratulations to Heidi Leiendecker who won the 50/50 drawing.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the community members for supporting MRSI by attending our event. Your support for the residents is so greatly appreciated. With everyone supporting MRSI’s residents the event brought in $3,300. This money will be used to purchase items for residents that are not covered under Medicaid. MRSI has used money generated through fundraising for residents: Christmas gifts, birthday gifts, shoes, tickets to sporting events, etc. It was great seeing everyone again. I hope everyone enjoyed the night and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

--Janelle Wehrman
Director of Quality & Staff Development
Allergies: Seasonal Relief

As the seasons change, so will your allergy symptoms. You can help combat your allergic reactions with these seasonal tips.

Spring
Mold growth blooms indoors and outdoors with spring rains. As flowers, trees, weeds and grasses begin to blossom, allergies will follow. Spring-cleaning activities can stir up dust mites, so be sure to:

- Wash your bedding every week in hot water to help keep pollen under control.
- Wash your hair before going to bed, since pollen can accumulate in your hair.
- Wear an inexpensive painter’s mask and gloves when cleaning, vacuuming or painting to limit dust and chemical inhalation and skin exposure.
- Vacuum twice a week.
- Limit the number of throw rugs in your home to reduce dust and mold.
- Make sure the rugs you do have are washable.
- Change air conditioning and heating air filters often.

Summer
Warm temperatures and high humidity can put a strain on seasonal allergy and asthma sufferers. Summer is the peak time for some types of pollen, smog and even mold:

- Stay indoors between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m., when outdoor pollen counts tend to be highest.
- Be careful when going from extreme outdoor heat to air conditioning. The temperature change can trigger an asthma attack.
- Wear a mask when you mow the lawn or when around freshly cut grass. Afterward, take a shower, wash your hair and change clothes.
- Dry laundry inside instead of on an outside clothesline.
- Check your yard for allergens, as well as other irritants such as oak, birch, cedar and cottonwood trees; weeds such as nettle or ragweed can also trigger allergies.
- Wear shoes, long pants and long sleeves if allergic to bee stings.
- Do not wear scented deodorants, hair products or perfumes when outdoors.

Employee Corner

Welcome New Staff!

Van Wert:
- Alexandria Weiss (DSP)
- Amy Bennett (DSP)
- Bree Grissom (DSP)
- Shawn Klingbeil (DSP)
- Linda McMichael (DSP)
- Tim Dull (Area Coordinator)

Celina:
- Katie Taylor (DSP)
- Felicia Feazell (DSP)
- Miranda Bjerke (DSP ADS)
- Michelle Sutton (DSP ADS)

Employee Reminders:
- Self-Evaluations for your Performance Appraisals are sent via email now thru Survey Monkey. Please make sure and complete those, this is the most confidential approach for these surveys.
- Please make sure and provide the home office with a copy of your auto insurance every time your policy renews.

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