

SEEC Plans for the Future

Skill Enhancement & Employment Center (SEEC) has had a very creative and prosperous year planning for future expansion and growth while concentrating on our primary goal which is providing quality services for consumers. New positions and pilot programs have been established while the groundwork has been laid through the submission of two proposals for grants for future developments.

January 3, 2005, SEEC expanded its Employment service area and Lisbet Pfaffenberger was hired as Employment Counselor. On January 14, SEEC submitted a proposal, along with the Department of Special Education & Rehabilitation Counseling at UK, to the US Department of Education for a Field Initiated Research Program. This three year proposal targeted individuals receiving TANF who have disabilities. In March of 2005, SEEC and Preparing Adults for Competitive Employment

(PACE) in Lexington collaborated to initiate a program for community-based assessments. The purpose of this program has been to assist eligible participants with exploring their



Back row: Andrea Miller, Sandra Young;
Middle row: Shakira Goldsmith-Mason,
Kara Baber; Front row: Lisbet Pfaffenberger,
Barbie Slevin.

strengths and weaknesses in terms of employment in actual work situations. Currently the first few clients are starting through the system. Also in March a

Project with Industry proposal was submitted for the Department of Education. This proposal targets not only individuals with neurological disabilities but also employers throughout the Bluegrass Area District.

SEEC, since 1999, has had a contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Due to this contract, SEEC staff have been able to perform screening assessments and placement of individuals receiving TANF. In April, SEEC was notified that a new position would be added to its current contract. This position, called Community Liaison Caseworker for SEEC's Transitioning to Independence for People (TIP) Program, was effective as of July 1, 2005. It is responsible for helping individuals on TANF with disabilities transition to independence by securing the needed supportive services. In this manner, individuals will be served even better than ever before. ♦

In This Issue

- SEEC Plans for the Future
- OWL News Briefs
- Consumer of the Month
- Message from the President

Upcoming Events
Monday, September 5th – Labor Day: OWL Closed

September 26th & 27th: CARF Accreditation Survey

October 19th & 20th: ISO-9001:2000 Yearly Audit

OWL Habitat Project a Big Success

The Lexington Habitat for Humanity invited several agencies/organizations to participate with them in a 10-Week community build entitled “Come Play for a Day” from April 4th through June 12th, 2005. This was a community-wide effort to build three homes for three deserving families on Florida Street. Thanks to the insight of our CEO, John Adams, who presented the idea to the OWL Board of Directors and was granted approval for our participation.

Other team players included Sandra Young, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, Frank Johnson, and Moe Mercier who forged



Edelmira Toledo and Moe Mercier, fellow workers, team up for a work day at Habitat.

on with the project in order to gather support from the staff, employees, and consumers. Each agency was asked to volunteer their services for one day. Not only did OWL volunteer for one day, we participated for three days! The response from everyone was

continued on Page 3

New Program Development Department Established

We have hired Maurice (Moe) Mercier as Director of Program Development. Moe had recently retired from the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP). His last responsibility at CAP was as Corporate Officer/Vice President, Dept. of Human Services. Part of his duties included oversight of human services efforts throughout the 49 Appalachian counties in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia consisting of over 40 diversified programs, a great background for

his new role at OWL! We first worked with Moe in the mid-70's. While then working for CAP, he was Director/Co-founder of a group home for juvenile delinquents who were referred to OWL for Employment Services.

His primary responsibilities are to coordinate our efforts to enhance and expand our programs and services to further meet our mission as a company “... to provide services to persons so they can live more independent lives.” ♦



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OWL News Briefs

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

OWL Center held our annual Summer Youth Program. Fourteen students representing all of Lexington's public high schools attended either a four- or eight-week session. This was the first work experience for many of the students. Classes were also held to strengthen their development of good work habits. One of the students, Rachel, summed up her experience by saying “I've learned how to solve problems step-by-step, the importance of teamwork, and how to get along with co-workers.” Each year we enjoy the energy and enthusiasm that the students bring to our program and this year was no exception.

CARF RE-ACCREDITATION IN THE WORKS

OWL's current accreditation with CARF expires on October 31. We have submitted our application to be

resurveyed for accreditation. CARF surveyors are scheduled to make an onsite visit to our programs on September 26 and 27. The programs we now have accredited are Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation, Employee Development Services, and Community Employment Services. If you want to learn more about CARF, they are linked to our website or can be found at www.carf.org.

OWL BEGINS NEW SUPPORT GROUP

Many of our consumers can use some extra support in developing goals and taking the actions needed to deal with barriers they may be facing. Moe Mercier and Becky Cabe have started a support group that meets weekly after work hours for those consumers who would like to participate.

Congratulations to Barbara Rollins!

Barbara Rollins was referred to OWL in 2004 by Brenda Eadens, Office of the Blind. She had not worked since losing her eyesight in 1991 due to Diabetic Retinopathy. Prior to that time, Barbara had a stable work history having worked as a retail clerk and as a warehouse laborer. Upon beginning work conditioning at OWL, Barbara suffered from "silent" butterflies (though she appeared calm, cool and collected on the outside, she said her stomach was tied in knots). The butterflies "flew the coop" as Barbara got back into the routine of work. Barbara impressed her supervisors quickly by discovering some defective parts in one of her bins. Visually the parts appeared identical, but the differences were perceptible by attentive



Barbara Rollins

touch. All of her coworkers were then trained to feel the parts for defects. Barbara proved to be a very capable and valuable member of her work team.

Eventually, Barbara began work conditioning in the office area at OWL. Again, she suffered the "silent" butterflies. She learned to work the OWL switchboard and assisted people entering the LMC/OWL lobby. After

only a few days, Barbara had mastered all new tasks (not the least of which was memorizing more than 20 extensions) and had learned that she actually enjoyed working in an office area.

Barbara's OWL Employment Consultant, Jaye Forsythe, then arranged for her to job shadow the receptionist provided by the Mayor's Training Center at the Central Kentucky Job Center. The staff at this site was very interested in working further with Barbara, so the Office of the Blind agreed to work with OWL to provide her with a 16 week paid work experience in this position. On July 25, 2005, the Mayor's Training Center was able to hire Barbara into a part-time, temporary receptionist position. The Mayor's Training Center hopes to be able to make this position permanent in the near future so that Barbara may continue being an asset to their team. ♦



Habitat Continued from Page 1

overwhelming. Although the theme was "Come Play for A Day" (and we did), more emphasis was placed on the quality of work that was being done. Building professionals were there to see that the job was done correctly. OWL joined "hammers and saws" with other agencies, the families, friends, and neighbors on Florida Street and an enjoyable time was had by all.

We look forward to being a part of the dedication program when the project is completed. This is just the beginning of our efforts to give back to the community that has supported our organization all these years. After all, our name is "Opportunity for Work and Learning." ♦



From the President's Desk . . .



Greetings! Recent activities at OWL include a variety of construction projects. The past few months we have been upgrading and remodeling the building purchased last fall. Offices have been renovated, new ones have been added, interior work space has been improved, and restrooms are being redone. As spring

arrived we moved to the outside, which has included roof repairs, block work, a new entrance ramp, and soon exterior painting. By this fall we plan to have the building up to good standards.

In our annex Building we have built walls to enclose our woodworking area. In our main building we are enclosing a new office section for administrative offices. Plans are to paint all exterior buildings this summer.

We have recently completed the purchase of another parcel of property located as adjacent property already owned on Kennedy Road. Included in the addition are two buildings and a vacant lot.

There will be some initial work needed to be done before we put this property up for leasing as this purchase was done more for OWL's future needs.

This edition of our Newsletter includes updates from our various operations. Our new website at owlinc.net also contains a good overview of our activities.

As OWL is referred to in our field of business, we are a Community Rehabilitation Program. We continue to enjoy the partnerships with many others in the community as we continue to serve individuals seeking to live more independent lives!

John Adams, President/CEO