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Autism Spectrum Program

During the last year a team has been assembled to develop the *Autism Spectrum Program*. This program will provide services to children ages 4-17. Paul Carollo and Elizabeth Rinaldo are developing the program which will provide a variety of services including individual therapy, family therapy and group services. One of the essential components of the program is the family centered and planning approach. The intake process is a specialized component in this program. Specialized testing and resource planning to find the necessary services for each family will be used. The Autism Spectrum program

will provide parent education and training to help the families develop a plan for independence. In addition, the Autism Spectrum Program has been developing a number of resources from speech therapy, occupational therapy to parental groups. The members of the team have received training in Applied Behavioral Analysis, and Pivotal Response training. Some members will be receiving training in specialized testing. This is done in an effort to provide the highest quality of services to these families. The program continues to grow, and may potentially launch in the latter part of the summer.

Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behaviors (MST-PSB)

After more than a year of planning and collaboration with community stakeholders, Touchstone Behavioral Health has implemented their newest evidence-based program, Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behaviors (MST-PSB). MST-PSB is an exciting new development in the treatment of juvenile sex offenders. It is currently the only program with clinical trials that show lowered recidivism for both sexual and nonsexual crimes, as well as fewer days out of home or in placement. This is very encouraging for a population that often spends a significant amount of time out of home during their adolescence.

After more than a year of planning and collaboration with community stakeholders, Touchstone Behavioral Health has implemented their newest



CEO Corner

Steve Ginsberg

As Touchstone's President, Timothy Dunst usually uses this column for his 'From the President' article. This quarter I will fill in. First, I want to recognize Mr. Dunst's brilliance (along with that of the Board of Directors) in naming me CEO. A very wise choice indeed! However, I am not sure that is what Mr. Dunst intended for me to focus on in this piece, thus I shall move ahead.

On a more serious note, Arizona, along with the rest of the country, is facing a financial crisis that is reaching heights many of us have never

experienced before. While there are many questions surrounding the future of mental healthcare and the funding of such, you can rest assured that Touchstone will remain as committed as ever in providing the same quality services as we always have. At a time when we are tightening our belts along with all other providers, it is certainly not a time for panic. Both the State and Federal government are looking at all possible funding strategies, and we are very confident that we will see positive changes in the very near future. In addition, as an agency we continue to pursue new ventures with alternative funding sources.

President Harry S. Truman is quoted as saying, "It's a recession when your neighbor loses his job; it's a depression when you lose yours." It is very easy for folks to predict 'gloom & doom' and then allow that to become part of a

self-fulfilling prophecy. It is just as easy to look at these times as opportunities for growth and learning. A time to challenge one's self. It is the latter that Touchstone has always ascribed to, and it is from this viewpoint that we will continue to move forward.

There are many new programs we have worked on over the past year which are ready to be rolled out over the next six (6) months. We have always enjoyed a reputation for being front runners and risk takers, and that will not change. We have always responded to the needs of the communities we serve, that too will not change. Touchstone Behavioral Health reflects the vision of its President, Timothy Dunst, as well as its Board of Directors, as long as these things remain stable, these minor 'bumps in the road' will not slow us down.

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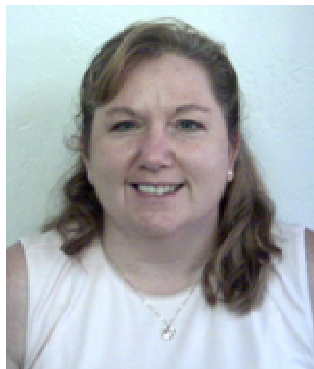
MST-PSB Therapists meet with youth and families in the community, in homes, schools and neighborhoods to encourage success in the youth's natural environment for the long term. Therapists typically meet with families three to four times each week and are on-call 24/7. MST-PSB relies heavily on family therapy as a mechanism of change for the youth and family, and also draws on models of parent training, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and social skills building. Utilization of family-based clarification work is an extremely powerful way to encourage sustainable change of both the youth and the family environment. Ensuring client, victim and community safety is a paramount mission of the model. Extensive assessment and planning underlie the individualized safety plan of every youth and family.

The MST-PSB team at Touchstone includes; Supervisor, Kim Egan and Therapists, Melissa Kreitz, Jason Jonker and Alan Nesbit. Everyone on the team has been involved with MST for several years and has now completed the first several days of training in the PSB model. They will continue to receive weekly and quarterly training with our MST-PSB supervisor. We have had several cases referred at this point and look forward to continuing to accept new referrals in the future.



Kim Rivera began her employment at Touchstone in 2005 as a Family Support Partner helping parents create a family voice in the Child and Family Team process. Kim adopted Touchstone's company motto "*Partnering with Families*," and made it ring true with every family she works with on her caseload. She has been a solid team member of the case management department. Through her hard work and determination, Kim was promoted to case manager in 2006.

As her career blossomed, she did not forget the core of family voice; she continues



to co-chair a Consumer Advisory Board with parents of our agency. She coordinates a meeting for parents to get together to learn about the different topics from behavior modification to anti bullying, and spends time providing a network of support to staff and parents. Due to the dedication and hard work of Kim and others, the Advisory Board has been able to provide this meeting to families for the past few years. Fellow co-workers and families truly enjoy having Kim involved in their lives. She has a pleasant, cheerful, and goal driven attitude says supervisor, Lorenzo Mojica.

Kim Rivera & Perry Kopatz Employees of the Quarter

Perry Kopatz has been with Touchstone for just over three years, working mainly as a Family Support Partner and briefly as the licensing specialist for the HCTC (Home Care Training to Home Care Clients) program. During this time, Perry has proven to be invaluable to the case management department, whether as a family support specialist working to lift families up, teach resiliency through his own experiences, or providing a gentle ear for his co-workers.



Perry also works with our FCM (Family Connection Meetings) and for three years now continues to support and teach our families during these meetings.

When Perry is not at work, he is very busy with his church where he is an associate pastor. He also helps out with community faith based projects such as mentoring and coaching, working with multiple other churches and their needs. Recently Perry obtained his Doctorate in Practical Ministry to add to his Masters in Divinity and Bachelors in Business Administration.

Cultural Competency Committee

The Cultural Competency Committee would like to extend a great big "THANK YOU" to all who contributed over the holiday season with food, toys, donations, blankets, etc. As a committee and as an agency Touchstone really stepped up to the plate providing necessary items to those a little less fortunate.

The CCC would like to offer an open recruitment period. Of the four sub-committees – Research, Training, Activities, and Media – Research and Training are in need of members. Please feel free to see Vernon Powell or Jonathan Tumavichakul for any questions.

Touchstone's CCC 2009 Socials continue to be tentatively scheduled for the 3rd Friday of every month. Watch for upcoming announcements. We hope you are enjoying these opportunities to mingle with your co-workers.



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Editor's note

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