

TAYLOR

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Don't forget to like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/miarkay.org

Executive Director: Kevin McGuckin

Program Director: Antoinette "Toni" Posie-Nelson

Case Manager: Carol Sproles

The Staff That Proudly Serves Our Individuals:

Deborah "Debbie" Anderson

Marcelline Williams

James Medaris

Dollie Germer

James Kendrick

Sade Jackson

Julie Williams

Diony Thomas



Mission Statement

“Our Mission is to assist the Developmentally Disabled and the Elderly Disabled to achieve community inclusion that enhances personal potential, employment opportunities and/or volunteerism”

***If you would like a digital/emailed copy, please let Toni know.**

Program Director's Notes

- Hello Great People!
- There has been a change in payroll for you all. As of
- right now, you can be paid for building cleanup again. YAY! We

**Psssssst its
someone's Birthday!
Please wish:**

Shannon S.- 04/03

Shawn A.- 04/04

Nicholas L.- 04/06

Business Developers Corner:

Happy Spring Everyone!

We are looking forward to new opportunities for jobs this spring. We are now participating at the Garden of Hope in Grosse Ile, where some of our individuals are learning to weed, cultivate and harvest. For those that aren't familiar with The Gardens of Hope, it's a green house on Grosse Ile. We are happy to have this opportunity to work and learn about gardening. As always, please let us know if you know of a business that is hiring or of a craft show or church bazaar coming up.

Parents & Guardians, if you weren't able to come to our Free Workshop on Understanding How Social Security's Disability Benefits Are Viewed While Working, please feel free to contact Kyra or Kim at the business development office if you have any questions. We can give you information to get in contact with a work incentive planning assistance (WIPA) benefits specialist, to get a FREE customized analysis done. This is very beneficial for anyone receiving SSI or SSDI benefits and want to work or are already working.

We also want to invite you to the DCTC (Downriver Community Transition Council) Resource Event at Jo Brighton on Thursday, April 4, 2019, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Arkay Business Developers will be at this event.

Have a Safe and Happy Spring!

Your Business Development Team:

Kyra, Kim, Mark, Megan & Tammy

734-258-8966

JUST SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

Arkay Bowling League:

Arkay Bowling League started back up **January 31, 2019!** The league will be held Thursdays for **14 weeks** at Skore Lanes in Taylor, MI. A free banquet will be held for our bowlers once the league is over. The cost is **\$70 for the league (paid up front) or \$5 paid each Thursday.**

Penny Wars Fundraiser:

Thanks to everyone that participated in Arkay's Penny Wars Fundraiser. **The program that won this war is (drumroll please.....): Taylor!** Great work on beating the other programs at Penny Wars! The reward will be announced soon. Thanks so much to all that joined in on the war of fun!

Tiffani's Tasty Treat:

Tiffani is still open for business! She is selling different candy selections for a \$1, once in the morning. Help her reach her goal she sets for herself.

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF ANY KIND (napkins, plates, cups, silverware, pop, food, paper, arts and craft materials etc.). Thanks in advance for your support!

We would like to thank those who continue to donate towards our van transportation. We will be there to pick you up, if for any reason we need to cancel van transportation, we will call you as soon as possible. **Due to weather conditions and changes that arise, the times may vary for pick up and drop off. PLEASE BE READY BETWEEN 7:45-9:00 am for PICK-UP and DROP OFF WILL BE BETWEEN 2:45-4:00 pm.**

Kevin's Corner:

Arkay is seeking to expand its reach and its services. Arkay has been panelized by DWMHA for new services such as Supports Coordination, Transportation, Community Living Supports, & Respite Care. We are currently phasing in Respite Care. Respite means a break. Respite services offer short term, hourly or overnight relief for families taking care of a person with a developmental disability. These services give family members the opportunity to go out for an evening, take a vacation, take care of other needs, or simply take a break. Families of children and adults with developmental disabilities who are currently living with their parent(s) or guardian in Wayne County are eligible. Please call Arkay and ask for intake.

Currently, Arkay is involved in a feasibility study for independent integrated living apartments that could allow for families (i.e. aging parents) to live there as well. We are seeking to address a long-standing issue of what happens when a consumer's parents, guardians, and caregivers are no longer able to take care of their loved ones. More to come...

At the Federal level, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a new set of rules for the delivery of Home and Community Based Services through Medicaid waiver programs. Through these new rules, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services aim to improve the experience of individuals in these programs by enhancing access to the community, promoting the delivery of services in more integrated settings, and expanding the use of person-centered planning. These rules will ensure individuals who have disabilities have the same access to the community as individuals who do not have disabilities. It allows individuals the opportunity to make decisions about the services they receive and who provide their services.

For Oakland County, Arkay has applied for a vocational program with the theme of "Employment First". Employment First, means that employment in the general workforce should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems. Simply put, Employment First means real jobs, real wages. Employment in the general workforce means regular jobs like everyone else in society: in typical work settings, working side-by-side with people without disabilities, earning regular wages and benefits and being part of the economic mainstream of our society.

Arkay will need to continue to emphasize community integration with our services. Full participation in community life: All individuals are supported to take part in their community and have the same access as other individuals in the community. This requires full participation in community life. Our goal is now to focus on integrated and unsubsidized employment for our customers.

Best Regards,
Kevin McGuckin