



February | March 2010

What Would You Do For A Friend?

Leroy Sutton and Dartanyon Crockett – graduates from Cleveland’s Lincoln West High School – exemplify excellence, hard work, friendship and tenacity to overcome barriers. The two young men met on the wrestling mats as teammates. Leroy, a double amputee and Dartanyon, legally blind, find no reason to let life’s challenges get in their way. Prior to their recent graduation in June of 2009, each of them excelled in wrestling at Lincoln West High School. They became not only practice partners to better themselves for opponents, but friends. Dartanyon has been seen carrying Leroy in and out of matches and around their community, while Leroy helps guide the way – each supporting the other to achieve the impossible.

In August of 2009 their sports careers and friendship were spotlighted on ESPN: Carry On (watch the segment online at <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/otl/news/story?id=4371874>). Their story has been shared on various news programs, and they themselves provide inspirational messages by simply sharing this very personal, very inspiring story. ViaQuest was honored to hear this story at the 2009 annual conference, and wow – what an impact it made on each and every person there.

As a result of the inspiration given us by Leroy and Dartanyon, we are sharing the “Carry On” video as a part of our staff meetings as well as our consumer council meetings. The video has truly inspired all of us here at VBH – and perhaps most importantly, it has inspired those we serve. Please take 10 minutes to be inspired, encouraged and to think...what would you do for a friend?



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Sexual Abuse Prevention Skills Training

VBH South attended a “Sexual Abuse Prevention Skills” workshop through the Academy for Direct Support Professionals focused on individuals with Developmental Disabilities. The workshop focus was to provide resources and teaching techniques to educate individuals with disabilities on how to be safe in community, with peers and family members. “Say no, get away, and tell someone” was the theme in educating the people we serve on a daily basis. The training also introduced tools such as “Life Facts” a pictorial program focused on identifying emotions, feels, and helping individuals to understand the difference between friend and acquaintance, or public vs. private, for example, can help them live a healthy and safe life.

Barb Thomas M.Ed., C.S.E., JSOC who conducted the training has 35 years of teaching experience, and for the past 16 has been Director of TECS Education Center (Thomas Educational Consulting Services). TECS offers Education with a focus on Social Skills Development and Healthy Sexuality. Also an Educational Consultant, Barb has a Masters Degree in Special Education, is Certified through the University of Louisville as a Juvenile Sex Offender Counselor and is Certified as a Sexuality Educator through AASECT, the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists.

ViaQuest Welcomes Colin Fowler, Clinical Director

ViaQuest is very pleased to announce that Colin Fowler, MS LPCC-S, will be joining our central region team as the Clinical Director. Colin has twenty years in the human service field, the last thirteen with youth having sexual behavior problems and most recently specialized in Attachment Disorder spectrum. He has worked for county children services and the juvenile court as well as for private foster care agencies, group homes, and secure residential programs. Colin has received specialized training in working with offenders throughout the United States and Ontario, Canada.

Among Colin’s many contributions to the field, he is also the chair to the Juvenile Justice Committee at OACCA, has provided state wide training on the certification standards developed in response to Senate Bill 10 and the Adam Walsh Act, was a guest speaker for graduate courses at Winthrop College, and presented on Juvenile Sex Offenders in Toronto, Ontario. Join us in welcoming Colin to the ViaQuest family!

Enhancing Services Across Ohio

The Holiday Season has come and gone and ViaQuest Behavioral Health, all our consumers and employees look forward to a safe, healthy, progressive and prosperous 2010! We wish you a Happy New Year.

It might be winter outside but when it comes to program enhancement, expansion –in growth and development of our clinical expertise – it is SPRING time!

Each Ohio region is developing and hiring team members that will enhance our behavioral and mental health services throughout 2010 and into the future. Our new CPST, (Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment) program is in full swing and we’re excited to soon expand our youth Case Coordination and Counseling program to the adults we support. CPST, Case Coordination and Counseling are mental health supports that many of those we serve benefit greatly from. To get more information regarding how these mental health supports are growing in your area, call our offices at: North Region 330-963-2733; Central 614-336-9600; or South Region 937-280-2000.

Changes Within VBH Central

In our ongoing commitment to quality services within VBH we are in the process of making numerous structure changes to go hand in hand with the recent addition of mental health services being provided by VBH.

We have recently hired a Campus Supervisor to work at our Medina Campus located in Columbus. This position will be working outside of normal business hours to assure ongoing management presence at the Medina campus. Job duties of the Campus Supervisor include floating from home to home to assist staff with programming, providing quality assurance, assuring general health and safety within the homes, as well as assist with any needed crisis intervention. Richard Preston has accepted this promotion from his Support Service Specialist position and will be starting his new position the week of 2/22/10. As census continues to grow on the Medina campus we will look to hire a second Campus Supervisor to cover additional hours.

Jennifer Kerr will be joining the VBH Central team as our new Quality Assurance Specialist. Jennifer comes to VBH from another ViaQuest business line (SupportCare) where she has served as Program Director for several years working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

We have also hired three Home Managers to oversee the group homes throughout Central Ohio. Juan Chavis will be the Home Manager for our Ogden home. Laquita Lewis and Andre Johnson will be serving as Home Managers of our Medina campus, and we are still accepting resumes for Pine Knoll, Retreat, Nestling, and RJ homes. Interest in these positions should be directed to Chris Germany at (614) 339-1612.

To oversee the Home Managers throughout the region we have created a new Operations Director position. ViaQuest Behavioral Health Program Director Chris Germany has accepted this promotion and is currently transitioning into his new role.

Last but not least, after giving birth to twin boys VBH Central Director Jennifer Sleeper will be returning from maternity leave on 3/8/10.

If there are questions about services as we transition into our new structure please do not hesitate to contact Matt Mumma, Regional Director at (614) 339-0802.

Project Understanding

February 5 the Summit Developmental Disabilities Board held their 7th Annual Project Understanding. ViaQuest Behavioral Health North Region was fortunate to participate in this one-day, exciting career development series for students. The four presenters Rena Mazzei PD, Brianna Colello HR Manager, Melanie Hayes LISW Therapist, and Tamara Calderwood Director presented 3 one hour sessions with a focus on our degrees in psychology and career possibilities in the Developmental Disability field.

The students who participate were afforded the opportunity to participate in multiple career sessions. Persons representing the fields of Social Services, Community Employment, Nursing, Early Intervention and Education, Public Relations and Marketing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Computer Technology and Information, and finally Psychology and Behavioral Health. Seminars were designed to provide quality career exploration for high school students in Summit County that have expressed an interest in those fields mentioned. The participants in this program had the wonderful experience of visiting stations designed to teach them on Ability Awareness. There were also area colleges such as KSU, Akron U, Stark Tech, Malone Col-



lege available to provide these students information regarding their future careers.

It was an awesome day for the four presenters. We each shared our career paths, our education and most importantly the role each of us fulfill at ViaQuest Behavioral Health of Ohio, including our personal and professional successes. We greatly appreciate the opportunity and privilege provided to us by Summit DD to participate in such a great program to build understanding in our youth about the promising field we are all so passionate and committed to. Thanks for a great experience!



ViaQuest

Behavioral Health

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Openings Within ViaQuest Behavioral Health Programs

| Number of openings for placement | Location by County | Program Type | Gender/Age Specific | Special Population |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 3 | Hamilton County | ODJFS Group Home | (3) Male/15+ | Male Offender |
| 3 | Lake County | ODJFS Group Home | (2) Male/15+ (1) Female/15+ | Male Offender Female MH Dually Diagnosed |
| 11 | Franklin County | ODJFS Group Home | (9) Male 15+ (2) Female 15+ | Male/Female Aggression |

LOCATIONS AND REFERRALS

Northern Ohio | 2069 Midway Drive | Twinsburg, OH 44087 | Phone: 330.963.2733
Central Ohio | 525 Metro Place North, Suite 300 | Dublin, OH 43017 | Phone: 614.889.5837
Southern Ohio | 300 W. National Road | Vandalia, OH 45377 | Phone: 937.280.2000