

Surface Creek VISION Home and Community Program
Report to Board of Stewards
March 14, 2007

This report is to update the Board of Stewards members regarding current issues in the Surface Creek VHCP.

Learners: The program began the year with 150 learners (FTE of 146.5). Although 50 new learners were placed during the summer of 2006, this number is down from 172 in 2005/2006. Our new learners came to us from traditional schools (24), traditional homeschool (17), dropout recoveries (4) and new to school (5). Currently, we have 153 learners enrolled, with 13 enrolled after October 1 and 5 early graduates.

Staff:

The Surface Creek office staff has spent a great deal of time revising job descriptions to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our Learners and RCs. With three resignations last summer (LuLu McCay - Director, Diane Budy - Administrative Staff, and Nancy Bolam - Funding Director), we are all in a perpetual state of learning and growing in expertise. Currently our office staff consists of five 20 hours/week employees:

Director - Amy Miller

Office Manager - Pat Tollen

Funding Administrator/School Assessment Coordinator - Marcia Mitchell

RC Advocate/Powerschool Administrator/Activities Coordinator - Don Pyle

Graduation Facilitator/Educator Coordinator/Family Advocate - Hattie Taylor

In February, we contracted with Steve Palmer to create our website, provide technical assistance and help us to develop educational opportunities and guidance for struggling learners.

RC:

This summer we welcomed three new RCs, bringing our total to 12. Tracy Gibson came back to us from her sea-kayaking adventure in Baja, and Nan Latta and Jessica Carlson joined our group. All have proven themselves invaluable additions to our staff. As second semester approached, we had our usual influx of applications from traditional schools students wanting to transfer to our program. We hired Barry Singleton in late February to absorb our waiting list. He is also going to work with us to develop programs for learners who are struggling and need extra support.

Financial Update:

We continue to remain in a "comfortable" space financially, however, we do not have the funds for all of the program development and additional services we would like to offer. As we prepare the budget for next year, we must try to evaluate the potential funds coming in and the priorities for these funds. In our family survey last year, a new (more suitable) building was listed as a fairly high priority for our families. We have spent time in the past few weeks evaluating the availability of suitable space in the Surface Creek area, which is nearly nonexistent, as well as possible changes to our current space. While we foresee having funds available to possibly purchase land, the cost of building an entirely new building seems out-of-reach. We certainly seek the Stewards' guidance in strategizing a way to have the physical space necessary to provide the optimal learning environment for our Learners and the optimal working environment for our RCs.

Program Update:

We continue to strive to find ways to support our Learners and their families. A great deal of time is spent in RC meetings discussing the possibilities. Through the addition of our new RCs and their specialized skills, we anticipate having the ability to provide many additional services in the coming year. We are eager to begin working with the Delta program in developing a "paperless" documentation method. We look forward to contributing to a "coming together" of common policies and procedures.

Upcoming Events:

March 19 -23: CSAP Testing for all 3rd - 10th Graders

April 19, 2007: Graduation Presentation Night

April 25, 2007: ACT Test for all 11th Graders

April 27, 2007: Spring Event: Talent Show

May 24, 2007: Graduation Ceremony