

CLI Update - April 28th, 2017

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And now-- for John's usual excuses & apologies:

This has been a busy spring for us here at CLI. Lots of special events at 16 West, the 5K, the annual free shred day . . . It's been a bunch. We've got one last event May 5th uptown to raise money for Norwalk Fire Department's "Operation Warm" that buys winter coats for kids in need. After that Holly, Jen & I have resolved to slow the pace down for the summer and focus a bit more on the long-term strategic goals of transforming CLI into the agency that the state-wide system will continue to support. CLI intends to be here to support people for a long time. In order to do that, we've got some changes to make. I am always available to answer questions or listen to ideas. If something I/we are trying to do doesn't make sense to you-- please give me/us the chance to talk about it with you.

So-- this month we have 2 pretty big things that we are working on (after Cinco de Mayo of course)-- the most immediate one is a CARF survey for CLI's community employment services that we have arranged to take place on Monday 5/8 and Tuesday 5/9. CARF stands for Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Now that CLI is no longer a public agency, it is important to be able to demonstrate that we follow industry best practices. CARF certification will enable CLI to provide services for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities so that we can provide community-based vocational services to young people as they transition from high school to the adult world. Addressing this group will help improve community-based outcomes for people while still providing people and their families with a comprehensive array of adult services that they can pick and choose from.

The second thing that we are working on (after Cinco de Mayo & CARF) is a Transformation Project Grant with the Ohio Department of DD. CLI has been partnered up with a Cincinnati-based non-profit agency, the Starfire Council. This is a progressive agency that has reshaped itself from a sheltered workshop to a completely community-based program whose mission is to help people with DD build meaningful integrated lives. Their website is www.starfirecouncil.org if you want to check them out. We're pretty excited about the opportunity to work with this group! My goal is to figure out how to balance what the statewide system needs CLI to be with what our local clients and their families want. Sometimes it's the same, sometimes it isn't. As we move forward with this Transformation Project grant, I will be asking people to meet with us to provide feedback about how we are doing right now-- and to brainstorm about how we move forward. Look for more information about this soon.

Finally-- CLI staff will be reviewing the 2017 CLI Adult Program Handbook with folks over the next couple weeks. We are required annually to review this with everyone. We'll be asking people to initial/sign off after the review so that we have proof. If anyone wants a copy for someone or to keep on your bedside table, just let us know. That's all I've got for now. Have a great weekend!



A huge thank you to all who came out to support our Senior Programs fundraiser at the South Norwalk McDonalds this past Tuesday night!

With your help, we were able to raise over \$300! Kudos to Kerrie Close for putting this together and for the Benedict Avenue McDonalds for sponsoring CLI!

