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Town Hall Meeting by Oriana DeForest

A group from ALC went to the town hall meeting, February 26th in Oakland, CA. Our local legislative representatives were there to hear local developmental disability community organizations speak about supporting MCO tax and DD Package, reform and developmental services funding increases. On the Monday after the townhall, they voted, it passed, and the governor signed it.

We need more funding for programs like ALC, because there are a growing number of adults with autism and disabilities.

The town hall meeting was informative. There was a presentation on the 50th year of the Lanterman Act, "Yesterday, Today and Future," who they used to serve and who they serve now, which is different than when the state first started the regional centers, with an increasing number of people with high functioning autism now. Speakers came from different local community organizations, and administrators. Our state is also more diverse now.

ARC of Contra Costa County closed one of their community programs and had to find placements for people, with no plan for costs to keep it open until placements for people could be found.

Programs have a hard time keeping and retaining good staff, due to low wages, so there is a high turnover of staff. Changes in staff can be traumatic for clients, and cost the organizations for training.

The future will be finding ways we can be served in the community. Other concerns are that there is a shortage of housing, and not enough programs for their consumers. RCEB's director of community services talked about programs closures and finding people placements somewhere else to live is difficult, because of the shortage of housing. With increased funding, that could help programs stay open. We need to find more housing and programs for high functioning adults with autism. -OD

Interview with Curisa Stacker, Medical Coordinator

By Newsletter Group

How do you like working at ALC?

I truly enjoy working at ALC. I have great co-workers and wonderful clients. There is never a dull moment and it is very fulfilling being in a position where people express how much they need you.

What are some of your job duties?

Some of my duties are managing clients medications (contacting physicians and pharmacies to make sure medications are always refilled and picked up on time), scheduling appointments (medical, dental and vision), keeping track of immuniza-

tions and lab requests, assisting with appointments and corresponding with physicians and psychiatrists to advocate for our clients and make sure all needs are met.



Curisa Stacker
ALC Medical Coordinator

What is your favorite part of your job?

I enjoy the one on one time I get to spend with our clients while assisting with all appointments. It gives me a chance to get a full understanding
(Continued on page 4)

Interview with Carol Bishop, Lead Case Manager



Carol Bishop,
ALC Lead Case Manager

Interviewed by Kate Wingert

What are some of your duties as lead case manager? As lead case manager I assist case managers with supporting incoming clients during transition, completion of client residence spot-checks, participate in field-training of new case managers, participate in and support all areas of the case management department as needed and required. I hope to provide the case management department with a “Can Do” attitude adapting to the needs of our clients. I strive to be a team player that assists the clients’ needs, while offering our clients a chance to use their abilities to the best they can. I assist clients with resolutions and the know-how in the following areas: unclogging their garbage disposals, how to make minor maintenance repairs, finding budget friendly purchases, writing emails/notices, developing healthy eating habits, tools to work through situations, communication/expressing their needs, etc.

What do you like about working at ALC? The clients, their responses to

their personal growth, and working with a team of people who strive to build up our clientele.

How do you like being Lead Case Manager? It keeps me busy and I like to be busy.

Is it hard balancing work and home? At times I’m thrown curve balls, yet I do my best to find a happy balance between the two. Happy home = happy mom; Happy clients = happy case manager.

What is your favorite animal?

Giraffes & Frogs

What do you think of the Raiders this year? I think they have potential and I’m proud to be a Raider nation fan.

What is your favorite Christmas Carol?

Silent Night

Is there anything else you would like to add? I strive to find a positive in every situation, and I take time to watch successes bloom within steps to achieving ones goals.

-KW

ALC Wish list

The following items are some the things ALC needs or can use, if anyone has any to donate, we would appreciate any of these items:

- Art supplies
- Jewelry beads / Perler beads
- Gardening supplies
- Outdoor furniture
- Legos
- Games
- Portable fans & heaters
- Digital cameras
- Computers speakers
- Wifi or Network printer
- Couch for lobby
- Reusable/canvas grocery bags
- Water bottles
- Dry erase markers
- Kitchen silverware

Thank you to everyone who donated through East Bay Gives, May 3 & 4. The total amount of \$5,700.00 was raised. We received 78 donations. ALC is grateful for all of your support that has paid for our new community garden, A Loving Crop. This will give clients the opportunity to grow flowers and vegetables, and have a peaceful place to hang out. Thank you for your patience and generosity this year. And thanks to the volunteers who helped with the garden over the past several months, also.

EDITORIAL: *Dreaming*

By Doug Quinn

Everybody dreams! I'm always dreaming. I have always wanted to work in a skyscraper! A big office with enormous views of either parts of a big city, or an ocean view, or in some cities you can see a harbor or a bay. I dream of what it's like to wear clothes to a fancy office job. I don't know what it's like to have a lot of money, working in a tall building, sitting at a fancy desk, having great views. I also have other dreams. My dreams feel real to me and what I dream about feels scary.

People all over this world dream. Some of them may not come true. Some come true, if you work

on the outcome. Children of all ages dream of being older and being bigger. Parents dream of how

they want their children to be when they get older. People who are sick dream of feeling better. People who are in love dream of getting married. People who don't function like everyone else in this world dream, too. The blind dream of someday being able to see. Same with the deaf, to be

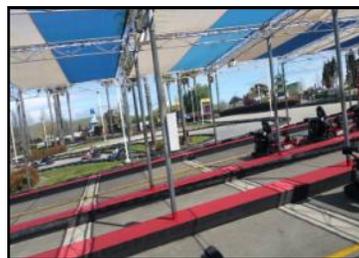
able to hear. Some people need to be in a wheelchair and may dream about what it's like being out of their wheelchair. Dreaming is a natural thing.

-DQ



Weekend Outing to Boomers

By Ryan Alves



Fun at Boomers, in Livermore, arcade, laser tag, miniature golf and Go-Karts

At Boomers, in Livermore, I played laser tag and knew how to hide. I got lots of points. We all ate pizza together and I got lots of my favorites, cheese and pepperoni. There were prizes players could win with tickets. Some of them were stuffed animals. I really wanted to win the tiger, but didn't play the arcade. I rode the go-karts and passed everyone up, and also blocked them so they couldn't pass me up. That was fun. We had fun taking turns blocking each other while driving the go-karts. The cool breeze felt good on my face. The warm sunshine and cool breeze reminded me of Elysium in Greek and Roman mythology. -RA

eScrip Replaces S.H.A.R.E.S Cards

eScrip fundraising program will contribute to ALC up to 3% of qualified purchases at Foodmaxx, Lucky's and Savemart. Sign up at www.escrip.com, choose Adaptive Learning Center as 1 of 3 of your nonprofits to support, then shop and dine locally or shop online with securely registered cards, or just use the phone number you use at checkout.

eScrip

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when you shop.*



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Adaptive Learning Center is to provide a safe and healthy community for adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders to realize their individual potential for self-reliant living as defined by the ability to engage in productive work, to socialize successfully, to attend to their own physical and emotional health, and to experience on-going personal growth.

Fun Photography Club



Photo by Aaron Ryan

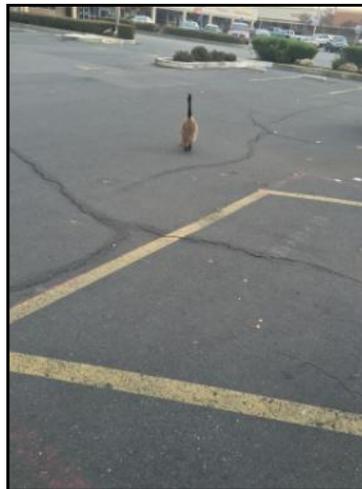


Photo by Jay Lewis



Photo by Jason Conant

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Medical Coordinator Interview

of our clients' medical needs to maintain a healthy life and with that information I am able to assist with making a difference in the care of our clients.

How long have you been in the medical field? I have been in the medical field for fourteen years.

What background have you had in your field? I received an AA degree as an Administrative Medical Assistant in 2001. I then completed the Clinical Medical Assistant program in 2012. In between those years I completed

the Pharmacy Technician program and have had ongoing training in a nursing assistant program.

Would you like to study further in your field of expertise? Absolutely. If I could afford the tuition, I would be working towards a Registered Nursing Degree.

Do you have hobbies? Yes! I enjoy art, scrapbooking, writing short stories and poetry.

Is there anything else you would like to share? I love tacos, football (Cowboy and Raider fan), basketball (Warriors fan), baseball (Giants fan). I have a two year old daughter and I am so in love with being a new mother! -CS