

THE EXCHANGE

*Published for parents, family members, and guardians
of individuals served by Black Hills Works*

Second Quarter 2015

Creating possibilities for your loved one with technology

Black Hills Works will host its second technology conference, Creating Possibilities – Innovation in Motion, May 18-19 on the campus of the School of Mines & Technology. The conference is designed for anyone who supports people with cognitive disabilities, physical disabilities, or age related and medical limitations, including family members, service providers, or governing bodies. Participants will hear from leaders in the field, learn about best practices, and take home practical solutions and ways to easily implement them so that those they support may maintain or gain independence.

Keynote speakers at the conference include:

Therese Willkomm, considered the “MacGyver” of assistive technology. She is the director of the New Hampshire State Assistive Technology Program.

Marcia Scherer is the founding president of the Institute for Matching Person and Technology and a professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

For more information or to register contact Connie Melvin at Black Hills Works (605) 718-6289 or email conniem@bhws.com.

Recognize a staff person



Black Hills Works employees are trained to live by what we call the Power of B, which is made up of four principles: Be Respectful, Be Accountable, Be Your Best, and Be Supportive. Each month we honor employees who have shown these principles in a big way or have in other ways gone above and beyond in their work. If you would like to recognize a particular Black Hills Works or

BH Services employee for their service, please email Dorothy Rosby at drosby@bhws.com and tell us your story. Be as specific about what the employee has done or how they live out the principles of the Power of B.

Accreditation underway

Black Hills Works will undergo accreditation with the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) April 28-May 1. Four years ago, we were the first agency in the state to achieve the then-new four-year accreditation. The process is part of our continuing effort to serve people with disabilities better.

Storm has success at state



Rocky Allard from the Lightning Team won the Spirit Award at the 2015 State Basketball Tournament.

The Rapid City Storm had a successful Special Olympics Basketball tournament in Pierre March 13-14. The Blizzard team earned a gold medal, the Thunder team earned a silver medal, the Lightning team earned a bronze medal, and the Cheer Team earned a bronze medal. Thanks to all coaches and chaperones for volunteering to help with the tournament.

The Exchange is published bimonthly by the Black Hills Works for parents, family members, and guardians of the individuals we serve. Comments and questions are encouraged and may be addressed to Dorothy Rosby, Editor, Black Hills Works, Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709; call (605) 718-6205; or email drosby@bhws.com. We also appreciate your keeping us up to date on your address changes, corrections, or duplicate mailings. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, email drosby@bhws.com.

Parent and guardian support

Great Lives Partnership

The Great Lives Partnership is an education and advocacy group for families of people served by Black Hills Works. The group met on April 9 to learn more about and discuss the following issues:

- The Employment First Initiative and Career Pathways
- The accreditation by the Council on Quality and Leadership we are currently undergoing
- The 2016 budget passed by the South Dakota legislature and how it affects people supported by BHW
- Our transition to external case management
- The capital campaign to raise money for housing
- Segregated versus integrated services

All family members and guardians are welcome to attend meetings of the Great Lives Partnership. Come learn more about the issues that affect your loved one. **The next meeting will be held July 16 at 5 p.m. at Black Hills Works, 3650 Range Road.** For more information, contact Colleen Ronning at (605) 718- 6203.

Help us save \$\$\$

Emailing newsletters saves printing and postage cost. If you would prefer we email your newsletter, contact Dorothy Rosby at drosby@bhws.com. If you choose e-mail, you can be assured that we will not share your e-mail address with other organizations.

Special Olympics

Friday, April 24: Area Track & Field Meet, Sioux Park, Rapid City.

Saturday, April 25: Area Aquatics Meet, Black Hills State University, Spearfish.

May 28-30: State Track & Field Games, Brookings.

July 11-13: State Equestrian Competition, Huron.

For information on these and other Special Olympic activities at Black Hills Works, contact Joe Burmeister at 593-1144.

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