

President/CEO Report

..... A monthly report on Ranch Ehrlo Society's activities

Ranch Ehrlo Society Hosts Successful Clinical Workshop

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Over 185 participants were in attendance at a one-day workshop on January 31, 2007 to hear Dr. Pat Crittenden, a world-renowned authority on developmental attachment theory and assessment procedures.

cross-culturally as a developmental psychopathologist developing theory and a developmentally attuned, life span set of procedures, for assessing self-protection strategies.

Crittenden presented her Dynamic-Maturational Model of Attachment, which outlines strategies that individuals use to organize self-protective and reproductive behavior. "Dr. Crittenden's model is very much aligned with the philosophy of Ranch Ehrlo", said Kerry Derbyshire, Director of Programs at Ranch Ehrlo and one of the workshop organizers. "Dr. Crittenden's principles of treatment are based on a 'strengths' approach and a belief that children and families are doing the best they can at any given time. It is essential to engage family members productively in adolescents' transition to adulthood. Although the task of generating change is a complex process, professional intervention can assist in the transition from a distorted childhood to an adaptive childhood."

The Ranch Ehrlo Society clinical team organized the workshop, held at the Conexus Arts Centre, as part of the agency's 40th anniversary celebrations. It attracted a wide-range of participants including social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, youth care workers, First Nation leaders, foster parents, adoptive parents, and educators. The participants, many from out of province, rated both Crittenden's presentation and the courteous treatment by the workshop organizers very positively.

"In addition to Dr. Crittenden's presentation, the day provided an opportunity to highlight many of Ranch Ehrlo's programs and to share our collective knowledge and information with workshop participants," said Derbyshire. At a special presentation, the clinical team presented Dr. Geoff Pawson, founder and President/CEO of Ranch Ehrlo Society, with a framed deed to the Pilot Butte Campus property.

Dr. Geoff Pawson
President/CEO

Crittenden received her PhD in Psychology from the University of Virginia. In consultation with John Bowlby she developed the CARE-Index, often used to assess dyadic characteristics associated with attachment. The model is also used in evaluating the quality of adult-infant interaction. Currently, Crittenden works

After the workshop, many participants toured the Pilot Butte campus of Ranch Ehrlo. The following morning the Ranch Ehrlo clinical team facilitated small group discussion and consultations with a number of participants from the workshop.

During the course of any month, there are a number of activities which occur at the Ranch which go unreported to board members, our Senate and senior management. This monthly newsletter will attempt to capture some of that activity and give you a broader perspective on Ranch Ehrlo and Ehrlo Community Services.

New Vice President South Announced

Dr. Geoff Pawson, President and CEO announced the appointment of Linda Meyer as Ranch Ehrlo Society's Vice President Programs South, effective February 1st.

Meyer began her career at the Ranch Ehrlo Society in 1989 as a unit manager. She also held positions as a clinical caseworker, assistant director of residential care and treatment and assistant director of counselling services. In 1998 Meyer moved to the Ranch's associated charity, Ehrlo Community Services, to establish Ehrlo Counselling Services.

"She will strengthen the agency and help us to steer through this exciting period of growth and expansion".

Dr. Geoff
Pawson
CEO

"Under Linda's leadership Ehrlo Counselling Services has developed an expertise in counselling children, families as well as adults in the areas of developmental disabilities, depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress reactions and other psychiatric disorders as well as social, behavioural, family and school-related problems", said Pawson. "She has taken the program from a one-person operation to an agency providing a wide range of services, including FASD

training and host to the Cognitive Disability Strategy for the Regina Region."

Meyer is a Master Trainer for the Living Works Suicide Intervention Training program; she has an advanced certificate in critical incident stress debriefing; she has served as a Practicum Associate with the Faculty of Education and a Practicum Instructor for Lethbridge Community College. Currently Meyer is a sessional instructor with the Saskatchewan Police College.

Meyer replaces Bob Ryan who passed away on Friday, December 1, 2006 after a short battle with cancer. The Vice President of Programs South is responsible for 14 group homes in the Pilot Butte/Regina area, and an additional 47 young

people living in apartment/rental situations and supervised under the SLP or SILP programs (Structured and Supported Independent Living Programs). Approximately 300 employees provide direct services to these clients in the south.

"I am delighted to have someone with Linda's vast experience and knowledge of the agency join the Ranch's senior management team," said Pawson. "She will strengthen the agency and help us to steer through this exciting period of growth and expansion."

Auction Supports Youth-In-Care

One innovative aspect of the Ranch Ehrlo Society clinical workshop held on January 31st in Regina was a silent auction and youth art auction. The auction, organized by the Ranch Ehrlo clinical team (who were also the workshop organizers), raised \$750. The proceeds will be donated to the Saskatchewan chapter of the Youth-In-Care Network.

There are over 80,000 children and youth in child welfare care in Canada. This number has increased by 60% over the past five years. The National Youth-In-Care Network exists to voice the opinions and concerns of youth in and from care and promote the improvement of services for them.

2007 Winter Festivals

Plans are well underway for the 2007 Winterfest scheduled for Saturday, February 24th at the Pilot Butte Campus. The day starts out with a pancake breakfast at the Liskie gym, followed by jam can curling, clothing relays, toboggan races, smooch races, snow show races, hockey showdowns, football toss, pillow fights, egg relay, bell kick and tug o' war. In addition to these games and events, there will be a "banner contest" with a theme of "40 years of Ranch Ehrlo Society". Points are allocated for individual and team events as well as for the banner contest.

The Prince Albert/Buckland Winterfest will be held on Saturday, March 3rd. Activities planned

include relay races, bell-kick, egg toss, a shinny tournament and a wiener-roast.

Corman Park Update

Dr. Deb Parker–Loewen, Vice President Programs North is excited about the progress of construction at the Corman Park campus. “Construction is progressing well and the facilities are looking great,” said Parker-Loewen.

Loewen reports that the drywall is nearly completed in the administration building and drywalling will begin in the two residences soon.

“Construction is progressing well and the facilities are looking great.”

Deb Parker-Loewen

The classroom building is now closed-in and ready for the next steps.

Oran MacLean from Jewison House (Pilot Butte) and Andy Adam from Matheson House (Prince Albert) have been recruited as the new unit managers. The caseworker,

administrative assistant, housemother and youth care worker positions have been advertised and Parker-Loewen will begin the screening and selection for these positions later in February.

“It is an exciting time of development for Corman Park and we are anticipating a June opening for this site.”

Reminder

Residential Treatment Conference: An Integral Part of the Child Welfare Continuum of Services to be held May 22nd-24th at the Delta Hotel, Regina.

Schaller Students Raise Funds for Family Program

A cheque presentation and cookie reception followed the Ranch Ehrlo Society Board of Directors meeting on January 30th. Shelley Sayer, head of the Ehrlo Family Program at Washington Park Place, was on hand to receive a cheque for

\$143.50 from the students at Schaller School. These funds will be used to provide “extras” for the young mothers and children in this program.

The students raised this money through the creation and sale of Christmas table centrepieces. All Ranch Ehrlo classrooms created centrepieces for the tables set for the annual Christmas concert in December. These unique works of art were then sold at a silent auction. The highest bid was \$35 for a green “Fettuccine Christmas Tree”, purchased by Holly Huyghebeart, caseworker at Jewison House.

As part of her role in the Family Program, Sayer is currently assisting a young mom and her two-year-old son on an emergency basis to relocate to Regina. She is seeking donations of any extra household items to help this individual set up a household. Contact Sayer at 751-5666 if you are able to assist.

Ehrlo Daycare Survey

A recent Ehrlo Daycare parent survey reflects a high level of satisfaction. The survey requested feedback on a number of topics including adequacy of communication, calibre of programming, cost of daycare fees, daycare hygiene practices and overall cleanliness, nutritional and quality levels of meals, and the quality of staff.

For all areas surveyed the majority of responses were either “Exceeds expectations” or “Exceptional”. Strengths included healthy menus, educated and approachable staff, location and quality of programming. Areas listed for improvement included improved programming and space for the school age program, information and introductions of new staff hired and receiving more details about a child’s day.

Ehrlo Daycare is licensed through Saskatchewan Learning. The Centre is located at W.F. Ready School, 2710 Helmsing Street. For more information on the Daycare contact Karin Duff, Director, at 751-2722.

Schaller Education Program

A number of ongoing programs are taking place in the Schaller Education Program to enhance the quality of educational programming and add a cultural dimension to the youth's school experience.

- A "storyteller" visits Schaller School twice a month. Kevin McKenzie, a well-known Canadian storyteller, engages the young people in a variety of stories that reinforce the Value the class is celebrating during the month. The Value for February is "Patience".
- *Artrageous* is a 10-week program where an artist visits one classroom on a weekly basis. During the one and half hour session, she explores a variety of visual art forms with the students. Each student completes one piece of art in each session.
- Thirty-four Ranch students attended an Elder/Youth Symposium at Ipsco Place on Friday, February 2nd. The Symposium was sponsored by the Regina Alternative Measures Program and was an opportunity for youth to voice their views and hear the teachings of the elders. Phil Gatensby, a trained counsellor and facilitator of the peacemaking process and restorative justice was the featured speaker.
- A number of youth at Schaller School and in the Regina school programs will be attending sweat ceremonies on the Peepeekisis First Nation. Leo Poitras, Educational Assistant at the Ranch's Elsie Mironuk classroom, will be organizing the sweats and preparing the youth for the ceremonies.

Kruzer Adopts a Block

Prior to Christmas, the youth at the Kruzeniski (Kruzer) group home, which is located on Wascana Street, decided to "adopt a block". This program, founded through the Harvest City Church, helps families to have a more enjoyable Christmas. The youth shovelled sidewalks and driveways, sang

Christmas carols and handed out gifts to all the children living on two "adopted blocks" in north central Regina.

Ranch Staff Present at National Symposium

David Rivers, Director of Programs in Regina and Vance Heaney, Director of Programs in Prince Albert presented at the 2007 Canadian Symposium of Child and Family Services Outcomes.

"Ranch Ehrlo was one of three agencies invited to present outcome information and was recognized by various speakers as a service exemplar in the area of applied outcome evaluation

David Rivers

Rivers and Heaney were part of the Saskatchewan delegation that presented at the 1st National Symposium on outcome standards in Ottawa in February 2003; this gathering contributed to the creation of the Child Welfare Indicator Matrix, a national outcome model.

The 2nd National Symposium, held February 5th and 6th in Vancouver, invited professional to provide an update on major provincial developments regarding outcomes in human services and the use of the Child Welfare Indicator Matrix.

"Ranch Ehrlo was one of three agencies invited to present outcome information and was recognized by various speakers as a service exemplar in the area of applied outcome evaluation" said Rivers.

The Vancouver Symposium also invited representatives of the private sector to share their impressions about the direction of outcomes and results-based information being forwarded among the donor philanthropic communities. "Discussion is already underway regarding the 3rd Outcomes Symposium with the possibility of making it international in scope by including representatives from Australia, Great Britain and the United States" said Rivers.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

New Director for Ehrlo Counselling Services

Dr. Geoff Pawson announced the appointment of Bree Fiissel to the position of Director, Ehrlo Counselling Services, effective February 1st.

“I’m really pleased to be joining the Ehrlo team and to continue the good work that Linda has started.”

Bree
Fiissel

Fiissel joins Ehrlo Counselling after 12 years of experience working at the Ranch Ehrlo Society. Bree began her career at the Ranch Ehrlo Society in 1994 as a childcare worker. In August of 1999 she assumed the position of clinical caseworker. In addition to her clinical work at the Ranch Ehrlo Society, Bree provided counselling and group work at Ehrlo Counselling Services. Bree also served as acting Director of Programs at the Ranch for six weeks in the late fall of 2006.

Bree holds a Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree in psychology and a Masters of Education degree in educational psychology. Her career has focused on psychological assessment and counselling as well as understanding the developmental needs of children and adolescents. She is a Registered Psychologist, holding a full-practicing membership with the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists.

Bree is replacing Linda Meyer, who was recently appointed to the position of Vice President South, at the Ranch Ehrlo Society. Ehrlo Counselling was established in 1998 under Meyer’s leadership. “I’m really pleased to be joining the Ehrlo team and to continue the good work that Linda has started,” said Fiissel.

¹ ECS was established as a non-profit organization in 1995 with a mandate to provide community-based prevention and intervention services.

Healthcare Excellence Awards

Congratulations to Linda Meyer, former Senior Director of Ehrlo Counselling and recently appointed Vice President South at Ranch Ehrlo Society, on being named a finalist in the 2007 Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Awards.

Finalists are nominated by their peers and patients for their outstanding contributions to the health field in the province. Shelley Tamaki, Registered Psychologist at Ehrlo Counselling nominated Meyer for the award. The awards are to be presented on February 24th during a gala dinner at Queensbury Centre.

FASD Conference

Ehrlo Counselling Services is collaborating with the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, the Department of Community Resources and the Department of Corrections and Public Safety to present a conference entitled “*Supporting/treating youth and adults with FASD and Executive Function Deficits*”

“The conference will provide a person-centred, community-integrated intervention and support model.”

Dave Wiebe

Dr. Tim Feeney and Dr. Mark Ylvisaker, both from the School and Community Support Services in New York, will facilitate the four-day conference, being held March 26th to 29th in Regina.

“The conference will provide a person-centred, community – integrated intervention and support model for those with executive function deficits,” said

Dave Wiebe, FASD Educator, Ehrlo Counselling Services.

For more information phone Wiebe at 751-2730.

High Fashion and Hair Show

Avant-Garde College is organizing the 3rd Annual “High Fashion and Hair Show” to be held at the

Convention Hall, Conexus Arts Centre on Saturday, May 5th.

This year's show will feature fashions by a number of local designers, including Becky King, Danika Wright, Matt Donnelly, Geoff Landry and Dean Renwick, hair and make-up by Avant-Garde, and models from Stages Modeling Agency.

Proceeds from the evening will go to the Avant-Garde bursary fund that covers the cost of the tuition fee and kit for one esthetics student and one cosmetology student to attend the College. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased at the College at 1033 8th Avenue.

Ehrlo Housing Receives Grant

Ehrlo Housing has received a \$10,000 grant through the Encouraging Community Housing Options (ECHO). The funds are "seed money" to develop a housing project proposal to meet the needs of individuals with chronic mental health issues. The project is a partnership with Phoenix Residential Society; discussions with various provincial government departments have started.

Ehrlo Sport Venture Update

Kim Langston, Ehrlo Sport Venture Coordinator has had a busy few months. The Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) is in full swing with 284 young people officially registered, with 11 still to be outfitted. Well over 300 participants are involved in the weekly league play at the seven city zone rinks. There are also eight Ranch Ehrlo group homes that participate in the league. In addition, Sport Venture has outfitted 17 children playing on the Regina Sport Council Atom Raiders team, as well as six other community children who play high school hockey or with Hockey Regina.

Langston reports that Sport Venture currently has 13 public and separate schools that access the skate and helmet lending library. In January the library lent out 339 pairs of skates and 300 helmets!

The 2nd annual Mayor's Cup Dream Weekend Hockey Tournament is set to go February 16th and

17th at the Brandt Centre with 15 teams registered. This tournament will include all seven rinks from the OHL as well as teams from Carry the Kettle First Nation. Official ceremonies start at 12:30 p.m. on February 17th.

The OHL year-end windup, the Coca Cola Cup, is scheduled for March 3rd and 4th in Pense. Food and transportation are provided to the players.

Langston will kick off the program's first all girl initiative in February, running a four-week G.O. Hip Hop Dance program in conjunction with the North Central Community Association. The program is for young girls ages 13 to 16 living in North Central.

Fantasy Food Charity Gala, being held on March 24th at the Science Centre, is a fun-filled evening featuring tasting booths from many of Regina's finest restaurants, wine merchants and microbreweries; live entertainment by local youth groups and entertainers, live and silent auction. Part of the proceeds go to the Ehrlo Inter-City Basketball League. For more information and tickets contact Langston at 751-2411.

A Note of Thanks

"All those who worked on it had very positive comments regarding the project"

Bob
McEwen

The new Sport Venture Library would not have been possible without the support of the Employees Association at Sun Electric and Alliance Energy, who donated 180 hours to complete all the electrical work at the building; Sun Electric donated all the wiring materials including light fixtures, lamps, and devices. "All those who worked on it had very positive comments regarding the project and the programs that Sport Venture administers out of the building," said Bob McEwen, President of Sun Electric and Chair of Ehrlo Community Services.

Thanks also to Chaz Sales, Gescan and NEDCO who organized service and donated materials.