

President/CEO *Report*

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

Successful reaccreditation confirmed

issue 45, September 2008

“It is our great pleasure to inform you that the Council of Accreditation (COA) has approved the accreditation of Ranch Ehrlo Society through to November 30, 2011,” COA president Richard Karberg advised Geoff Pawson in a letter dated August 29, 2008. “Let me again say how significant this achievement is! It represents the fulfillment of countless hours of hard work and the dedication of many people—most notably your staff and the members of your board. Please extend my congratulations to them.”

Dr. Geoff Pawson, president and CEO. “In contains our organizational strengths, areas where we can improve, a summary of fundamental practice standards and a copy of full accreditation ratings for all standards.”

A few of the organizational strengths listed include:

- A culture of honesty, accountability, and fiscal responsibility is evident at all levels of the organization;
- The board is hard working, committed, and highly competent. The CEO and executive team are respected, dedicated and a model of excellence;
- There was much evidence that the rights and dignity of clients are respected throughout the organization;
- The child care services are of high quality and the staff members are warm, energetic, nurturing and well qualified;
- The Family Treatment Program demonstrated an extremely high level of dedication, service provision, and commitment to the families served.

Verification of credentials and references for independent contractors and the need for stakeholder review systems were two areas where improvements were recommended. All areas noted for improvement will be addressed through the agency's performance and quality improvement (PQI) process.

During the course of any month, there are a number of activities which occur that go unreported to Board Members, our Senate, key Stakeholders and staff. This bi-monthly newsletter will attempt to capture some of that activity and give you a broader perspective on Ranch Ehrlo and Ehrlo Community Services.

As part of the reaccreditation, the Ranch has been recognized as a provider of high quality services for 10 of its programs: early child care and development services; family preservation and stabilization services; group living services; outdoor activities supplement services; residential treatment services; services for individuals with developmental disabilities; services for substance use conditions; supported community living services; vocational rehabilitation services; and, youth independent living services.

The formal notification also included the final accreditation report (FAR) which contains the observations and recommendations of the peer reviewers based on the agency's self-study and on the site visit in April. “This report provides a unique view of our organization as seen through the eyes of highly experienced professionals,” said

Dr. Geoff Pawson
President/CEO

New Clinical Assessment and Resource Services

“I’m excited to be given the opportunity to further enhance the agency’s clinical and diagnostic understanding of the young people in our program and to provide additional intervention recommendations,” said Carmel Kleisinger, director of the newly-created clinical assessment and resource services at the Ranch Ehrlo Society.

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Carmel Kleisinger

Kleisinger, who recently returned from education leave, is pursuing her doctorate of neuropsychology at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara. She was appointed director of the assessment team in July 2008 and has spent the summer pulling together an interdisciplinary team. In addition to Kleisinger, team members include psychologists Lis Hansen, Holly Huyghebaert, Cecilia Pintos, and Joanne

Frederick, occupational therapist Lisa Brownstone, and speech and language therapist Katie Zirk. Dr. Damodharan will be providing psychiatric consulting services to the program.

Assessments will be provided for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, complex trauma, executive dysfunction, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, and pervasive development disorders. Team members will also be providing training and consultation on clinical issues on an as-needed basis.

The assessment team’s services are in addition to the services provided by program caseworkers. Caseworkers provide a number of services including psychosocial assessments, treatment and service planning, individual and specialized group counselling, crisis intervention, family work, discharge planning, and post-discharge follow-up.

The assessment team is located at 1812 Victoria Avenue East in Regina. For more information contact Carmel Kleisinger at 751-3874.

Tornados set down at Buckland

On the afternoon of August 26th, tornados ripped through the Buckland campus causing massive property damage; a number of trees, a picnic table, and part of a play structure were destroyed. There was a great deal of damage to the fences around the property, with the fences around the horse corral being hit the hardest. Miraculously, the units were all in tact, no one was injured, and the horses were safe.

“We’re very fortunate as an agency to have dedicated and committed staff that comes together quickly and effectively under adverse conditions.”

Geoff Pawson

Staff on-site was not able to immediately get off the property due to fallen trees blocking the roadway. With no power, water, and septic services, unit managers Denis Losie and Ron Schlamp quickly took charge clearing trees off the road to allow limited access in and out of the property and making arrangements for the youth to spend the night in Prince Albert. The youth from Klassen and Alex Guy slept overnight at Boucher school and the boys from SILP spent the night in the basement of Matheson House.

Next day there was a massive clean-up drive with assistance from a number of people, including president and CEO Geoff Pawson who drove up for the day. Senior program director Randy O’Shaughnessy cut short his vacation to assist. The power was restored to the site that afternoon and the youth returned to the units that night. There is still an enormous amount of clean-up of limbs and cutting of firewood, which will be undertaken by the youth and sold for work fund monies.

“We are very fortunate as an agency to have dedicated and committed staff that come together quickly and effectively under adverse conditions,” said Pawson. “Thanks for a job well-done!”

Performance Outcomes

The Ranch Ehrlo Society's third annual outcome report presents a summary of resident outcomes at the Ranch for 2007. The report includes comparative data for a three-year period used to establish performance benchmarks. The organization and analysis of outcome information is facilitated through the web-based Hull Outcome Monitoring and Evaluation System (HOMES), which is managed by the Canadian Outcomes and Research Institute.

The report provides a summary of outcomes for discharged residents and students in three important areas: issues for service; service planning and goal achievement; and changes in functioning and school performance.

The outcome data generally indicates 70% to 80% of residents discharged in 2007 demonstrated improvement while in a Ranch program. The six-month post-discharge follow-up information suggests that many of the positive changes were maintained six months after leaving the Ranch.

A copy of the 2007 Performance Outcomes Report can be located at www.ehrlo.com.

Social Workers Feedback Survey

Feedback surveys are an important component in the agency's ongoing performance and quality improvement (PQI) process in that they assist in the ongoing monitoring of services and help to identify any areas of needed improvement.

The 2008 referring social workers feedback survey rated very positively the agency's overall referral and intake process and the agency's programs and services. In response to questions on the adequacy of staff training, many respondents indicated a limited ability to respond as their contact was primarily with the unit managers and caseworkers. Some recommendations for change included the use of elders in case conferences and providing more information to parents and arranging more pre-placement visits.

Of the 39 respondents, 90% have visited the Ranch at least once; 85% have three years or less experience; and the majority are case-managing only one youth at the Ranch.

Detailed results of the feedback surveys are reviewed annually by the PQI committee and risk management committee of the board of directors.

Joys of Life

"I worked with the youth to compile a series of work which explore aspects of their own personal experiences," said Amanda Scandrett, Ranch Ehrlo Society artist-in-residence."

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Amanda Scandrett

An innovative art display consisting of over 90 works by Ranch Ehrlo youth was on display at the Regina Folk Festival on August 9th and 10th. A Ranch Ehrlo community tent was set up in Victoria Park to house the display, expressing moments of joy and gratitude in the lives of the youth involved in the project.

"Each youth had individually created five pieces using fabric, dye, and ink and the pieces were sewn into the tent walls to create a larger work, connecting all of the experiences depicted," added Scandrett.

Materials were also on hand at the tent and festival patrons were encouraged to create a work to add and enhance the experiences.

Funding Renewed

The Saskatchewan Arts Board has awarded the Ranch Ehrlo Society a grant to renew the artist-in-residence program for another 12 months. "This program is unique in that it is not only therapeutic, but uses arts as a way of dealing with self-esteem issues and finding identity," noted Jeremy Morgan, executive director in a letter advising the agency of its successful application.

End of the Summer Celebration

An all-agency end-of-the-summer celebration was held at the Pilot Butte campus on Saturday, September 6th. Staff and youth from Prince Albert/Buckland and Corman Park campuses joined their counterparts from Regina and Pilot Butte for an event-filled afternoon. In addition to road hockey, soccer, and face painting, the youth enjoyed performances by fire dancers, the powwow dancers and drum group as well as live musical entertainment. The afternoon ended with a great meal of beef-on-a-bun and ice cream.

42nd Annual General Meeting

The 42nd annual general meeting of the Ranch Ehrlo Society was held over a luncheon at the West Harvest Inn on Thursday, September 25th. Dr. Geoff Pawson, president and CEO welcomed members and introduced the special guests in attendance. Chair Donna Welke provided an overview of the highlights of the past year. Gerald Fiske, who is rotating off as board treasurer and Allyce Herle, who is rotating off as board secretary, were both recognized by the 125 members in attendance, for their commitment and service to the agency.

In addition to the acceptance of the audited financial statements, a bylaw amendment, and the reappointment of the external auditors, staff association chair John Ross updated the members on the work of the staff association.

The meeting concluded with remarks from Marion MacIver, executive vice-president who shared her vision for the future of the agency.

A copy of the 2007-2008 Ranch Ehrlo Society annual report can be located at www.ehrlo.com

Ranch Ehrlo Society Board of Directors 2008-2009

The following directors were elected at the Ranch Ehrlo Society annual general meeting held on September 25th.

Members with continuing terms:

- *Perry Bellegarde*, Consultant, First Nations programs
- *Dr. Carrie Bourassa*, Assistant Professor, First Nations University of Canada
- *Liza Brown*, Instructor, SUNTEP (Prince Albert)
- *Punam Burnett*, Executive Partner, Paradigm Consulting
- *Donalda Hansen*, Principal, Vickers School (Prince Albert)
- *Deb Jordan* (vice-chair), Director of Community Hospitals and Emergency Services, Ministry of Health
- *Cyril Kesten*, Professor, Faculty of Education
- *Daniel L'Heureux*, Independent Contractor, Westfair Foods
- *Judy May* (secretary), VP Customer Service, SaskPower
- *Lynne Samson*, retired Teacher (Corman Park)
- *Donna Welke* (chair), retired Assistant Grain Commissioner
- *Tim Young* (past chair), General Manager, Young's Equipment.

Members with one-year appointments

- *Staff Sergeant David Wyatt*, Children's Justice Centre
- *Sergeant Keith Lowenberger*, RCMP
- *Harvey Lammer*, Senate appointment
- *Dr. David Schantz*, Dean, Faculty of Social Work
- *Dale Chastkiewicz*, Chair, Ehrlo Community Services.

New members:

- *Jim Kenyon*, President, JC Kenyon Engineering
- *Art Wakabayashi* (treasurer), Chancellor Emeritus, U or R
- *Robin Woodward*, CEO, Saskatchewan Forest Centre.

Information Tours

As part of an ongoing community relations program, Ranch Ehrlo Society welcomes individual or groups to visit the agency's facilities, learn about our program and services, and meet our staff and young people. For more information contact Carole Bryant at 306 781-1825.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

Goals & Dreams Partner with OHL for \$18,000 Donation

On August 18, 2008 the Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) announced the donation of 50 sets of new hockey equipment, worth approximately \$18,000, from the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) *Goals & Dreams* Fund.

Regina native Mike Sillinger of the New York Islanders, Devin Smith, chair of the NHLPA *Goals & Dreams* Fund, and Kim Langston, manager of the Ehrlo Sport Venture Programs were in

attendance for the announcement which took place at the Doug Wickenheiser Arena.

"This donation and all donations to the league make such a difference to the program" explained Langston. "The generosity of donations from organizations like the NHLPA, and private donations from the citizens of Regina, mean that hundreds of kids are able to play hockey each winter, regardless of their ability to pay."

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*Kim
Langston*

"It is very rewarding to be able to give back to fantastic grassroots hockey programs like the Outdoor Hockey League," said Sillinger, who plays centre for the New York Islanders. "It was amazing to see the smiling faces of the children receiving the brand new equipment."

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

Since 1999, the NHLPA *Goals & Dreams* Fund has donated more than \$2.4 million to communities in Saskatchewan to promote grassroots hockey programs. The Fund has been providing equipment to the OHL since 2001.

2008-2009 Ehrlo Board of Directors

Members with continuing terms:

- *Dale Chastkiewicz* (chair), President, CHAZ Sales
- *Bob McEwen* (past chair), retired President, Sun Electric
- *Andrea Seale* (vice-chair), Lawyer
- *Donna Welke*, Chair, Ranch Ehrlo Society
- *Janice Dohlen*, Principal, Ecolé Elsie Mironuck
- *Gerry Welsh*, retired Businessman
- *Brenda Mercer*, Chair, North Central Community Association
- *Raymond Arscott*, Director, Risk Management, CUETS

New members:

- *Wanda Falkowski*, Community Volunteer
- *Christine Hansen Chad*, Lawyer
- *Vic Huard*, Consultant
- *Aubrey Steadman*, Businessman

Respite Recreation Program

This fall Ehrlo Sport Venture Program was very excited to restart the Respite Recreation Program in partnership with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Child & Youth Services. This program provides recreation programming to children and youth with high needs. Ehrlo has been running this program on a contract basis for the past two years.

Krista Rainville, Ehrlo Sport Venture community recreation worker, is facilitating the Respite Recreation Program. Rainville is a recent

Kinesiology graduate from the University of Regina and she works out of the Sport Venture Library located at 2730 5th Avenue, Regina.

Individualized Support Program

Through the Individualized Support Program, ECS is currently entering into contracts with the Ministry of Social Services to provide daily living supports for young people who are in care of the province and are attempting to live on their own.

The amount of support provided by Ehrlo varies, and depends on the level of need of each youth; in some cases it could be as little as a few hours a day, in others it is much more, including overnight support.

The program is intended to address a significant gap in services for many youth in the community, in their mid to late teens, who have no stable home resource.

The league has many exciting things to celebrate this season including a new sponsorship from the True Sport Community Fund, renewed support from Conexus and the Optimist Clubs of Regina, and the equipment donation from the NHLPA.

In 2008-2009 the OHL is also looking forward to the reinstatement of games at the Rosemont Rink, which has not been active in the program for several years.

Ehrlo Counselling Services welcomes Leona Morrison as new Office Assistant.

Morrison's professional background includes a position with the Province of Saskatchewan Department of First Nations and Métis Relations - Lands and Resources, which was awarded the Premier's Award of Excellence in the Public Service in "Leadership" during her tenure as Administrative Assistant.

Morrison can be reached at the Ehrlo Counselling main switchboard 751- 2467, or by e-mail at leona.morrison@ranchehrlo.ca.

International Volunteer Exchange Program

In August Sport Venture welcomed Max Malinga, who arrived from Uganda as an international volunteer through the Mennonite Central Committee's International Volunteer Exchange Program. Malinga will be working with Sport Venture and the Ranch Ehrlo Society for one year in a variety of capacity. Malinga is particularly looking forward to experiencing his first Saskatchewan winter and learning how to skate.

Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League

Planning is well underway for the 2008-2009 Outdoor Hockey League season. Registration forms are being sent out to Regina schools and will also be available online at www.ehrlo.ca. An official kick-off is planned for the end of October.

Monday Night Football Kick-Off

Ehrlo Monday Night Football is now in full swing! The program is running at five community fields within the inner-city and all are enjoying good attendance. The league, sponsored by Crown Investments Corporation, has almost 100 players registered and all are looking forward to displaying their talents at the wrap-up tournament on October 18th.

A special thank you to Ipsco Place for again making available to the league the Credit Union EventPlex for the final games. Thanks also go out to the University of Regina Rams for providing free game tickets to all registered players.