

President/CEO *Report*

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

Performance Outcome Report Positive

In general, 65% to 85% of the youth discharged from the Ranch Ehrlo Society in 2009 demonstrated improvements while in a Ranch program.

The fifth annual *Ranch Ehrlo Society Performance Outcome Report* summarizes the outcomes for discharged residents and students in service planning and goal achievement, in the severity of their issues, and in changes to their functioning and school performance.

“The structure of the outcomes evaluation system is such that each Ranch program is treated as a distinct entity,” said David Rivers, senior director of programs, who is responsible for the creation of the report. “This allows for more detail and greater precision in evaluating the effectiveness of our interventions.”

In 2009, 72% of the residents who left the agency showed improvements in the main issues that brought them to the Ranch, including behavioural problems, family functioning, and substance abuse.

When it comes to achieving goals, 87% of the young people showed improvement. The most commonly set goals for Ranch youth are the development of relationships, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, and coping skills.

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In the classroom an individual plan is developed for each student that identifies areas for improvement including academic and behavioural items. Approximately 81% of the students improved in attaining their goals, which is above the average of 64% for the previous three years. The improvement is due in part to the setting of more specific and measurable goals.

Notable highlights from the six-month follow-up information include:

- 69% of former residents were living with family or extended family, a 7% increase over the past year;
- 72% of former residents were neither charged nor convicted of any criminal offence, a 13% increase from the previous year.
- 59% of former residents were not abusing substances, a 5% decrease from 2008;
- 79% of the residents under the age of 16 were still enrolled in school;
- 32% of the former residents were moderately or highly involved in recreational activities.

In commenting on the follow-up results, Rivers noted that the increased efforts by the agency in recent years to involve families in treatment plans and to develop aftercare and transitional plans in the community are starting to show results.

A copy of the complete report is located on the Ranch Ehrlo website at www.ehlo.com.

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.

Dr. Geoff Pawson
President/CEO

Child Welfare Review

On April 21, 2010 Dr. Geoff Pawson, president, Marion MacIver, executive vice-president, and Malcolm Neill, vice-president of Ehrlo Community Services, presented a submission on behalf of the Ranch Ehrlo Society to the Saskatchewan Child Welfare Review (CWR) panel.

“Based on 44 years of experience, we believe there is a need for additional resources, the adjustment of organizational response to existing programs and services, and for new programs in both the public and private sector,” Pawson told the panel. “With these changes, Saskatchewan can become a leader in Canada in the delivery of quality services to children.”

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Dr. Geoff Pawson

The CWR panel, chaired by Bob Pringle, is undertaking a comprehensive review of the child welfare system in the province. Its mandate is to develop a renewed vision for supporting children, youth, and families and for the child welfare system that serves them.

Mandatory accreditation for all service providers, increasing the age of majority to 18 years of age, intensifying reunification services for all children in care, and redesigning the model for delivery of foster care from a charity model to a professional model based on reasonable remuneration, were among the recommendations presented to the review panel.

Pawson also spoke to the need, in concert with other service providers, to conceptualize a continuum of services, including what gaps need to be filled, and what steps should occur in implementing these programs. He also stressed the need to assign senior staff in the ministry to oversee all internal movements of a child in the child welfare system, in order to limit the constant movement of children, and to build permanency.

Community service recognized

Carole Bryant, vice-president of administration and quality improvement, was awarded with a member recognition award by the Certified Management Accountants (CMA) Saskatchewan. The award, which was presented on May 13th at the annual CMA conference, recognized Bryant’s contribution to CMA through community leadership.

“At Ranch Ehrlo, not only is community service accepted, it is a strong part of the organizational culture created by Geoff.”

Carole Bryant

In receiving her award, Bryant acknowledged the support of the Ranch Ehrlo Society and Dr. Geoff Pawson in supporting her extensive community involvement.

“At Ranch Ehrlo, not only is community service accepted, it is a strong part of the organizational culture created by Geoff,”

said Bryant. “We’re all expected to assist in building and giving back to our communities...it’s a way of life and has certainly made it easy for me to follow my passion.”

Positive feedback on Ehrlo Early Learning Centre

Feedback from the 2010 Parent Survey on the services provided by the Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (formerly Ehrlo Daycare) was very positive. Parents rated highly the nutritional meals and snacks, the calibre of staff, the programming, and the quality and variety of learning equipment and games. Some respondents would like to see enhanced written and verbal communication and more notice for events and outings.

Ehrlo Early Learning is the only childcare facility in Saskatchewan that is accredited by the Council of Accreditation. As a program of the Ranch Ehrlo Society, the centre had an opportunity to complete a self-study and host on-site peer reviewers who assessed its policies and procedures against best practices. The Ranch Ehrlo Society has been accredited since 1971. Ehrlo Early Learning received its accreditation for the first time in 2008.

Support from SaskTel Pioneers

SaskTel Pioneers and the Prairie Council Club Literacy Project have generously donated \$1000 toward the purchase of books with content representing First Nation and Metis culture for the Ranch Ehrlo Transition Program classroom library.

"It really means a lot to the students, that we can buy current and up-to-date books that reflect their culture and learning interests."

Cindy Freeman

"Thanks to this donation, we were able to purchase over 150 new books to add to our collection of resources for classroom reading programs," said Cindy Freeman, a teacher at the centre. "It really means a lot to the students, that we can buy current and up-to-date books that reflect their culture and learning interests. It really enhances the learning process."

Materials purchased include a leveled reading set from Eagle Crest Books that feature First Nation and Metis content.

The Ranch Ehrlo Transition program, located at 240 Argyle Street in Regina, assists students in transitioning from the Schaller education program to an in-town school placement.

Off to Greece

Cam Huberdeau, youth care leader at Kruzeniski House, was recently selected to be the Saskatchewan Special Olympics team manager for the 2011 World Games in Athens, Greece.

Huberdeau has been actively involved with the Special Olympics Team for 28 years and he is the first-ever volunteer to be appointed team manager. As manager, he will be in charge of all 99 members of team Saskatchewan and be responsible for selecting team coaches and mission staff.

"I have a passion for the organization," said Huberdeau. "I try to get the youth at the Ranch to be involved with the program because of what it has given to me and brought to my life."

42nd annual three-mile race

Although somewhat windy, the weather cooperated for the 42nd annual three-mile race at the Pilot Butte campus on May 20th. 220 runners, joggers, and walkers participated in the race. A great meal of barbecued beef and the presentation of the awards followed the race. Congratulations to Ted Jaleta who was the overall winner with a time of 18:13. Congratulation also goes out to Alex K. from Lee House, the fastest youth, with a time of 21:04.

Inclement weather forced the rescheduling of the Programs North three-mile race in Corman Park to September.

Corman Park youth take certification training

Fourteen youth from the Corman Park campus recently had the opportunity to become certified babysitters through the St. John Ambulance course *What Every Babysitter Should Know*.

"Many of the youth have younger siblings and this training program helps to create safe homes where they can help take care of their siblings."

Jason Kotyk

Jason Kotyk, director of programs for the campus, explained that the idea behind offering the training was to help prepare the youth to return home. "Many of the youth have younger siblings, and this training program helps to create safe homes where they can help take care of their siblings," said Kotyk.

Kotyk noted that the training also presented a great chance to prepare youth for future employment opportunities, as well as for the adult role of being parents.

The training program, held at Ellen Gunn School, was facilitated by Tanya Wolf, educational assistant at the school and a certified trainer for the program.

Book Launch Party

Youth from Ranch Ehrlo participated in a book launch party on Wednesday, June 9th at the Exchange, 2431- 8th Avenue in Regina.

“The purpose of the book is to spread joy and positive thoughts to ourselves and those around us.”

Amanda Scandrett

Students from eight Ranch Ehrlo classrooms created a book that incorporates thoughts and images that each youth finds positive. “The purpose of the book is to encourage positive thoughts in times of trouble, joy and everything in between,” said Amanda Scandrett, therapeutic arts facilitator.

Each student created one double-sided page that can be removed from the book to be used as an inspirational card. These cards can be used personally or given to others who may need an uplifting thought.

“The purpose of the book is to spread joy and positive thoughts to ourselves and those around us,” added Scandrett.

For more information on the therapeutic arts program at Ranch Ehrlo contact Amanda Scandrett at 751-2489 or amanda.scandrett@ranchehrlo.ca.

Awards Night in Prince Albert

Approximately 200 guests attended the fourth annual Awards Night for Programs North held on June 10th at the Art Hauser Centre in Prince Albert. This year for the third time, students and staff from the Corman Park campus participated in the event.

In bringing greetings on behalf of the agency, Linda Meyer, vice-president of programs, welcomed the students, staff, and families.

The evening opened with a delicious banquet, followed by award presentations, throat-singing, powwow dancers, and a number of skits.

Recognizing Youth’s Achievements

The 44th Ranch Ehrlo Society (Programs South) Awards Night is scheduled for Thursday, June 17th at the Conexus Arts Centre.

Approximately 750 guests are expected to attend the annual event that involves the presentation of awards to youth for a variety of accomplishments during the year. This year there are a total of 330 nominations and 52 awards presented.

SaskTel once again helped to sponsor the event with a contribution of \$3000.

Mark Kruger presents

Described as the primary force in reconfiguring the profession of child and youth care, Dr. Mark Krueger was the key-note presenter at the Ranch Ehrlo Society all-agency meetings held June 14th to 16th. Krueger, who is director of the Youth Work Learning Centre at the University of Wisconsin has done much to internationalize child and youth care, to include families as central to this work, and to establish a positive youth development framework.

“Your job is to provide youth with a feeling of belonging, help them make new discoveries and create opportunities for them to take advantage of their own power.”

Mark Kruger

In his presentation, Krueger stressed the need for individuals working with youth in care to create moments that enrich and fuel young people’s development. “Your job,” said Krueger to the over 300 employees who attended the event over the three days, “is to provide youth with a feeling of belonging, help them to make new discoveries and create opportunities for them to take advantage of their own power.” When addressing themes in effective residential treatment Krueger

stressed the importance of those working with youth to have a sense of presence. “If you fit in the space that is yourself,” said Krueger, “you develop a sense of dignity that opens you up to help others.”

Ehrlo Community Services

Sport Venture receives major grant for after-school program

Public Safety Canada has approved an application from Ehrlo Sport Venture Programs for a \$294,000 grant available through the National Crime Prevention Centre. This grant will be used to operate a 33-month pilot project for a specialized after-school program.

This after-school program will target children aged 12 and under who have been identified as at risk of becoming involved in crime. The program uses a

variety of approaches including recreation, cultural teachings, and education to address problem behaviours.

The program also targets the development of parenting skills through both educational and support groups for the families involved.

Kim Buchan, the previous Sport Venture manager who spearheaded this initiative explains, "The program is rooted in

recreation, but thanks to the collaboration with partner agencies such as the Regina Police Services, Randall Kinship Centre and the Ministry of Social Services, we are able to provide a multi-disciplinary program to this group of children. Hopefully these initiatives will improve their lives and decrease their involvement in criminal behaviour."

For more information on this after-school program, contact Ehrlo Sport Venture programs at 751-2411.

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Kim Buchan

Ehrlo Counselling staff present at conference

Carla Kembel and Bree Fiissel, of Ehrlo Counselling Services, recently presented at an Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) conference. Their presentation focused on parenting strategies including theoretical perspectives which help parents teach their children responsibility and respect while maintaining structure and control within the home.

The EFAP conference, hosted by MNP and SaskPower, featured keynote speaker K. Paul MacKenzie who specializes in compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma. The conference was held on June 7th and 8th at the Regina Travelodge Hotel.

For more information contact Bree Fiissel at 306-751-2412 or email bree.fiissel@ranchehrlo.ca.

Ehrlo pro-bono counselling

On May 11th, Dr. Geoff Pawson, president and Bree Fiissel, director of Ehrlo Counselling Services along with her counselling team, hosted Donald and Claire Kramer at a luncheon at the counselling offices. The luncheon was held to thank the Kramers for the \$10,000 donation last year from the Kramer Foundation and to discuss plans for pro-bono counselling in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

The group discussed with the Kramers the range of services provided by Ehrlo Counselling Services and the need for pro-bono work.

"This year Ehrlo Counselling has delivered over \$100,000 in pro-bono services," said Fiissel. "It is through donations, such as the one from the Kramer Foundation that enables us to do this pro-

bono work; it helps us achieve our mission and mandate of building healthy communities and working with families regardless of socioeconomic status."

"This year Ehrlo Counselling has delivered over \$100,000 in pro-bono services."

Bree Fiissel

Counsellor returning to ECS

Ehrlo Counselling is pleased to announce that Natasha Schoenroth will be returning from maternity leave in mid-August. Schoenroth will resume her role as a psychologist, at 80% of FTE, conducting psychological assessments and providing counselling to her existing as well as new clients.

Avant-Garde update

Lori Pawson, Principal/Manager of Avant-Garde, reports that it has been business as usual at Avant-Garde: instructing, providing salon services, and competing in hair shows. Pawson proudly mentioned that there have been a few Ranch youth who have recently completed the four-week mini program and some have been nominated for the *work training award* at the upcoming Awards Night for Programs South.

For more information on Avant-Garde, contact Lori Pawson at 306-522-6083. Avant-Garde is located at 1033-8th Avenue in Regina.

2010 Ehrlo Basketball League wraps up

The 2010 Ehrlo Basketball League came to an end on June 13th. Teams played at the Glen Cairn Recreation Centre, Eastview Neighbourhood Centre, and Scott Collegiate throughout the season.

The league had 76 registered players by the end of the season. Sport Venture manager, Laura Logan, points out that “this higher participation can be attributed to the exceptional presentations that Sport Venture’s Adam Huffman delivered at a number of the neighbourhood schools.”

The wrap-up tournament was held on Sunday, June 13th at the University of Regina in the Centre for Kinesiology, Health and Sport.

2010 Ehrlo Soccer League poised to kick-off in July

Ehrlo Soccer is planning a kick-off skills camp in June. Laura Logan, Sport Venture manager, explained the program will be sending out

representatives to schools to promote the Ehrlo soccer league (ESL) and hand out information pamphlets.

This season the ESL is hoping to reach even more inner-city youth by extending its registration to youth aged 13-18. This is a new initiative for the 2010 ESL season, as in the past the league was only open to youth aged 8-12.

This initiative is a partnership with The Regina Open Door Society (RODS). RODS will be providing transportation to all of their clients involved in the ESL this season.

Spring-break camps

Spring-break camps for clients of Child and Youth Services and the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region were a great success. The final session of the respite recreation programming is presently wrapping up before the summer camps begin at the end of June. This program has been quite successful and has been contracted for another year of service.

Ehrlo Golf Classic a success

The Ehrlo Golf Classic was held on Monday, June 7th in support of Ehrlo Sport Venture programs. Thirty-three teams teed off amidst a Scottish mist, but thankfully no real rain. The classic is expected to raise approximately \$18,000 for sports programming.

Malcolm Neill, vice-president of Ehrlo Community Services, expressed his gratitude to the members of the organizing committee that included Dale Chastkiewicz, Gerry Welsh, Alex Wilson, Tracy Wilson, and Andrea Antonishen, with a special thanks to Shea Haverstock and Kim Buchan. Neill also extended his appreciation to all the sponsors and volunteers who made the day such a great success. This year’s platinum sponsors were the Leader Post and Harvard Broadcasting; the gold sponsor was Enbridge; and the silver sponsor was Dewdney and Park Street Drugs.

Congratulations to Greg Young, Brian Laursen, Mike McLean, and Dan Teibau on their first to finish with a score of 63!