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A Few Words From Matt:

With the New Year come resolutions for some of us. One of mine is to use this news letter from time to time to let you all know what's going on from my perspective, whether that be here at the center or "up in Topeka."

2008 was a good year for Labette Center. Our outcomes, which are monitored by SRS as part of our license with them, continue to be good. Financially, our goals were met. The new building project picked up speed; as I write this, the floor plan is being finalized. All in all, it was a good year for the organization.

As most of you know, the country, and the state, is in a recession. Some even refer to it as a full-blown Depression. Most agree that the nation's economy is suffering from some of the worst times since the 1930's. Current projections are that, at the end of state's fiscal year 2010 (which is June 30, 2010) the state of Kansas will be 1 *billion dollars* short in revenues at projected levels of expenditure. Unlike federal law, Kansas's law does not allow for deficit spending. So, the state will be looking at making very significant cuts to how much money it spends.

Because of this, effective January 1 of 2009, SRS has removed \$1.8 million dollars from the budget for all CMHCs. For Labette Center, that translated into a \$23,228 dollar cut to our budget. This money is part of the money in our budget that helps offset the cost of treatment for those who are unable to pay the cost of that treatment themselves.

I wish I could tell you that there will be no more cuts, but I can't. In all likelihood, there will be more cuts yet this year and the next. What they will be will be unknown until possibly as late as May of this year.

So, what does this mean? Well, what it *doesn't* mean is that folks should panic, or think that Labette Center isn't going to be here next year. We will be here, providing the best services that we can. It does mean that the financial decisions and choices that must be made will be looked at even more closely. There will be an attitudinal shift more towards "why should we spend this money" instead of "sure, we could spend money for that." Or, "why should we spend this money *now*, maybe that can be put off for some amount of time." It means we'll be looking at ways to be more efficient. That could mean more efficient in terms of how we do things, or what products we purchase.

So, we will have our fair share of challenges and opportunities this year. But, we will be up to them. Everyone will have his or her part to play. There is no unimportant person or position here. Everyone will all get to be part of the solution. I'm looking forward to the year, and what we'll be able to accomplish. Thanks for all you do.

Matthew M Atteberry
Executive Director



Annual Employee Dinner

It is once again time for the Annual Employee Dinner at the Country Club. This year the dinner will be held on Friday January 9th, 2008. Social "1/2" hour will begin at 6:30 pm and the dinner will begin at 7:00 pm. The meal for the night will be as follows:

Main Meal

Prime Rib
Chicken Marsala
Honey Wheat Rolls
French Onion Soup
Vegetable Medley
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Twice Baked Potatoes

Deserts

Cherry Cobbler
Plain Cheesecake
Blueberry Cheesecake

Please be sure to dress in business casual attire. We hope to see everyone there to enjoy the meal.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Psycho Social Team Lead

Congratulations to Nikki Rosenstiel on acquiring the position of Psycho Social Team Lead. Nikki has been employed at LCMHS since July of 2003 and has worked as a Children's Case Manager as well as in the Navigators program. She will now oversee the Navigators program throughout the county as well as the employees in the program. She began her duties in this new position on Monday December 22nd, 2008.

Reminder of Changes in Business Office

As mentioned in previous newsletters, there will be a change occurring in January with the Business Office. This is just a reminder of that change. Kim Horn will be moving to a new office which is located right next to her old office. She will begin the position of LPN as of January 2nd. Vanessa Cohen will move into Kim's old office to assume the responsibilities of the HR/Payroll position. The front office staff is learning new things on a regular basis and working well as a team. Please be reminded that along with all these changes, they will all require plenty of time to learn the duties they need to accomplish every day. We wish all of the staff who are new or are beginning a new set of job duties the best of luck.

Printing Error

In December's edition of the newsletter there was an error in the spelling of a name. Jackie Jalali began working at LCMHS on December 1st in the Front Office. In last month's newsletter her last name had been misspelled. Deepest apologies to Jackie. And once again, Welcome to the team!

Monthly Trivia

December Answer

Green dyed goose feathers and wire. (some sites I looked at also listed ostrich feathers)

The winner was:

Steve House

Trivia Question of the Month:

Who was the first woman to be elected to the US Senate?

Our Vision ~ Provide the highest quality of comprehensive services to empower the people and communities of Labette County. We envision fulfilling and meaningful lives for those we serve.

Our Mission ~ Create hope and opportunities for life change by providing education, support, consultation and therapeutic behavioral health services to the people and communities of Labette County.

New Children's Case Managers

Kenisha Morton and Cary Smith have been hired into the Children's CBS program as case managers. Both Kenisha and Cary have recently graduated from PSU with their Bachelor's degrees. Kenisha has been employed with LCMHS since September of 2006 and Cary has been employed here since May of 2008. Both worked in the Navigators program while finishing their degrees. Both began the first day in the Children's Program on Monday December 22nd, 2008. Congratulations to both Kenisha and Cary and the best of luck to them in these new positions.

Anniversaries

Terry Fouts Therapist	Jan. 4th	3 yrs.
Shereen Ellis Director of Clinical and Emergency Services	Jan. 10th	6 yrs
Mark Haslett, MD Psychiatrist/Medical Director	Jan. 17th	14 yrs
Cendie Shelton Therapist	Jan. 18th	4 yrs
Babette Collins Children's Case Manager	Jan. 20th	14 yrs
Ashley Heady Accounts Receivable	Jan. 23rd	3 yrs
Beverly Ruttgen Oswego Receptionist	Jan. 27th	28 yrs
Matthew Atteberry Executive Director	Jan. 29th	19 yrs

January Birthdays

Natasha Robinson Front Desk Clerk	Jan. 2nd
Cary Smith Children's Case Manager	Jan. 5th
Jessica Ramsey Children's Case Manager/JI/Project Before	Jan. 11th
LaShawn Taylor Children's Case Manager	Jan. 16th
Mathew Atteberry Executive Director	Jan. 30th
Donald Erskin Maintenance	Jan. 31st
Ashley Heady Account Receivable	Jan. 31st
Mary Beth Griggs Adult Psychosocial Group	Jan. 31st