



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Linda Anderson Smith
Public Relations Director
Champaign Residential Services, Inc.
1150 Scioto Street
Urbana, Ohio 43078
937-653-1324
lsmith@crsi-oh.com

DATE: July 18, 2007

RE: Pilot program developed for staff training



Urbana: Licensure and compliance requirements are nothing new to Mary Beth McDonald of Urbana, who spent twelve years with the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMR/DD), where she handled many aspects of Medicaid program development. She also spent eight years reviewing and auditing Medicaid programs for Job and Family Services in Columbus. McDonald joined CRSI in September to focus on Medicaid related processes and to evaluate, implement and improve programs and procedures.

McDonald has recently been named Assistant Chief Operations Officer (to COO Marty Fagans) according to Than Johnson, CEO. In addition to her current duties, she will now oversee all compliance systems and issues for CRSI's programming services, with her primary focus being on direct care staff development and training, to ensure that CRSI meets all compliance requirements set by state and federal regulations.

Licensure surveys are conducted by different regulating agencies such as the ODMR/DD or the Ohio Department of Health at each location where CRSI provides services at varying times of every year. If criteria are not met, citations are issued for the health and safety of the consumer.

While staff training and compliance adherence have always been of the highest importance to CRSI, keeping track of these mandated requirements for over a thousand direct care employees in thirty counties has always been a challenge according to McDonald. New hires were trained separately from current employees and training schedules required attending multiple courses throughout the year for each employee.

McDonald has developed a pilot training program in Champaign, Logan, Madison and Clark Counties that meets the challenge. "A lot of various training components (for each direct care employee) have been held at different times and it was easy to overlook a component," explains McDonald. "Now, it is mostly all done in one day and it's easier for CRSI to stay in compliance."

A "Required Annual Training" grid is maintained for each direct care employee. It is divided into four main areas: Organizational, Developmental, Behavioral and Healthy & Safety. Each area contains required training components that must be documented for every employee who provides services for consumers in Waiver, Supported Living, ICF/MR, or Licensed home settings. Since CPR is required annually and employees are

issued certification cards from the Red Cross, the CPR due date is used to mark the due date for all training courses. With the exception of Crisis Intervention and Medication Administration, all training components are accomplished in one day.

New employees must meet all training requirements before working with consumers one-on-one and new employees can now attend classes along with current employees. “People like the idea of new staff and current staff in the same class,” says McDonald. “Current employees can give specific examples of what works in different situations, the kinds of incidents they have experienced, and how teaching techniques assist them in those experiences. It’s valuable interaction for new employees,” she says.

**To contact McDonald,
e-mail her at mmcdonald@crsi-oh.com 937-653-1340**