

Access of the Red River Valley, Inc.

Access Bits



Public Policy Update

Last issue we reported on Governor Dayton’s budget proposal that he released on February 15th for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. It had significant cuts and surcharges to services for people with disabilities.

On March 10th, the Health and Human Services Finance Committee’s released their committees’ budget targets. The targets are the amount of money that needs to be cut from each committee’s budget. The Health and Human Services Finance Committees’ budget targets will be \$1.6 billion, or approximately 10% of their committees’ budgets. This is more than twice the size of cuts that were in Governor Dayton’s original budget proposal. **Programs and services for person with disabilities are at great risk.**

The best way that one can respond to the House and Senate Health and Human Services budgets is by sharing the impact these proposals will have on you and your family with your state representative and senator. Our legislators need to know that these proposals will cause real pain and real harm to their neighbors and other constituents living right in their districts.

The House Representative for House District 09A (Moorhead) is **Rep. Morrie Lanning (R)**, whose contact information is:

- State Office Building Room 379, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.
- Email: rep.morrie.lanning@house.mn
- Phone: His legislative assistant is Johnna O’Neill at 651-296-4230.

Public Policy Update (cont.)

Sen. Keith Langseth is our contact in Senate District 9 (Moorhead). His contact information is:

- State Office Bldg. room 139, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1206.
- Email: No public email
- Phone: 651-296-3205.

On Saturday, April 9th at 9:30 am, there will be a Minnesota Legislative Forum at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, sponsored by the Chamber. The legislative guests will be **Representative Morrie Lanning, Representative Paul Marquart and Senator Keith Langseth.**

The Chamber’s 2011 Minnesota Forum will be an opportunity to engage in direct conversation with representatives of Moorhead’s local legislative district. Elected officials will provide an update on:

- Cuts to the Local Government Aid Program
- The Disparity Reduction Credit Program
- Request for a Federal Health Care Waiver for the State of Minnesota
- Flood Damage Reduction Project and Appropriation
- Other issues

Inside This Issue:

Employee Spotlight	2
Schedule of Classes	2
Quote of the Month	2
April Calendar	2
Spring Flooding	2
Community Events	3
MCLC News	3
Access Info	3

Quote of the Month

"In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours."

~Mark Twain

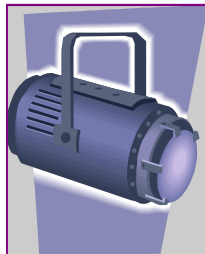


Employee Spotlight

Access would like to recognize our employees who have reached annual milestones.

We are very proud of all our staff and especially congratulate those listed below!

Those celebrating **one year** service this month are: Direct Care Staff—



Foday Alghali, Micaela Benedict, Corey Flaa, Stephanie McCollum, and Aaron Phillips. Case Manager— Kim Odegaard.

Two years service: Direct Care Staff— Erin Bennett and Alison Weiler. Human Resource Manager— Krista Svobodny.

Five years service: Direct Care Staff— Ryan Oberg.

Spring Flooding

Our community is again facing another flood, possibly as bad as in 2009. Access has a disaster policy in place, although we hope it won't be necessary, so we are prepared




to handle any flood related issues. The flood emergency kits are being prepared right now and will be at each of our foster care sites. If families have any questions, they can contact their case manager or Bill Smith, Services Director, here at the office: 218-233-3991.

We also want to remind our In-Home Services families of the Storm Policy we have in place. If Moorhead Public Schools cancel school or there are recommendations that 'no travel is advised', it is the family's responsibility to make arrangements for their child. The employer's regular shift responsibilities resume when school is called back into session, and/or the travel ban is lifted.

Schedule of Classes

- Medication Administration Classes are currently scheduled for 9:00 am on Tuesday, April 12th and 19th at the Access office.
- TI (Therapeutic Intervention) classes are currently scheduled for Wednesdays in April from 1pm—3pm. All classes are held at the Moorhead Library, unless otherwise noted.
- Red Cross CPR and First-Aid class dates for April are posted on our Access bulletin board in the office. Please check the sign-up sheets for availability. Remember to sign up for these classes on the bulletin boards in the HR Department and Access will register you.

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PAYDAY	2
3	4 Expense reports due	5	6 TI class 1pm-3pm at Library	7	8	9
10	11 Timesheets due at noon	12 Med Class 9am	13 TI class 1pm-3pm at Library	14	15 PAYDAY Expense reports paid	16
17	18	19 Med Class 9am	20 TI class 1pm-3pm at Library	21	22	23
24 	25 Timesheets due at noon	26	27 TI class 1pm-3pm at Library	28	29 PAYDAY	30

MCLC News

- ⇒ The **Spring hours** at the MCLC are Monday through Thursday from 5:00-8:00 pm.
- ⇒ Check out all the new board games at the **FREE and FUN MCLC**. Bring your clients and enjoy the crafts, board games, Wii games and more!!
- ⇒ **MCLC Arts and Crafts** sessions will be held on Friday April 1st, 15th, and 29th from 5:00-6:30 pm.
- ⇒ **Movie nights** are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 5:30 pm. Come check it out!! Movie titles to be announced.
- ⇒ The MCLC is for **all** of our clients, no matter what age. It is a way to get out, see friends, do homework, or make a craft.



Community Events

El Zagal Shrine Circus is April 1-3rd at the Fargodome. Shows are at 7pm on Friday, and 10am, 2pm and 7pm on Saturday. There are two shows Sunday, at 1pm and 5pm.

Reel Movies for Real Needs is a specially designed program at the West Acres Cinema that serves families with special needs such as autism or other challenges, who seldom attend movies. It creates a welcoming and comfortable environment—lower sound, lights up, where families with children who need accommodations will be able to share the experience of seeing family friendly films in the theater. April 16th's movie is 'Rio'. This is a wonderful service by the theater — it is a great option for an outing with a client.



Easter Eggstravaganza— Spring has arrived in the Fargo-Moorhead area and we have the perfect family event for you at the Children's museum at Yunker Farm. The staff and volunteers, with a little help from the Easter Bunny, work their "cotton-tails" off to ensure that this family friendly event is a huge success. You can spend the day dyeing eggs, create spring-time projects, visit the Easter Bunny, and take part in an Easter egg hunt at 11:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm.



The Easter Eggstravaganza is held on April 2nd and 3rd from 10:00 – 5:00. Admission is \$4 and includes museum visit and

egg hunts. If you are Yunker Farm members, admission for this event is free.

Arc Dances for April are on Monday, April 11th and 25th from 7:15–8:15pm at Ellen Hopkins Elementary. The April 25th dance is a Luau Dance! There is a \$3.00 admission for the luau dance.

The **Moorhead Public Library** has several events in April. Besides the Wii Wednesday on April 6th from 6-8pm, you can make a recycled tote bag on Saturday, April 2nd at 1pm. Bring old jeans for creating the tote bag.

On Tuesday, April 5th from 4-5pm there are Teen Crafts. From 4-8pm each Tuesday of April is Teen Computer Night.



Friday, April 22nd is Earth Day Art at 3pm.

Bounce-A-Palooza is at the Moorhead Sports Center on April 23rd and 24th from noon–6pm. Games Galore Inflatable Games will be set up for unlimited fun. Your admission wristband gets you unlimited fun for the day. Games for kids of all ages. Wristbands are just \$10 for kids six and older, 5.00 for kids five and younger.



Check us out online at www.accessrrv.org

MISSION

The mission of Access of the Red River Valley is to provide care and to support children and adults in their right to lead dignified, independent lives in the community.

For 26 years Access of the Red River Valley has provided quality care and compassionate support to assist people with disabilities realize their full potential. Access is known throughout the community for our professional full time and part-time staff members who share in the Access mission and make a lifetime of impact.



403 Center Ave., Suite 512
Moorhead, MN 56560

Phone: 1-218-233-3991
Fax: 1-218-233-2577

Access Directors:

- Executive Director: Kathy Potter, CPA
- Business Manager: Diane K. Hill
- Services Director: Bill Smith
- Human Resource Manager: Krista Svobodny