

Community News Article –LCS - aka Lakeside Curative Services

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If you have been following LCS for a while, you may have noticed that 2013 was a great year - full of positive changes for the organization. 2014 is going to be no different. As an organization, we understand that change is inevitable and healthy. Change forces LCS Staff Members to innovate, create and provide incentive for improvement. We feel that by proactively assessing our services and making adjustments where and when necessary, that LCS is better positioned to offer current best practice service options for LCS Participants. For example, by providing person centered services, LCS is able to awaken each participant's awareness regarding what is possible within themselves. LCS is also able to respectfully challenge each participant to stretch their abilities as a way to maximize his/her unique potential and cultivate self-confidence and desire for independence. Lastly and most importantly, by focusing on each individual, LCS inspires all participants to be a vital part of our community. All of these factors most certainly meet LCS' mission of, *offering training and experiences for individuals with disabilities to enhance their self – esteem and quality of life.*

One change you will note is that we have renamed some of our core service options for individuals with disabilities. LCS decided to do this to better capture the true focus of the service options that it offers individuals with disabilities. LCS' Day Services is now called *LCS Connect...* linking participants and the community to make a difference. LCS Connect's focus on community makes sense because it offers participants the chance to learn new things in places where learning opportunities naturally evolve. Plus it offers interaction with community members. This creates a win-win for participants and for the community. LCS also renamed our Pre-vocational Services option. *LCS Explore* is designed to look at each participant's individual interests and potential to bridge employment opportunities. LCS Explore is a short term employment exploration and paid job skills training opportunity for individuals with disabilities wanting to gain insights about the employment options available for them in the community. Training and learning experiences take place both at LCS and in the community. The goal of LCS Explore is to support all participants (one person at a time) with transitioning to community employment as soon as possible, based on each individual's wants and talents. LCS' supported employment option remains named *QUEST* and our *E-Now!* service option also remains unchanged.

Employment First continues to be a focus for LCS. Employment First Community Action teams continue to function. On April 4, action team members, along with Racine City and County leaders, disability rights proponents, self-advocates, educators and Racine County Racine Legislators will come together to look at and discuss the critical issue of solid transition planning for students transitioning from high school and how this planning dovetails with Employment First's focus on community based employment. The breakfast is co-sponsored by LCS and The Arc of Racine with funding being provided by Wisconsin APSE and National APSE (Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst).

Even after a very long winter, LCS Connect is pleased to sponsor its third annual Pansy Day Sale. Thanks to a warm greenhouse, a multitude of flower and herb seeds have been planted and are being carefully tended, so they will grow into beautiful plants for purchase. Pansy Day is Friday, May 9 from noon until 2:30 p.m. at LCS - 2503 Lincolnwood Ct. in Racine. Please put this date on your calendar and join us for this fun event.

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