

Memorandum

To: All OGC Families, Staff and Volunteers
From: Kyle Hauth, Executive Director
Subject: **OGC Update**
Date: April 7, 2008

Deirdre Anderson, Director for Intermediate Care services is leaving Orange Grove effective April 25, 2008. She intends to devote her full-time attention to her educational pursuits in Knoxville. We wish Deirdre well in her new endeavors and hope that she remains devoted to the field of intellectual disabilities. In an effort to ensure that services do not suffer as a result of the void that Deirdre's departure is creating, we have asked Bev Witt, Director of Therapy services to serve as the interim Director of that Department. She will be working with Deirdre over the next two weeks to create a smooth transition in responsibilities and oversight. We are most grateful to Bev Witt for assuming these added duties. I'm sure she will appreciate any and all support that you may provide her during this time.

The Hamilton County State Legislators are visiting Orange Grove this Friday for lunch to discuss all of the legislative issues important to Orange Grove. They are coming to receive an update on the Orange Grove Center and the services available to people in Chattanooga with intellectual disabilities. They will have lunch, listen to some of the success and challenges of Orange Grove, take a tour of the facility, speak with staff members, people served and some of the parents of people served. One of the major issues which we will bring to their attention is a request for a special appropriation which would make community agencies in Tennessee serving people with intellectual disabilities whole for the last six months of this fiscal year. This request is directly linked to the decision by the Tennessee Division of Mental Retardation Services to reduce payments for services rendered by 6.1%. This special appropriation would restore this reduced funding for all agencies across Tennessee through the end of this fiscal year.

We are also asking our legislators to support the following pieces of legislation:

1. SB 0895/HB 2091 _ DSP Salaries/Benefits wage parity bill_ HEALTH CARE: Payment to service providers. Requires the methodology of the division of mental retardation services for determining payments to service providers phase in salaries and benefits for direct care staff over a three_year period that are commensurate with salaries and benefits of direct care staff at developmental centers.
2. SB 2782*/HB 3277 _ Authorizes the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) to identify individuals on the DMRS waiting list to fill the additional 120 ICF/MR beds that are being phased in over a three year period.
3. SB 4205/HB 4204* _ HEALTH CARE: Exemption from nursing licensure requirements. Clarifies requirements for exemption from nursing licensure relative to home health care workers trained by the division of mental retardation services. Refers to those workers under contract or agreement under any Medicaid waiver or other program of the division of mental retardation services. Permits such workers to assist clients with medications, other than injections, upon written authorization by the client or client's authorized representative.

I hope you are busy about setting up your First Giving site for Orange Grove. This is a very simple way for your friends and family to honor you by contributing to the Orange Grove Center Capital Campaign. You can simply go to our website and click on the link which is in the text of the third paragraph of our home page (www.orangegrovecenter.org). If you prefer to contribute to one of the existing pages, feel free to scroll through the many pages that are up and running. Feel free to contact me, if you would like additional information regarding this project.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Orange Grove and the people we serve.