

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All OGC Families, Staff and Volunteers  
**From:** Kyle Hauth, Executive Director  
**Subject:** **OGC Update**  
**Date:** March 25, 2008

I hope you are planning on attending the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Parent Meeting which will be held in the OGC Habilitation Center Training Room at 7:00 p.m. We will bring you up to speed on changes that are taking place at Orange Grove and, as usual, have an open forum for questions, comments and general discussion. I look forward to seeing you on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Much has taken place since our meeting in January and I know you will benefit by attending.

I am pleased to announce that we have received word from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service that Dr. Cheetham is approved to enter our country and begin his work with Orange Grove. It has certainly been a long and arduous process in bringing this top physician in developmental medicine to Chattanooga to serve as our Medical Director, but it will undoubtedly prove well worth the effort. Dr. Cheetham will be arriving soon to begin his orientation and the process of becoming familiar with all of the people at Orange Grove. We expect that he will begin his Physician duties in the next two months and remain with us for what will prove a long and prominent tenure as our Medical Director. We know you will love him and come to appreciate why we went to such lengths to get him.

There are a number of meetings, conferences and workshops held in the state and around the country each year that generate information which could be very helpful to individuals with disabilities and their families. However, people cannot always afford to attend these events because the cost of travel or registration may be too high. I recently learned that the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities has established a Consumer Education Travel Grant to help families cover the cost of travel when attending such meetings. Grants to individuals may go up to \$500 and grants for any single activity or event, regardless of how many people apply, are limited to \$2,000. The grant will not advance funds. However, when an award is made, the Council can reimburse for the approved expenses after you have attended the meeting or conference. If you would like more information regarding this service, feel free to contact:

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I wish I could tell you that the DMRS funding crisis has passed, but unfortunately the situation remains as grim as it was at the beginning of the year. Our payments continue to be reduced by 6.1% and there is no prospect for the situation to improve in the immediate future. We continue to petition our legislators to review the situation and intercede on our behalf. According to a letter from DMRS on December 6, 2007, the average daily cost for a community agency to serve one person in October 2007 was \$233.00. However the Orange Grove Center's average daily cost for people funded through DMRS is \$73.14. It is clear that our agency is well below the State average cost and should not be held responsible for the excessive costs of other programs. Please remain steadfast in your communications with State legislators and help us resolve this crisis.

Thank you for your attention in these matters.