

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All OGC Families, Staff and Volunteers  
**From:** Kyle Hauth, Executive Director  
**Subject:** **OGC Update**  
**Date:** May 15, 2008

The wait is finally over. Dr. Tom Cheetham is officially at Orange Grove. We will have a reception for him on Thursday, May 22, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Training Room. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet Dr. Cheetham and for him to get to know you as well. Please plan on dropping by on the 22nd and join us in officially welcoming Dr. Cheetham to the Orange Grove family. 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. We are so excited about Dr. Cheetham joining our team of medical professionals and becoming an integral element of the OGC Augustus McCravey Health Clinic. It has certainly been a long wait for all of us, but I can assure you that he is worth the wait. Dr. Cheetham is undeniably an internationally renowned physician, advocate, researcher, and teacher who has extensive experience in the field of developmental disabilities. He is a hands-on physician who is up-to-date on all of the latest medical advances in our field. He has written numerous publications and taught extensively regarding the provision of best medical practices in our field. His first love is treating patients and is dedicated to providing the highest level of care for the people we serve.

I am pleased to announce that the Intermediate Care Facilities for people with mental retardation (ICF/MR) administered by Orange Grove will permanently remain under the direction of Bev Witt. Bev will serve as Director for both Therapy Services and ICF/MR Services. As you may recall, she began serving as the interim Director for our ICF/MR Services since the Director position was vacated last month. She has performed admirably in assuming this new role and has worked tirelessly in forging a high level of collaboration among all personnel associated with these services. Under Bev's tutelage, ICF/MR nursing professionals have worked very closely with Lynn Porter (OGC Health Care Director) in order to ensure that uniformed protocols are maintained and followed. Lynn has proven invaluable in this process and has agreed to accept the added responsibility of managing the ICF/MR nursing services. Therefore, all nursing services provided through our ICF/MR program will come under the direction of Lynn Porter. We have added a new RN position entitled Health Care Manager who will report to Lynn and will directly supervise the RN Clinic Coordinator and the RN ICF/MR Coordinator. Of course, Bev and Lynn will work in tandem in the overall direction of the health, safety, well-being and success of the people we serve in the ICF/MR program.

Please mark your calendar for the July 22nd parent meeting (7:00 p.m.). We will meet in the Habilitation Center Training Room, where we usually meet. I will provide additional reminders of this meeting before July 22nd, but please mark your calendar now and plan to join us.

I am pleased to announce that we have just received word on a temporary reprieve from the 6.1% funding cut from the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS), effective May through September 2008. This is great news in that we can at least count on five months of restored revenue. However, the scary aspect of this announcement is the looming possibility that they will enact new and possibly even deeper cuts, if the statewide budgeted per diem average of \$202.00 is not consistently achieved. Hopefully, during these next five months, we can successfully educate state authorities as to how counterintuitive it is to punish agencies which stay way below the statewide per diem client budgeted average (like Orange Grove at \$73.14) instead of targeting just those agencies which require excessive revenue to maintain services.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Orange Grove.