

MEMORANDUM

To: All OGC Families, Staff and Volunteers
From: Kyle Hauth, Executive Director
Subject: **OGC Update**
Date: September 20, 2007

I am happy to report that Dr. Tom Cheetham is coming to Orange Grove as our new Physician. When I first reviewed his vitae and became familiar with the vast experience he has in our field, I knew that his partnership with Orange Grove would create a sequence of dynamic events resulting in a higher quality of health care services for the people we serve. After his visits to Orange Grove, I gained deeper insights into his character and obvious love for our population and realized how fortunate we are to be able to attract a Physician of his stature in the medical community. He 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. His first love is treating patients and is dedicated to providing the highest level of care. He was most recently recognized as the Outstanding Physician of The Year by the Developmental Disability Nurses Association. If there is a group that knows top doctors in this field, it is definitely these nurses. We are now in the process of assisting Dr. Cheetham in his migration from Canada to the United States. His projected date of arrival at Orange Grove is November 1, 2007. If you would like to read more about his background and experience, please visit our website and you will see a link on the first page that appears on your screen.

We are most indebted to Dr. Rader for his efforts in identifying and recruiting Dr. Cheetham. We are also most thankful to the individuals who served on our Physician Search Committee. They are as follows:

Dr. Mack Worthington, Chairman Sharon Matthews
Tom Caldwell Dr. Rick Rader
Dr. Larry Davis Dianne Aytes
Sherry Campbell Lynn Porter
Bev Witt

The TN Division of Mental Retardation Services will be conducting a Town Hall Meeting on November 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Orange Grove Center cafeteria. This meeting is held each year to allow officials from DMRS to discuss challenges the Division is facing and their plans to address them. Much has taken place since the last time such a meeting was held and there is a great deal of information to share. I found last year's meetings to be both informative and interactive. I strongly encourage you to attend this meeting and hear for yourself the direction DMRS is going in terms of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. I also ask that you talk with other people who may be interested in services for individuals with intellectual disabilities. For those people who are waiting for funding from DMRS, this would be an excellent time to speak up and share your frustration with the system and acquire input as to what plans are underway to improve upon the current dilemma. As I understand it, they will have more of a question/answer session this year than in times past. If you would like more information regarding this meeting, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention in these matters.