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**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2017**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 12: Daylight Savings Time begins- Move clocks ahead 1 hour
- March 14: Aspire Foundation Board of Directors meeting-12pm –Aspire
- March 21: Aspire Board of Directors meeting – 12pm- Aspire
- March 28-31: Accreditation Review
- April 7: Masquerade Ball- 5-8pm- Civic Arena

MASQUERADE BALL

Aspire will be hosting a Masquerade Ball on Friday, April 7 from 5pm-8pm at the Civic Arena. A dinner will be served at 5pm. Tickets go on sale this Wednesday, March 1st for \$20. Any person supported by Aspire, their friends or family members are welcome to attend. Contact Amanda or Bobbi Jo at the front desk, or call 229-0263 #0, for more information.

NCAA BASKETBALL BOOK FUNDRAISER

March Madness is almost here! The Aspire Foundation fundraising books are now available for \$20 each. This fundraiser raises about \$2,000 for the Foundation each year. The Final Four games are March 25-April 3. Contact Janae Hamilton at 229-0263 #1007 if you are interested in helping sell books. Want to buy a book? Contact Amanda or Bobbi Jo at the front desk at Aspire.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS

Governor Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. “Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people. And the most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone’s active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual’s contribution. Opportunities for citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities to function as independently and productively as possible must be fostered in our community. We encourage all citizens to support opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community including full access to education, housing, employment, and recreation activities. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve nothing less.”

Check out Aspire’s Facebook page to hear about how opportunities have made a difference in the life of someone supported by Aspire.

We ASPIRE for ALL People to be... valued... connected... empowered...

PERSONAL QUALITY OF LIFE

CQL (The Council on Quality and Leadership)'s *Personal Outcome Measures*® are used to identify people's quality of life outcomes, plan supports, and gather information and data about individual outcomes. Aspire conducts *Personal Outcome Measures*® interviews to identify how people personally define quality of their life and the link to person-centered services provided by Aspire. The data is used for planning purposes and to make changes as needed.

The interviews help us answer the questions "Are people achieving their priority life outcomes?" And "what organizational practices are in place to ensure that people achieve their outcomes?"

The outcomes that are mostly highly present in lives of people supported by Aspire include:

- People are safe: 98%
- People have the best possible health: 96%
- People choose services: 91%
- People experience continuity and security: 88%

When we compare Aspire to national data, we can see that areas where Aspire's outcome are most-present, is not necessarily the case across the nation. We:

- Perform better in "People are safe". National data= 81%
- Perform better in "People have best possible health". Nat'l data= 69%
- Perform better in "People choose services." National data = 23%
- Perform better in "People experience continuity and security". Nat'l data= 47%

The outcomes that are the least present in lives of people supported by Aspire are:

- People choose where are with whom they live: 46%
- People live in integrated environments: 60%
- People perform different social roles: 60%
- People are connected to natural support networks: 62%

When we compare Aspire's least-present outcomes to national outcomes data, we:

- Perform better in "People choose where they live": National data= 22%
- Perform better in "People live in integrated environments". Nat'l data= 42%
- Perform better in "People perform social roles". National data = 37%
- Perform better in "People are connected to natural supports". Nat'l data= 47%

This data gives us a snapshot into how people define quality in their lives and whether their personal outcomes are present. Aspire uses this data to assist in individual team meetings, as well as organizational strategic planning.

As a result, we have seen a marked improvement in outcomes such as:

- "People have social roles" - from 27% in 2009 to 60% in 2016.
- "People interact with members of the community"- from 61% in 2009 to 77% in 2016.
- "People participate in the life of the community" – from 58% in 2009 to 77% in 2016.
- "People choose where they work"- rom 37% in 2009 to 65% in 2016.