

# RVCDS Annual Report 2017-2018

Budget for the Year: \$10, 812, 895



- \* For the hard work you put into your job every single day.
- \* For showing up.
- \* For choosing RVCDS.

## A Word From the Executive Director

I remember reading in our history( on several different dates) written by Dr. Norma Gray ( our founder and first executive director ) " *these are the best of times and the worst of times.* " That's how I feel right now. Financially, we are in pretty good shape. We are receiving more money than ever for our grant programs, Link, Connect, Choices and TCR which has allowed us to upgrade our phone systems and security systems. We have been able to complete our 3 year salary plan plus follow it up with a \$1000 raise for all employees. In the last couple years, we have added bereavement leave , plus a birthday holiday and Presidents Day holiday. We have implemented and continued an annual wellness incentive. We provide a safe driver incentive for employees who travel over 500 miles/ month and maintain a safe driving record. We offer professional development opportunities that allow our employees to keep up with the most current trends in their field. We are participating as a key partner in the Healthy Connections Coalition. As part of that coalition, we are providing the center (RVCARES) to help offer specialized care for babies born to mothers with substance use disorder as well as to provide support and training for the families and child care providers who care for these children. Our Birth to 3 programs continue to stay busy with referrals , many of which are for babies who were born to mothers with substance use disorder. But, just as we were starting to break even in our school age programs, we were told that the after school program at Meadows (where we have been for almost 20 years and had been very successful) will now be run by the school. This means that we will need to come up with something else to keep that program going with a full time director. We are continuing to write grants to cover the cost of our free after school program at Guyandotte. The numbers for our summer camp did increase this year, but still need to be more consistent. The Family Child Care Food program has lost providers in the last several years and has struggled to maintain their numbers since then. Unfortunately, this is a trend across the state. We reduced the expenses of that program by reducing office space as well as other expenses. As long as there are needs to be met for children and families, we will continue to be there through" *the best of times and the worst of times.*"



Suzi Brodof



# RVCDS Highlights

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

“A leader in providing high quality early childhood care and education services for children, families and communities.”

## Connect Child Care Resource and Referral

- \* Teamed up with WVBTT RAU III and moved to a new location. The new location allows the programs to work more collaboratively and to share space with other RVCDS programs.
- \* Hosted an Open House for the new location and had visitors from partnering agencies, clients, providers, and a representative from U.S. Senator Joe Manchin’s office.
- \* Launched several new ads throughout the region on billboards and public buses that targeted grand-families to let them know about child care services and assistance.
- \* Attended several valuable trainings. A supervisor completed the Emerging Leaders program, case managers had the opportunity to go to national level social work conferences, two employees completed PITC certification.
- \* Hosted Provider Appreciation Day event during which we were able to give out several infant/toddler items such as fire evacuation cribs, art supplies, and curriculum based resources.

## Choices Child Care Resource and Referral

- \* Our program has seen little staff turnover this year. We remained fully staffed for majority of the year and only hired one new staff person. We have 140 combined years of service to RVCDS.
- \* We were able to install security systems in both of our offices and carpet the Parkersburg office.
- \* Our Case Managers attended Social Work Conferences in Charleston and Washington DC and we plan to make this an annual opportunity for all case management staff.
- \* Our Director and Assistant Director participated in Child Care Aware of America’s Day on the Hill in Washington DC and spoke with Elected Officials about the importance of early care and education.
- \* Staff attended 24 events throughout the year to speak with community member about our services.



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## FAMILY CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM

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- \* USDA implemented new dietary guidelines for the CACFP Programs that went into effect October 1, 2017. This created a big challenge for the program due to the need to train providers on the changes in regulations, forms, and submission process for providers that use the Kidkare website to submit their claims.
- \* Minute Menu updated their website to accommodate the changes.
- \* Our program was the first in the nation to roll over to Minute Menus.
- \* Minute Menu used our program to help them with best practices as they added other sponsors to their website.

140 EMPLOYEES

## LINK CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

- \* The past year has been another year of change. We have continued to adapt to new positions which means new people, new personalities, new relationships. We have seen changes in the way providers are being trained and screened which has had a great impact on our staff as they try to field questions and concerns from providers and clients. We have heard rumblings of client eligibility changes which can cause concern for staff. We have once again added office space which can create some logistical and technology “hiccups” for staff. But through it all, I am proud that the staff of Link CCR&R have taken things in stride, voiced their concerns/complaints/suggestions, and went on to find solutions to make things work the best they can for co-workers, colleagues, providers and clients.
- \* I am proud to say that of the 25 member team of Link CCR&R, we have 7 staff who have been part of RVCDS for 15+ years and we have 5 staff who have been a part of RVCDS for 10-15 years. I feel that is a great accomplishment for Link CCR&R and the agency as a whole.
- \* For fiscal year 2017-2018, we served 4,814 walk-in clients/providers and offered training sessions for approximately 1,300 providers. Over the course of the fiscal year, we have also conducted approximately 230 technical assistance visits.
- \* One accomplishment I am thankful happened is we traded in our 2007 model TRAILS van for a new one. This was a bit stressful at times, but we succeeded!
- \* In December 2017, we held our 2nd annual Link Staff and Families Christmas Party. This was held on a Saturday evening and we had a great turnout. We planned fun activities for the children and Santa brought them each a gift. This has turned into a great Link CCR&R tradition.
- \* At our program in-service this year we did a superhero theme. Staff were separated into 3 groups and participated in a painting project, games such as Human Hungry, Hungry Hippo and an escape room. Each staff person also designed their own cape and mask. We had a lot of laughs and fun!

## School Age Connections

- \* Secured grant funding to operate the Guyandotte Elementary afterschool program for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year at no cost to families
- \* Awarded \$6,000 in CDBG funding to offer specialized enrichment activities in the arts, gardening, coding, and nutrition
- \* Summer Camp 2018 was the most successful we've had since re-opening in 2014.

## West Virginia Birth to Three

### Regional Administrative Unit IV

(Huntington, WV)

"When I think about RAU 4, "Comradery" comes to mind. Comradery means the warm feelings of friendship, closeness and loyalty shared among a group or people or a team of people. The women of RAU 4 have displayed this type of bond since day. During the last fiscal year, Region 4 has served over 1,279 families through referrals and over 1,490 to date. We have partnered with 4 counties to host Community Baby Showers that have served over 500 pregnant/expectant moms, 3 county health fairs, and 3 back to school events just to name a few. We have also continued to maintain a successful relationship with all 8 counties school system for planned transitions for your children. This year, we have welcomed a new Director, Octavia Cordon who comes with an abundance of knowledge in early childhood development and preschool. We are thankful to have formed new partnerships with RV Cares, Putnam County Health Coalition, Maternal Addiction Recovery Center (MARC) at Marshall University Medical Center, Education Matters Coalition, WV ACE's Coalition and

## West Virginia Birth to Three

### Regional Administrative Unit III

(Charleston, WV)

In September 2017 we hired a new director. We have hired two new interims, Kristina and Katelyn. In February 2018 we moved to a new location.

5,000 FAMILIES SERVED MONTHLY

## West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources

Our apprenticeship program came under new leadership during the 2017-2018 fiscal year as Jennifer Conkle returned to ACDS as the Statewide Coordinator. WV STARS designed and piloted the new Pathway to Earnings project that will be open for applications beginning October 2018. Pathway to Earnings is a project that provides qualifying child care providers with increased earnings. With new projects added to our program, 2 new positions were created during the year. WVEC-TCR projects also designed and conducted customer satisfaction surveys with great response rates. These surveys are being used to evaluate areas of strength, areas of improvement, and areas of needed focus.