

Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council

Advocacy Center

April, 2009

AC's Gustav Case Management Program Making Progress

AC's Gustav Case Management Program has served a total of 696 individuals. The program has a total of 173 open cases and has closed 69. It currently has 42 clients on a wait list for service.

Gustav will continue to take referrals for Gustav Case Management until 3/31/09.

The case management program is also helping identify people who qualify for HUD Section 8 housing and currently has 40+ clients it is assisting with processing section 8 voucher applications.

Every Day, Making A Difference in a Number of Small Ways

We often report about the Advocacy Center's big projects and big successes; but we also like to tell you about the many small ways our staff makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and seniors. Here are a few:

- DHH has required nursing homes to pay for wheelchairs for almost 4 years. However, recently, a nursing home denied that it was responsible for purchasing a wheelchair. The AC long-term care ombudsman showed him that he had the responsibility to do so. Then the nursing home decided to set a price limit on what they would buy, without considering the type of wheelchair that was needed by the nursing home resident. Again, the ombudsman went into action and now the right wheelchair, appropriate to the needs of the individual, has been ordered.
- A child had been placed on homebound during a good part of the school year because of behavioral difficulties. His parents contacted AC and the advocate helped obtain an appropriate IEP, behavior plan, and a child specific aid for the student. AC was also successful in obtaining compensatory services for the time he was illegally kept out of school without services in place. The child is doing well with the supports that have been put into place, and is attending school regularly.
- An AC advocate visited a Child Residential Facility several weeks ago and recognized a dangerous situation - the girls living there were using small space heaters that sparked when they were plugged in; even more alarming, one space heater was propped up with a pillow! The windows were all

painted shut and the facility was freezing. The advocate also spoke to one of the girls who needed follow up for a medical condition that, if untreated, was a danger to everyone in the facility.

When the AC advocate spoke to staff about these issues, they made excuses.

The advocate then sent a complaint to the state and fire marshal about the unsafe electrical issues and space heaters. She also sent a complaint to the facility and the child's case worker at OJJ regarding the lack of medical care. Within two days, electricians were making improvements at the facility, the main heater was working, the space heaters were gone and the child had been taken for her check up.

AC Launches Winn Dixie Community Pals Fundraiser

You can help the Advocacy Center raise much needed cash the easy way. All you have to do is download a coupon with a bar code from our website (www.advocayla.org) and have a cashier at Winn Dixie scan both the coupon and your **Customer Reward Card** at any participating Winn-Dixie. From that point forward, every time you scan the card, the total of your order will be credited to our organization. If you do not already have a **Customer Reward Card**, you can get one at any Winn-Dixie store. If you have trouble downloading the coupon from our website, give us a call and we'll be happy to send you one.

We thank all supporters of the Advocacy Center's work for helping us in this way.