

Rehabilitation at center of agency's work

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
When people think about the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), they often think of welfare.

Mention disabilities, people often think of someone in a wheelchair or someone who's mentally challenged.

The rehabilitation part of SRS is fighting those stereotypes by promoting an image of capable people re-entering the work force.

A Goodland business owner has appeared in the agency's brochure and video to project that image.

Cynthia Bohl, owner of the 17th Street Barbershop, got help from the agency to go to school and retrain for work after a job injury ended her career as a truck driver.

Now Bohl is pictured on the agency's brochure and in its video to show employers that disabled people can be trained for new jobs, even to own a business. Her arm was smashed on the job, ending a career she had worked at her whole life.

She did not qualify for unemployment or welfare assistance, but someone at the unemployment office suggested she contact Judy Dankenbring, who handles vocational training for the department in Goodland.

The agency helped her pay for school, she said, and Dankenbring kept in touch with her and helped with problems she faced. The agency provides services to people who are disabled, Bohl said, and help them retrain for a job and find a job.

"If they hadn't helped me," she said, "I wouldn't have this job."

Now Bohl is helping SRS. Pictures of her cutting hair appear in the agency's brochure, and she appears in a video the agency will show to employers to prove to them that people with disabilities can work.

"I allowed them to use my pic-



Cynthia Bohl set on the counter at her 17th Street Barbershop a picture that Dale L. Barnum, director of rehabilitation services for the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, brought her as a thank you for appearing in the agency's video and brochure. After his thanks for her help, though, it was right back to business for Bohl, who gave Ernie Knight of Goodland a hair cut.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

ture," Bohl said, "and talked about how their program helped me."

Dankenbring, along with Dale L. Barnum, director of rehabilitation services of the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services in Topeka, visited the barbershop Tuesday, May 24, to thank Bohl for her help.

Barnum gave her a framed photo from the video and said he would be mailing her the brochure and a copy of the tape when he has one.

"We are the 'R' in SRS," Dankenbring said.

People who have benefited from rehabilitation are talking out, she said, about the services available and how they helped them.

The brochure says the rehabilitation services help Kansans with disabilities get ready for a job by pro-

viding an assessment and counseling to identify skills and abilities; artificial limbs, physical therapy or psychological testing; vocational training — technical, academic or on-the-job; and rehabilitation technology services and devices.

The brochure quotes employers who have hired rehabilitated people with success.

"We hired an individual with a disability to work in our Children's Computer Lab," Steven Westfahl, head of automation for the Hutchinson Public Library, says in the brochure. "She went through our standard employee interview just like everyone else. She expressed a real eagerness to do the job, and she had the qualifications. She has taken to the job and enjoys it. It has worked out well for her and for us."



School board gets end-of-year site council reports

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Representatives from West, Central and North schools and the high school reported to the Goodland School Board at a meeting on Monday, May 23.

Each school has a site council, a group of parents and teachers that work together to improve the school. The president from the site councils gave board members the reports.

Gordon Pettibone from West started off with the Box Tops project for this year. He said Denise Floyd has been the chairman for the project since 1999 and they hope she will sign up again for next year.

This year, he said, the students exceeded their goal of 15,000 General Mills box tops by 3,393. He said they should get \$1,808 for the fund raiser.

Pettibone said they adopted the motto "Building a Foundation for the Future" and with help from the board, had the words written on new windows in the school's entrance.

In January, the council started up "Monday Munchies" where volunteers brought in snacks for teachers every week.

Central Principal Sharon Gregory told the board about 10 parents are really active in the group there.

"We have good representation from each demographic at Central," Gregory said.

The school fund raiser, a soup supper in January, raised money for students to go to the Rolling Hills Zoo near Salina. The money is used for incentives for students and playground and other school equip-

ment, she said.

Gregory said the council helped with a cookout, teacher appreciation week and reading incentives for the Reading Roundup.

The group looked at test scores and the school improvement plan.

Carol Jolly from North said the council met four times last year, in September, October, November and January.

North Principal Jim Mull attended the meetings and worked with parents, she said. He kept them up to date on new technology, including a remote system in Mary Frazier's classroom and the school's teachers'

dream of getting a global positioning system to share.

Jolly said he told the site council about the school budget and possible grade school closings.

"The biggest thing we did as a site council," she said, "was to make parents aware of the reading assessments."

She said members took a classroom and called parents to set up meetings to talk about the state tests.

The council, Jolly said, wanted to tell the board they liked the length of Christmas vacation and the break between summer school and the start of the next year.

Jeff Mason president of the high school council, said he was pleased with the student representation at meetings.

He said this year's parent-teacher conference attendance went up.

"We were glad to see increased participation," he said.

The conferences were held in the Max Jones fieldhouse, he said, making teachers easier to find.

Although the teachers said they

could have gotten more work done in their rooms, he said it was an improvement for parents.

Mason said the council discussed the "1-to-1" laptop computer initiative but couldn't come to a consensus and did not make a recommendation to the board.

Attendance for the council meetings ran around eight, he said, although the school sent out 42 letters each month.

corrections

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- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Sunshine"
 - Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star- News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair

by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 8th

Winners will be announced in the Friday, August 12th edition

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