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PROGRAM MANAGER'S COLUMN

Twas' the month before CARF re-accreditation, when all through the clubhouse, not many were stirring (must practice that social distancing), and there better not be any MICE!

It is now time to bolster our holiday spirit with all the last minute preparations as our extended CARF accreditation will expire in March 2022. Mr. Scrooge, this survey is quite different than ones from the past; with a glimpse of the future, this one will be conducted virtually.

We have a lot of new elves, oops, I mean staff at The BridgeLine. La'Shay Davenport joined us in late August as a Unit Coordinator with primary responsibility for the Administrative Unit. She has taught us all how to incorporate our new smartboard into the clubhouse workday. Tim Campbell had been working half-time in the Clubhouse and half-time in case management but moved into a full-time case manager position. Kristy Heinrich joined us in September as a full-time case manager. And last by not least, Jonathan Barr joined The BridgeLine in the Spring and recently accepted the position of Residential Manager.

A hybrid service delivery model continues to be utilized at the clubhouse and has benefited those who travel long distances for in-person service to stay connected on other days of the week. Our smartboard provides information in real time no matter where you are located. A new loaner Chromebook device program is available to those who do not have a device to be able to engage in the daily business meeting and wellness activities.

To ring in the New Year, we will have a doctoral Occupational Therapy student completing a capstone project with us on the use virtual services.

Now dash away, dash away all! May you all find peace, love, and understanding in this holiday season.

UNIT UPDATES

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT UPDATE

BY: LA'SHAY DAVENPORT, ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT COORDINATOR

The Administrative Unit has done a great job over the past couple of months making sure all of their jobs get done while helping me learn get acquainted with my role. I'm so thankful to all of the members who have assisted me thus far. The biggest change this quarter has been our revamped Zoom Morning Meetings. With a new PowerPoint design and the use of our Vibe Smartboard members are able to both hear and see everything happening in the meeting. Currently, Trey B. is one of our designated Vibe Smartboard operators but we hope to have everyone well acquainted with this technology in the future.



KITCHEN/MAINTANENCE UNIT UPDATE

BY: PETER MICHAELS, LEAD UNIT COORDINATOR

Although the kitchen has remained closed to cooking, we've been busy preparing for reopening, which is currently planned for January or February of 2022. (This should especially please Renee C., as she frequently asks about being Chef-of-the-Day.) Robert M. helped put together new steel shelves for the kitchen and storage rooms, and John C. helped install new task lighting under the kitchen cabinets. We also now have recycling bins (red for plastics, white for papers, and blue for metals) in the storage room. Maintenance-wise, John C. continues to be our most enthusiastic cleaner. He says, "I love working at The BridgeLine Place! I love using the new vacuum daily..." (we bought a new commercial-grade Dyson v11 stick vacuum), "and all the other nice cleaning products are helpful too."



BIRTHDAYS

BY: ANNA M.

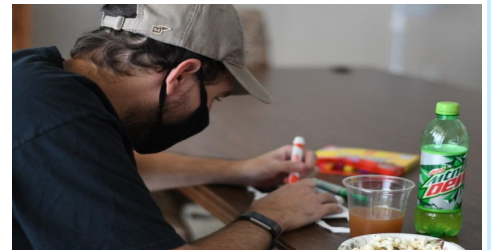
October	November	December
Robert M.—28th	Matt H.—5th	Scott E.—9th
	John C.— 24th	Peter M.—12th
	Leigh W.—29th	Kenn H.—22nd
	Morgan B.—30th	

SOCIALS

BY: ANNA M.

October:

The October social was held at the BridgeLine Place on Friday October 22, from 1:00-3:00. Members gathered in the event room, which was set up like a movie theater and we watched Gremlins. Everyone decorated Halloween themed face masks to wear. Later we had a light snack.



November:

On Tuesday November 30th, we had our November social. It was a holiday/ Karaoke decorating partying at the BridgeLine. We made decorations for the windows and walls of the Clubhouse and brought in ornaments to decorate the Bride Line Christmas tree. Later members chose to perform their favorite songs on the karaoke mic with recorded music. I had a good time.

December:

The December social event is coming soon. We will have be a gift exchange and catered meal on Wednesday, December 22nd from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Come and see!

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BY: JOHN C.

Welcome La'Shay D., our new Administrative Unit Coordinator! La'Shay grew up in Charlottesville but just recently moved back to the area. La'Shay has no pets and would consider herself to be a night person. La'Shay's favorite food is chicken. During her spare time La'Shay enjoys watching television, hanging out with her friends and listening to music. La'Shay likes Hip-Hop, R&B, and Pop Music and her favorite song is "All Things Go". La'Shay's favorite part of working at the clubhouse is working with all of the members.



La'Shay's favorite social so far has been decorating for the holidays.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Brandon! Brandon was born in Richmond but grew up in Louisa for most of his childhood before living in Charlottesville for a short period of time. Brandon currently lives in Louisa with both of his

grandparents. Brandon's favorite color is blue.

Brandon would describe himself as more of a night person in recent years but previously was much more of a morning person. Brandon says that he doesn't really have a favorite show but if he did it would be something on VICE. If Brandon had one superpower he would never die but he would like to remain in his

60s for the rest of his life. Brandon's favorite food is Chocolate Eclair Cake made by his grandmother.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome DJ! DJ is from Charlottesville. He has a dog named Blue that will be 7 in August. DJ's favorite movie is *A River Runs Through It*. DJ's favorite type of food is Indian and his favorite dish is Chicken Tikka Masala. In his free time DJ enjoys gaming, his favorite game to play is *Call of Duty* which he prefers to play on his PlayStation. One thing that DJ would like for people to know about him is that he really enjoys helping others.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Mike! Mike grew up in Louisa County. He lives in Lake Monticello with his mom, her small dog (and two lizards), his younger sister and her 8-year-old son. Mike's favorite music is rap, and his favorite artist is Boosie BadAzz. *Menace II Society* is his favorite movie. His favorite color is red, and his favorite professional sports team is the Washington Football Team (formerly the Washington Redskins). He enjoys "all food", with a preference for fruits. When he has free time, Mike likes to "just relax."



RECENT MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS



Member: Trey B.

Trey has been able to successfully obtain and maintain employment during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



VIRGINIA SPORTS UPDATE

BY: JASON B. (AND COMMENTS BY: PETER M.)

It has been a weird football season for the Virginia Cavaliers because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but they still managed to qualify for a Bowl Game at the end of year! *(The Fenway Bowl – they will face Southern Methodist University's Mustangs in Boston on Dec. 29th.)* It will be sweet to me if the UVA Cavaliers can beat their arch rivals, the Virginia Tech Hokies. *(Sadly, this was not to be... this year.)*



VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Members and staff have continued using Zoom to meet virtually with our various local Virginia state legislators, preparing for the upcoming legislative session in 2022. Senator Creigh Deeds met with us on November 22nd. Delegate Rob Bell met with us on November 29th. We are communicating with Delegate Sally Hudson, Delegate Chris Runion, and Delegate Matt Fariss. Below are the legislative items being introduced in the General Assembly session for brain injury.

BILLS

Durable Medical Equipment (**DME**) in nursing facilities: When a person with a chronic condition (like spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke, etc.) is prescribed specialized seating equipment but resides in a skilled nursing facility, Virginia Medicaid will NOT pay for the equipment. Advocates are seeking a rule change that specifically prohibits residents of skilled nursing facilities receiving complex rehabilitative and seating technology.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS – total of \$1.5 million

- \$860,000 to create a “**Housing Specialist**” position at each state funded community based BI program to work with local housing providers, provide independent housing supports and/or assist clients to obtain and maintain safe and stable housing.
- \$30,000 to ensure the inclusion of brain injury specific question on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (**BRFSS**), a telephone based survey of health behaviors conducted annually by the Virginia Department of Health.
- \$570,000 to provide adult **Case Management** services in 4 areas of Virginia that are currently unserved (Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck, southern border of the state from Martinsville to Suffolk), and pediatric programs in 2 areas (Harrisonburg, Hampton Roads).

Once committee assignments for the 2022 General Assembly session are announced, a more targeted advocacy campaign can begin. In preparation, please consider reviewing the six short (each about 10 minutes) videos (at <https://www.biav.net/advocacy-webinars/>) that BIAV developed to walk you through how to become comfortable with being a confident advocate. The first video is an introduction to advocacy. The second video discusses the difference between advocacy and lobbying. The third video outlines how a bill become a law in Virginia. The fourth video is about the Virginia budgeting process. The fifth video discusses the annual advocacy calendar in Virginia, and the sixth teaches you how to identify and contact those legislators that represent you.

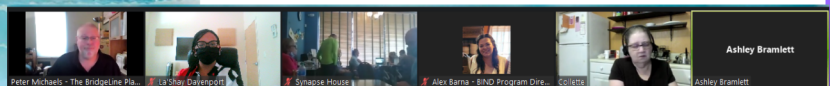
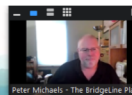
IBICA UPDATE

The 2021 18th Annual IBICA (Virtual) Conference occurred September 13th and 14th. The BridgeLine Place had three staff and several members attend. The Keynote presentation was “How Can Your Clubhouse Be Part of the Change for Social Justice, Diversity and Inclusion?” by Anna Sackett Roundtree from Clubhouse International. Our Unit Coordinator, Peter Michaels, presented a breakout session about the Work-Ordered Day section of the IBICA Standards. During the IBICA Annual Meeting, Peter was officially voted in as an IBICA Board Member, and he was asked Chair the 2002 19th Annual IBICA (Virtual) Conference Planning Committee.

At the first meeting of the new IBICA Board in December, the main topics of discussion were the budget and hiring an Executive Director for the organization. The Executive Director position began being advertised mid-December, and the Board has begun reviewing candidate applications. The IBICA Board plans for interviews and hiring to occur before the end of January.

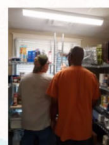
RETURNING TO THE WORK-ORDERED DAY

Peter Michaels
A Unit Coordinator at The BridgeLine Place
Charlottesville, Virginia



IBICA [Work-Ordered Day] Standard #20

- IS ORGANIZED INTO WORK UNITS WHICH MEET TO:
 - FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS
 - ORGANIZE AND PLAN WORK FOR EVERYTHING DONE IN THE CLUBHOUSE



COVID-19 Booster Shots are available to everyone age 18 and up. If you have not gotten your booster and would like to call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) or go to <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>

REMINDER

Cold and Flu Season has arrived here are a few tips to help you stay safe this season!

- * Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- * Stay home when you are sick.
- * Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- * Wash your hands often to help protect you from germs.
- * Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- * Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, get plenty of sleep, be active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH



The BridgeLine reminds you that November is National Diabetes Awareness Month!



GIVINGTUESDAY

This year, The BridgeLine was able to once again participate in GivingTuesday. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. Thank you to all who shared in the GivingTuesday generosity!



GIVING TUESDAY

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



ENRICHING LIVES - FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE

The BridgeLine Place Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, such as a hurricane, snow, sleet, or freezing rain, please check local news systems (CBS19, NBC29, etc.) to see if delay or closing information has been posted.

Even if no information is posted, please also check with your transportation provider to ask if they are providing transportation. The BridgeLine Place facility will close if Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) stops bus service.

If the clubhouse facility is closed, VIRTUAL SERVICES MAY STILL BE PROVIDED, so you may still join the regular Morning Meeting via Zoom at 10:00am.

Please call The BridgeLine Place at 434-220-4596 to leave a message that you will not attend if you:

- Use an alternative source of transportation to the clubhouse facility
- Feel uncomfortable driving in bad weather
- Feel unsafe outside your home

If inclement weather arrives during the work-ordered day, the clubhouse may close early and will assist members with finding safe transportation home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call The BridgeLine Place at 434-220-4596.

A staff member will return your call.



RESPITE CARE

Caring for a loved one can be a difficult job but you don't have to do it alone. You may be eligible for The Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program that may be able to provide up to \$595.00 to reimburse family caregivers for the cost of respite care.

For more information on the program or to receive an application:

Visit- <https://vda.virginia.gov/vlrw.htm>

Call- Liza White at (804) 662-7650 or toll free at (800) 552-3402

Email- liza.white@dars.virginia.gov

ARE YOU CARING FOR A LOVED ONE WITH A DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION?



Could you use a temporary break?

The Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program may provide up to \$595.00 to reimburse family caregivers for the cost of respite care.

- Do you live in Virginia?
- Are you the Primary Caregiver?
- Does the person you care for have a documented disability or medical condition?

You may be eligible for this program!

For more information on the program or to receive an application:

Visit- <https://vda.virginia.gov/vlrw.htm>

Call- Liza White at (804) 662-7650 or toll free at (800) 552-3402

Email- liza.white@dars.virginia.gov



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Division for Community Living
1610 Forest Avenue Suite 100
Henrico, Virginia 23229
(804) 662-7650

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Phone: 434-220-4596

E-Mail:

thebridgelineplace@outlook.com

Click on the links below to follow us on Social Media!

Website: <https://www.thebridgeline.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeLineCville> and <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeLinePlace>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheBridgeLine>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/the_bridgeline/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/buildingbridgescvill>



CLUBHOUSE WISHLIST & SUPPORTING THE BRIDGE-LINE PLACE

There are many ways that you can support the BridgeLine Place to continue to provide a community based clubhouse program to people living in the Charlottesville area. We depend on community supporters in so many ways especially now during these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 Pandemic!

All monetary donations to the clubhouse are used for program supplies, activities of the clubhouse, or your specific designation how the funds be utilized. Your donations can be mailed to the address listed at the top of this page.

If you prefer to donate a specific item, here are some suggestions:

- * Paper products—paper towels or toilet paper
- * Single use masks
- * CDC approved hand sanitizer and soap
- * Cleaning supplies



Wishlist