

## From Our Offices



Left to right: Sarah Clay, Sharon Osborne, Linda Long, Adolph Gordon, Beverly Sturgill.

This month we continue our overview of HOME CARE offices throughout the state with a look into the Lenoir office and its Mental Health Division. This office provides a variety of mental health and DD services, including CAP-MR-DD services, Targeted Case Management, Community Support, Personal Assistance and Developmental Therapy. We also work closely with other providers and can provide Comprehensive Evaluations and Medication Management as well as quickly schedule therapy with one of several clinicians. This past November, we expanded our services to include Supported Employment through Vocational Rehabilitation. We use the Job Coach model of supported employment in order to most fully integrate people into the community.

**Adolph Gordon** is the Regional Manager for the office. A graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College, Adolph has lived in Hickory since 1986. Adolph started with HOME CARE as a Clinical Supervisor over 6½ years ago and has more than 17 years experience in mental health. Among his prior positions, he served CrossRoads Behavioral Healthcare as a Case Manager and Case Management Supervisor. He enjoys playing golf and spending time with friends attending sporting events.

**Linda Long** has been with HOME CARE almost 3 years, for the most part supervising and providing Community Support Services. She will also be supervising the Supported Employment program. Linda was raised in Minnesota, where she earned a BS in Therapeutic Recreation and Psychology. She has a long history of working with children and families in a wide variety of settings, from outdoor adventure programs to group homes to DSS. Linda has been married for 22 years and has two teenagers at home and one in college in Wilmington. In her spare time she loves to spend time outdoors, gardening, kayaking and

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## News from the Mental Health Division

### Employee Spotlight

**Petra Irene Gary** has been with HOME CARE Management Corporation since April 2004. Petra has proven to be a dependable, responsible, dedicated employee and takes pride in her work. The consumers Petra works with have made great progress since she began working with them. She incorporates creative ways to help them work on meeting their goals and desires.

Petra has many years of experience in human services, working as a Habilitation Technician, CBS worker, CAP Trainer and Vocational Rehabilitation worker since her arrival in America.

Petra was born and raised in Germany, where much of her family remains. She moved to the United States in 1986, and spent the next two years learning to speak English fluently. Petra has an Associates Degree in Show Window Decorating in Germany and worked in décor for nine years. Petra plans to continue her education and earn a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in order to enhance her dream of working with children with mental health disabilities.

Petra is the proud mother of two sons and one grandchild, and loves animals; she has two cats, one garden snake and three dogs: "one rotten Rot and two pitiful Pits." Petra also has a passion for motorcycles, traveling, young people, her Christian faith and her church family.

### Client Spotlight

**Myles** has been receiving CBRS from HOME CARE since February 2008. He also receives Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy services. Our CBRS staff, **Dawn**, made an instant connection with Myles and has helped him reach



many goals. His development has increased significantly since he started services: he can now communicate his wants and needs through signing, gestures, and verbal communication. In fact, he has come so far that he performs many tasks above age level!

Myles' mother, Rachel, describes her son as follows: "Myles has hundreds of fabulous qualities, just one of them happens to be an extra 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome (Down Syndrome). He definitely is extra in the personality department! He is absolutely hilarious and the most loving and friendly little guy you could ever ask for. He is the star of the show everywhere he goes, and is adored by any-

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# What is early intervention, and why is it so important?

Early intervention is the provision of services to children ages birth to three years of age with special needs and to their families. In North Carolina many agencies collaborate to provide these Infant Toddler services.

The objective of early intervention is to help children reach their full potential while addressing developmental concerns as soon as possible. Early intervention is available to assist young children overcome developmental delays or problems associated with an established condition.

The Children's Developmental Services Agency, or CDSA, is responsible for screening and determining eligibility for the services. The eligibility definition states that children from birth to age three are eligible for early intervention services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) if they meet one of these criteria:

(1) Delay in cognitive, physical, communication, social, emotional, or adaptive development); or

(2) Certain established conditions, including genetic disorders, autism, or visual impairment, among others.

The first three years of a child's life constitute a critical period for learning and growth, which is why early intervention is so important. In these early years children learn how to communicate, interact with others, and use their bodies to explore the world. Addressing developmental concerns early greatly impacts a child's ability to reach his or her full potential.

HEMOCARE Management Corporation provides an early intervention service referred to as CBRS (Community Based Rehabilitative Services). We work one on one with young children and their families in the child's home, daycare, or other community settings. CBRS is intended to help correct or reduce further deterioration of skills through hands on treatment and instruction to parents and caregivers. We collaborate with other agencies and therapists to ensure that children and families are receiving the support and services that they need.

If you would like more information on early intervention in North Carolina go to [www.ncei.org](http://www.ncei.org). or contact the CDSA or HEMOCARE office nearest you.



Find more information  
at [www.ncei.org](http://www.ncei.org)

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## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT (Continued from page 1)

one who knows him. I could not have dreamed of a more fun, loving or determined little boy.”

Rachel's experience with Myles has led her to become an advocate for people with disabilities. She leads the Down Syndrome Parent Support Group in Wilmington, which is held monthly at HEMOCARE. She also has participated in HEMOCARE's Client's Rights Committee. We appreciate her determination to help individuals with disabilities. She makes a difference, and not only for her own son.

## Opportunities For Learning

- **Gangs: A Growing Concern in Our Backyard**, Forest City, July 17, 2-4 p.m.
- **Gang of One-Part 2**, Locust, June 15, 9-11 a.m.
- **Behavioral Interventions**, Locust, Aug. 12, 2-4 p.m.
- **Broken Bonds - Attachment Issues**, Lenoir, Aug. 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Community Support in the School**, Forest City, Aug. 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Working with Disturbed Children and Adolescents**, Locust, Sept. 16, 2-4 p.m.
- **Personality Disorders - Problems with Functioning in Society**, Lenoir, Sept. 16, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.
- **Developmental Disabilities**, Forest City, Sept. 23, 2-4 p.m.

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## Anniversaries

We salute all long-time HEMOCARE employees, but especially those who started with us 5 or more years ago this month. **Dionne Gaither** of Statesville and **Wendell Hardie** of our Whiteville office are celebrating their 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary, while **Shenita Bridges** of Statesville has been with us 8 years and **Brenda Williams**, also from the Statesville office, began 6 years ago. Quite a few are celebrating their 5th anniversary: **Jennie Bowen**, **Cathy Cruz**, and **Petra Gary** of the Forest City office, **Zilphia Collier** of Whiteville, **Thresia Hallam**, **Wayne Harwell**, and **Ray-Shell Thrasher** of Statesville, **Lisa Overrein** of the Boone office, and **Carol Proctor** of Tarboro. Thanks for all that you do on behalf of those we serve.

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canoeing, and hiking and camping.

**Sharon Osborn** came to work with us in September, 2007 as our Administrative Assistant. A native of Lenoir, she has a BS in Business Administration from Appalachian State. Prior to joining HEMOCARE, Sharon spent more than 20 years in non-profit and public agency administration. She is married and has two children, a daughter who will start college this fall and a son who will be a sophomore in high school.

**Beverly Sturgill** is a relative newcomer to HEMOCARE. She holds a BS in Human Services from Gardner-Webb and an MA from Lenoir-Rhyne in Agency and School Counseling. Her prior experience includes 5 years as a Director for Omni Visions working with adults with mental illness and MR/DD and 5 years with CrossRoads Behavioral Healthcare working with Willie M boys. She was born in Wilkes County and still lives there with her fiancé and her 3 children, Olivia (3 years old), Isabel (22 months) and Benjamin (5). Her hobbies include snow skiing, hiking and deer hunting.

**Sarah Clay** is the newest addition to the office. She has a BS in Child Development from Appalachian State and has 3 years of mental health experience in Caldwell and Burke Counties. She's the crafty one in the office, sewing, scrapbooking, making jewelry and currently learning to make gourd baskets.