

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

September 2021

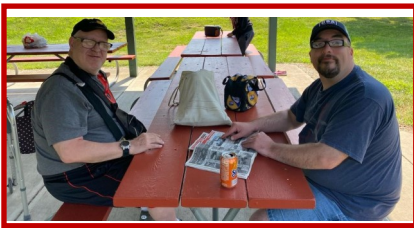
RT Industries

Community Engagement Department News



2021 has been another year of changes at RT, in both our service delivery and service coordination. Historically, 'ADS' has been the language used for the traditional day services model. While ADS remains the official billing code and service type, we strive to use more accurate terms for what we provide now, as well as what we will evolve into for the future. The Community Engagement department provides individualized services in small community-based groups as well as services and supports based in the RT building. Our focus continues to be providing a fun, meaningful day while empowering community relationships and experiences that lead to growth.

Creating Connections - Community Based Services



Currently, 16 individuals utilize RT's Community-Based services (billed as ADS-STEP). In groups of four with one Community Engagement Specialist, they plan their days together based on shared interests, outcomes and goals. Each group is in the community all day which means they have the opportunity to work on problem solving skills regularly to plan around weather and other obstacles that may force a change in their plans.

Meaningful Day Supports - Center-Based Services

For those who prefer the predictability of being in the RT building, we offer a more traditional day support option. Presently, 36 individuals are participating in this type of service, dispersed between 3 groups located around the building. The groups are staffed with 2-3 Direct Support Specialists, allowing for more individualized connections. Community integration remains part of the overall service, paired with skill development and opportunities for growth.



Transportation Services



RT still operates a fleet of vehicles, both modified and non-modified. With the focus on smaller groups, we have shifted away from traditional buses. We currently have 14 passenger mini-buses, modified and non-modified minivans, MV-1's and 2 cars. Vehicles are used to transport people for RT day and employment services. At this time, we are not able to provide NMT to those outside RT services but it's our hope to once again offer that service in the future.

Service Coordination



Another exciting change in the Community Engagement Department is the leadership restructuring. All ADS and ADS-STEP service coordination is now done by Cheryl Thompson, Community Engagement Coordinator. All Transportation services, fleet management and staff supervision is done by Stefanie Sowry, Community Engagement & Logistics Coordinator. We're hopeful to continue slowly increasing enrollment options.



NEW Lead Community Engagement Specialist

Part of the focus on quality improvement was creating a Lead Community Engagement Specialist position to collaborate with employees providing ADS and ADS-STEP. We're excited to have Brittany Kerr as the Lead CES; she brings her years of experience and creative thinking to this role.

Explore. Empower. Engage.