

Cypress Hills Ability Centres, Inc.: Exploring Alternatives

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Project Summary

- Cypress Hills Ability Centres Inc. (CHACI), established in 1989, provides vocational and residential services to persons with developmental and/or multiple disabilities in Shaunavon, Swift Current, and surrounding area. CHACI's vocational day programs are designed to strengthen participants' pre-vocational and vocational skills. CHACI also assists Saskatchewan Association Rehabilitation Centres in the administration and operation of a provincial beverage container recycling program, along with leftover paint and electronics recycling, and paper shredding. CHACI's residential services (e.g., Houston House and Shaunavon Group Home) enable adults with intellectual and/or multiple disabilities live as independently as possible in a supportive family-like environment in the local community. Finally, CHACI provides transit services to and from school, work, or medical appointments for persons with physical disabilities and/or a history of mental health issues.
- CHACI is looking at the feasibility of expanding its programs and services to meet even further the needs of persons with cross disabilities. It is likely that there are persons with cross disabilities in Swift Current and the South West Region who are either not receiving services or traveling to Saskatoon to receive them. It is important to identify these people and determine their needs, along with industry trends regarding options for vocational training.
- Using a participatory action research approach, this project will develop an understanding of the operations at Cypress Hills Ability Centres Inc. by identifying the characteristics of the clients whom the organization is currently serving. Researchers will also attempt to identify the needs of persons with cross disabilities not attending CHACI, as well as services offered by and opinions of social services, disability organizations, marginalized groups, education councilors, youth groups, and government agencies to identify gaps in service, potential alliances, and possible funding sources. The goal is to fill gaps in service rather than duplicate a service already operating successfully elsewhere.

Community Partner: Cypress Hills Ability Centres Inc. / Swift Current Abilities Council

Term of Project: Winter/Summer 2008



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