

alliance house

Clubhouse Chronicle

February 2007

WORLD EDITION

Volume 10, Issue 2

A long-standing partner with Valley Mental Health and United Way, a non-profit agency



Members and staff on opening day January 1987.

Alliance House Celebrates 20 years of Changing Lives: The Founding

By Jan Nelson, Co-Founder

The story of the founding of Alliance House is dear to the hearts of the founders, including board members, staff and members.

When I served as secretary of the Utah affiliate of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, we conducted a survey of the parents of the mental health consumers in the state. One

question was: What are the greatest unmet needs of your mentally ill loved one? The result was definitive: affordable housing, more effective medication, a job. A job?

We knew of only one client of the mental health system, the son of one of the Salt Lake Alliance for the Mentally Ill members, who worked off and on as a dish washer in a local restaurant.

The officers of the Salt Lake Chapter of UAMI went to the

director of the county system, which had recently become Valley Mental Health, a non-profit corporation, sole-service provider of mental health services for the Salt Lake County, with the question, "What do you have in place to meet the needs specified in this survey?" He described the large system that he called a smorgasbord of programs, including impressive housing options. We felt that he was correct in claiming a solid program for administering the array of pharmaceuticals available at the time. But, a job? Well, he pointed to the small skill building groups available for

clients of the system in the day treatment program our sons were involved in. But jobs? He did not say, but we knew that the presumption of most professionals in those dark ages was that most mentally ill people were unemployable.

At the next meeting of the Alliance Chapter Mary Fraser, who was Community Relations Director for the Utah State Division of Mental Health, brought a videotape about Wallingford House in Seattle, Washington. Wallingford House was one of the pioneer program of what was then called The Fountain House Model (FH). Mary had worked there and had become an advocate for this 'revolutionary way of providing real help for those who had serious mental illness.'

Three of us who watched the film that night were mothers of young adult clients of Salt Lake County's mental health system: Jeanne Christensen, Bernadette Velick, and Jan Nelson. We shed a few tears, expressing our surprise at the marked difference in attitudes and procedures from what we had observed at the day treatment program we had been hoping would help our children reconstruct their lives. I went home and told my husband that we had to move to Seattle, so our son Eric could become a member of Wallingford House. His response became a moving force in the days ahead. He

gently said, "You know that we can't move the family business to Seattle; you need to find out how to start a Wallingford House in Salt Lake. Do it, and I'll back you all the way." He and other members of the Alliance Chapter made good on the pledge.

We three mothers went to Mary Fraser for guidance and learned that the 3rd International Seminar on the Fountain House model was to be held shortly in New York City and that Craig Brown, the deputy director of Valley Mental Health, was also knowledgeable about 'the model' and might be interested in attending with us. The reason that I include all this is that we simply couldn't fully appreciate, at that time, the rare serendipity of this kind of moral support from state and county mental health providers right from the beginning. We were fortunate. And we were committed.

We went to New York to the seminar. We heard a member of Fountain House present at the first plenary. He talked about the non-hierarchical workday at Fountain House, where members worked side by side with staff as colleagues, instead of patients. He was very bright and very persuasive. We openly wept at the employment dinner that night, where members discussed their work issues and the great feeling of accomplishment in their Transitional Employment Placements. Perhaps the most impressive element in what we were witnessing was the inherent dignity that is at the heart of this model.

The next day we attended a workshop called, "How to Start a Fountain House Model Program," presented by a couple who were founders of Independence Center in St. Louis, Missouri. We
Clubhouse Chronicle

can home with a little 'How-to' paper. The first task on the 'to-do' list was: "Create a Board of Directors." The paper provided a formula for success: "Recruit an attorney; two prominent business men; a public relations specialist; a real estate agent and a family member of a client of the mental health system, who would have 'gut-level loyalty' to the model..."

We figured that we were ahead of the game because there were three of us mothers with new, but passionate gut-level loyalty to the model. The wonderful attorney we soon recruited as a board member was managing her own bi-polar disorder with medications and private counseling. One of the prominent businessmen is still an emeritus member of our board and the other is a generous benefactor. And the rest is history.

The new board quickly became tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation. Mary Fraser from the State Division and Craig Brown from Valley Mental Health became ex-officio members of the board, meeting with the board on a regular basis. Our first start-up grant was a three-year diminishing grant from the Governor's Board of People with Disabilities. It was a start. We began to look for space and soon found a wonderful, filthy old former fire station on Main Street, accessible to public transportation.



We went to a meeting of the

newly incorporated board of directors of Valley Mental Health. I have to chuckle to think of it now. What we said, in effect, was 'We need your help. We know how to replicate an established model of psychosocial rehabilitation, so we don't need to be told how to proceed. We do not really want to be located in or near one of your programs, so we will have our own space. We want to hire the best executive director to be found, but we haven't a benefit package to attract a person of that experience. Perhaps you could help us with that. We are incorporated and have an excellent board of directors, and we think you may be able to advise us as to how to procure insurance protection for our board members.'

I believe the chairman of the board actually gasped. There were a few raised eyebrows and an awkward silence. It was presumptuous proposal. Dr. David Dangerfield, Executive Director of Valley Mental Health, asked for the floor and 'saved the day'. In effect he said " What these people may ultimately be offering is to provide the rehabilitation arm that...we need. I think that we would make a mistake not to investigate the feasibility of their proposal."

The resulting specific arrangement, by written consent, was that Valley Mental Health would provide salary and supervision for one and one-half staff positions, including their wonderful benefit package for staff, which we coveted. They would also provide officers and directors' insurance equal to that of their own board. We would pay a modest amount for administrative overhead. It was to be a partnership. The contract included a divorce clause (faulty

Clubhouse Chronicle

Alliance House is a member of the International Center for Clubhouse Development...

... a global network creating opportunities for people living with mental illness to be respected members of society.

Alliance House provides...

...A guaranteed right to a place to come. A guaranteed right to meaningful relationships. A guaranteed right to meaningful work. A guaranteed right to a place to return.

Contributors: Duncan Macdonald, Jeremy Christensen, Carla Marjerison, Betsy Ogden, B Robinson, Ted Echols, Eleisha Hewes, Tracy Park, Amber Weber, Kent Palmer,

Contributing Editors: Duncan Macdonald, Betsy Ogden, Brooke Baltazar, Collette Soffe, Paul Retz, Collette Soffe, Jessica Olsen, Eleisha Hewes, Sue Hanson, Jeremy Christensen

Subscription Mailing and

Phones: Alliance House Business Unit, 1724 South Main Street Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
www.alliancehouse.org
801-486-5012
FAX 801-466-5077

Reprints: Permission to reprint material from CC is hereby granted, except in the case of art, fiction, and poetry. Please provide appropriate credit and supply a copy of the reprint to the address above.

but famous in the clubhouse world) which provided for Alliance House Inc to opt out of the contract in Valley infringed in any substantive way on the integrity of the philosophy of the model, and for Valley to opt out if Alliance House failed to provide adequate psychosocial rehabilitation for their clients, which was their term for our members.

Dr. Dangerfield served on the hiring committee for our director, acting as facilitator of process with a white board and markers,

Alliance House

after the interviewing process. The most important single criteria was a 'fierce' loyalty to the FH philosophy. We had several qualified applicants, including the directory of one of the established clubhouses in the eastern U.S. who came to Utah for the interview. We were fortunate to have Margaret Currin, an experienced director of the FH model, in October of 1986. Valley offered her a fine private office. She declined, setting up shop with an orange crate, a folding chair and a telephone in our dear old fire station, and worked out a time line while helping Alliance House board members and volunteers from Valley units and the Alliance Chapter to wash years of tobacco smoke from the interior brick walls and filthy, lofty ceilings. She selected a cadre of about ten members; we opened our doors in January of 1987.



The rest is history. We started our first TEP at Pizza Hut that first year while still having only Margaret and one other part time staff. My claim to fame is that I learned that job and trained Kevin Chambers, with Velva Peterson as a back-up. One of the best days of my life was Kevin's first payday at Pizza Hut. Margaret and board members met him as he left work with his first paycheck. Alliance House is a work in progress. We acknowledge our good luck and the "whole stream of unforeseen incidents and assistance which we could not have dreamed would come our way." (Goethe)

Standard of the Month



Standard #31

By Eleisha Hewes

With the holidays coming to an end I would like to discuss standard #31. This standard has played a big part in many lives during this chaotic but festive time. It states "The clubhouse has recreational and social programs during evenings and on weekends. Holidays are celebrated on the actual day they are observed."

We all enjoy are normal routine of going to a movie or staying in and playing a mean game of Rummikub every Thursday and Saturday. This is important for us all (member and staff) to get to know each other outside of the typical workday. We can let our hair down and truly enjoy the fun side of the Alliance House community. For many members this is one of the few times they get out of their houses and socialize with others. The recreation program also allows many members to experience many exciting adventures such as riding the Snowbird tram, playing in sports, or going to a sporting event to name a few. The members would not be able to do these activities with the help of Alliance House because of their finances. We also look forward to after hour activities on Thursdays Saturdays because we love to get out and have fun

while we are getting to know other members and strengthen the Alliance House Family.

One very special part I would like to emphasize with the holidays having gone by is the fact that Clubhouse spends the holidays together. We had a beautiful dinner with over 20 members and 2 staff on Christmas day. This was the greatest gift to many members, because some had no other place to go. The members did not have to feel alone because they had somewhere to go. We did this also for Thanksgiving, which was a wonderful dinner.

This part of the Clubhouse is just as essential as all the other parts. We need to have fun and enjoy life to its fullest with those around us. This standard allows us to do that. We can have fun while we work, then we can have a blast after. We are blessed by this standard because it gives us all a chance to move outside the work environment and have some fun like true family and friends.

Employment Spotlight

**Employment Spotlight
By Cindy Wood & Amber
Weber**

We're excited this month to introduce Jeff Hoven who is fairly a new member of Alliance House. He just started a Transitional Employment Placement at Squatters. Jeff was born in Mandan North Dakota and has lived here in Utah for 7 years. He came here to Utah to be close to his family and look for a better job..

We asked Jeff what brought him to Alliance House where he stated, "My therapist strongly suggested coming for employment opportunities." We also asked Jeff what makes his job interesting and he replied, "I meet different people everyday. I love to joke around with the servers. Nicest co-workers I have had to date." Jeff also thinks his co-workers at Squatters are very friendly and easy to get along with. "I haven't met a bad one yet."

Because T.E.P. has placement management support, we asked Jeff how he felt about his placement managers Jeremy and Sue he said, "They are easy to get a hold of. They are helpful because they were easy to train with. If I can't cover the shift or need help with the shift, I have back up and it helps me not to worry about my job so much."

Jeff's favorite task at Squatters is helping the servers, put out menus, fill salt and pepper shakers and sugar containers. Jeff stated that his least favorite task is, "Cleaning the table legs."

Jeff gives credit for participating at Alliance House as part of what prepared him for his T.E.P. at Squatters. In the future Jeff sees himself going on to college for auto technology or restaurant management hopefully in the fall by 2007. Jeff also wants to get as many job references as he can so he can find his own employment.

We welcome Jeff to Alliance House and wish him good luck with his future employment and education endeavors.

Clubhouse Insider

**By Duncan Macdonald &
Sue Hanson**

Happy New Year!!!!

Alliance House had a marvelous Christmas holiday with a plethora of festivities.

It all began with our Christmas party on Friday, December 22nd. We had seventy-five members who attended this annual celebration. We spent a lot of time playing game. Our new Alliance House choir did a fantastic job for their first performance. They sang many memorable Christmas carols for the membership with the great leadership of our volunteer choir director, Bonnie Weber. The Goodwill Band, our favorite performers, did a splendid job playing Christmas carols for us that warmed many hearts with their great tunes. . We gave one of our volunteers, Barb DeBoer, who has been our volunteer haircutter for thirteen years. The house presented her a throw blanket with her initial on it and a gift certificate to Citrus Grill for fine dining. The day wrapped up with a visit from Santa Claus (our terrific volunteer, John Cox), who gave out some wonderful gifts to the members.

On Christmas Day, Monday December 25th, there was an admirable turnout for the day's activity with 26 members. We had a tasty dinner including ham, potatoes and other delicious items. Eric Hanson, our assistant director' s husband, did a great job of playing the piano for us. Alliance House gave our tutor, Laurie Bryant, her gift certificate and throw. Laurie comes in weekly and tutors some of our members who are going for their high school diplomas and also

Alliance House

runs our Book Club. A special thanks to Bonnie Weber, David Weber and Sarah Weber for all their dedication in preparing for our Christmas festivities. We would also would like to thank Sue's neighbors, Toni and Steve Harmon, for the beautiful gifts that they put together for all the members to have on Christmas day. This is the third year they have been so generous to Alliance House.

Alliance House is extremely excited to celebrate 20 years of service to our membership. We opened our doors on January 5, 1987. We are jazzed to have all of our founders, family members, members, past and present board directors and Valley Mental Health employees attend January 11 from 5:30 to 7:30. We are planning on having the Salt Shakers, who helped with the ribbon cutting 20 years ago, come and give a brief performance. We hope to see many of you there.

Education Spotlight Brett Williams

by

Dennis Card and Carla Marjerison

Brett joined the Career Development Unit a short time ago. Brett achieved his high school diploma in the past; his current goal is to improve his educational skills and increase his motivation so that he can eventually return to college. Right now, Brett works at Big Five Sporting Goods, however his dream is to secure a job in the future that sparks his interest and develops his talents.

Brett grew up among a happy family in Salt Lake City with two sisters and a brother. Some of

Alliance House

his interests are playing sports – he'd rather be a player than an observer – and spending time outdoors. He enjoys animals, art and dirt bike riding.

During his traditional school experience, Brett shares that although he enjoyed participating, he was quite shy and lacked confidence in his abilities. He felt that school was unfair, but necessary. "The great thing about Alliance House," Brett says, is that you can work "at your own pace and you have people for support and friendship." He appreciates that fact that the inclusion and participation of each member's abilities and gifts is a priority. He has already supported the work units by making greeting cards, grading some assignments and working in the Culinary Unit.

Amber Weber shares that Brett is very easy to get to know and incredibly helpful in our unit. Our only complaint is that all the t's in his name, Brett, leaves less t's in the alphabet for the rest of us. We are so glad to have him as an addition to the Education Program.

Business Unit Update



By Betsy Ogden

Welcome Archie Peterson and Brett Hanson.

Brooke has moved to the Career Development Unit and now works on the Supported Employment and Independent Employment.

We have a new staff member in our unit and her name is Jessica Olsen. We want to give her a big welcome because she has her Masters Degree in social work. She also is originally from Logan Utah. Jessica has lots of experience with her that she is going to share. She has worked for the Hawaii clubhouse for two years. Also the clubhouse in Brigham City Utah for five years. We hope she loves working with us here.

CD UNIT UPDATE

The Career Development Unit welcomes Greg Chandler. Greg's immediate goal is to participate in our high school program and earn his diploma. Welcome, Greg. Come in early and often.

Jeff Hoven has accepted the Transitional Employment Placement at Squatter's Pub. He started work on 11 December and early returns show he is doing very well at it. Meanwhile, Jeff Van Fleet began work on the Group TE at Nutty Guy's. Congratulations to both of you. Don't forget we're here for any support you may need.

Tracy Park was accepted at Salt Lake Community College and begins classes in early January. Tracy plans on taking accounting courses and either earning a certificate or possibly transferring to the University of Utah to earn a bachelor's degree. Either way, Tracy is sure to make us proud.

Congratulations to Taddese Wilson, Kathy Meals and

Elizabeth Bécar. These three Alliance House members graduated from the Community Computer Education Program on 15 December. Besides the valuable skills they've learned, each member will receive a free computer. The next session for CCEP will begin on 3 January.

Starting next year, we will combine our Education Teas and Employment Spotlights. The meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM and will focus on one student member and one working member. Please join us one and all to celebrate the achievements of your fellow members.

The second Alliance House Education Dinner was held 20 December, just before the Winter Solstice. This was written on 15 December, so I really have no idea of what transpired; I assume a good time was had by all.

Cox's Corner

By John Cox

I have been asked to shed some light on how I feel about all the work I do as the Valley Villa mailman person and work in general.

Well, even my favorite job in mechanics has no Job security.....I feel. But since I found a job in janitorial sanitation has Job security because everyone needs a janitor. Due to past problems with energies, any kind of work brings me pain. Sometimes, even walking hurts. The problem comes from my

enjoyment of doing a job well done.

My present doctor is trying to find an answer to the problem so I may be able to go back work??

I really love your support

Thank You

J. Cox

Jeremy's Sound byte



By

Jeremy Christensen
Executive Director

So... Happy New Year! Great things await Alliance House in 2007. We have an Ambitious schedule. It includes 2 new staff hired this week to help accommodate our ever-growing membership and program growth. In the Career Development Unit we have a new staff, Brooke Baltazar, will be primarily focused on increasing supported and independent employment. In our Culinary Unit we are excited to welcome back Lynn Sorenson, who will be focused largely in the snack bar, with health and wellness with our membership.

Our Board of Directors has welcomed Larry Goldsmith as our new President, Ken Verdoia as our new Vice President, and Julie Tanner as our Treasurer. They are all passionate and dedicated and inspiring!

We will be going to an international clubhouse seminar in Milwaukee, sending a staff and member to St. Louis for a 2 week clubhouse training session, sending a staff and a member to New York to be trained as international clubhouse faculty and a team to Florida Board members and staff to continue training in "Benevon," a cultivation system of fundraising. Busy, busy, busy! All these in an effort to better serve members and potential new members at Alliance House to achieve their goals! We are also working hard toward reopening our international training base to hopefully start training other clubhouses in the clubhouse objective starting early 2008.

So off we go, increasing community contacts, expanding service capacity, increasing our ability to serve unfunded and private pay adults with mental illness and continuing to serve as many adults with mental illness who have Medicaid with the highest quality possible.

Thanks to everyone, members, staff, board members and community partners for such a great 2006 and we look forward to an even greater 2007!

January Birthdays



1 st	Debi Coates
2 nd	"B"
4 th	Arthur Hart
4 th	Jennie Gates
5 th	Ree Bedford
5 th	Karla Laing
7 th	Taddese Wilson
7 th	Jasmen Tahmassian
7 th	Jeff Stayton
9 th	Trista Schroeder
10 th	Alliance House
14 th	Samara Harbold
14 th	Kathe Lessley
14 th	Sue Hanson
18 th	Sherry Buck
20 th	Carol Tannenbaum
21 st	Cathrerine Pond
23 rd	Tracy Bankhead
23 rd	Christopher Doengers
24 th	Chris A. Callister
29 th	Linda Peterson
29 th	Robyn Volking

**DID YOU
KNOW**

**THIS IS THE
MONTH
ALLIANCE
HOUSE
CELEBRATES
ITS
20TH
BIRTHDAY!**

**WE ARE
INDEBTED
TO THOSE THAT
HAVE MADE
ALLIANCE
HOUSE THE
PLACE THAT IT
IS AND
ENRICHED BY
THOSE THAT
ARE MAKING**

**IT THE PLACE IT
IS TODAY!**

January Activities



18 th	Heart and Soul
20 th	Tubing at Soldier Hollow
25 th	Karaoke Night

25 th	January Birthday
27 th	Dollar movies



Alliance House
1724 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
USA

