

APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

DAY PHONE: _____

EVE PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Optional

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU ARE AFFILIATED
OR HOW YOU LEARNED ABOUT
THE SMRC FAMILY AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

FAMILY MEMBER OF SMRC CLIENT

FRIEND OF CLIENT/CLIENT FAMILY

SMRC EMPLOYEE

SMRC VOLUNTEER

Please complete and mail with \$5.00
membership dues to:

SMRC FAMILY & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
1170 WEST RAILROAD ST
LONG BEACH MS 39560-4199

MEMBERSHIP

The SMRC Family and Friends Association is open to any adult already networking with SMRC in programs at Long Beach or in any of its seven community sites or who is interested in the services and activities of South Mississippi Regional Center.

Family members—immediate and extended, guardians, professionals and community persons are invited to join the association.

Annual dues are \$5.00. An association newsletter as well as the South Mississippi Regional Center newsletter are sent to members. An invitation is also extended to members to join activities and events hosted by South Mississippi Regional Center.

For additional information, call:

Office of the Director — 228-867-1302.

GOALS

The SMRC Family and Friends Association is a non-profit organization of families and other adults interested in the services and activities of South Mississippi Regional Center. Its purposes are to promote understanding of intellectual and other developmental disabilities and the services of SMRC, to advise and aid families of people with developmental disabilities, to share information and to encourage volunteer activities on behalf of the Center.

The Association is noted for its telephone network, designed to give immediate response to state and federal legislation directly or indirectly affecting persons with developmental disabilities.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL CENTER



News & Views



SOUTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL CENTER
FAMILY & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
1170 WEST RAILROAD STREET
LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI 39560-4199



Note from President Pamela Emrick

I pray this newsletter finds everyone in good health. The next meeting of SMRC Family & Friends will be held on Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 pm in the Burgess Conference Room, Long Beach Campus.

SMRC hosted a Legislative Open House Thursday, August 31, thank you for the support and advocacy from family members who attended. Ms. Brown reported the Open House was a success. SMRC welcomed Chairman of Appropriations John Read, Representatives Richard Bennett, Greg Haney, Scott Delano, Carolyn Crawford, and Doug McLeod. Senator Mike Seymour visited and toured the day before. Ms. Brown stated she was thankful for the interest and support of these members of our State Legislature; however, our advocacy efforts must continue. If you see your senators and representatives out in the community or plan to give them a call, Ms. Brown encourages you to please invite them to visit and tour SMRC programs.

SMRC and the Department of Mental Health have Facebook pages. SMRC's Facebook page has the upcoming events and staff celebrations. DMH Facebook page is administered through Central Office in Jackson and provides updates to our state citizens of happenings in the realm of mental health. If you use social media, we encourage you to follow these Facebook pages and share the good news that is posted at the sites. The official names of the pages are "Mississippi Department of Mental Health" and "South Mississippi Regional Center @SMRCNews."

Family & Friends Upcoming Schedule:

October Campus Work Day

November 19 meeting

November—Holiday Raffle Tickets

December—Celebrating the Holidays

SMRC Upcoming events:

Contact Denise Christmas-Wallace to sign up to be a part of SMRC's Team for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk which will be held Saturday, October 21 at Biloxi Town Green. The walk will begin at 9 am.

*Order your SMRC Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt. Orders must be received and paid for by September 15. Prices S-XL \$12 and 2XL-up \$15.

*SMRC Pink Parade—Friday, October 20 at 9 am

*SMRC Pink Party —Friday, October 20 following the parade

If you would like to purchase a t-shirt, volunteer for the Pink Parade or Pink Party, contact Brittany Parish at 867.1345 or email bparish@smrc.ms.gov.

Direct Support Professional Month

Direct support professionals are an essential element of SMRC. Through daily experiences, there are many rewards for the direct support professional. These staff provide daily training to the individuals we serve. This training and care is comprised of assisting with the activities of daily living. Over time, this enables our individuals to develop skills which leads to greater independence and self-directed lives. Achievement of such skills, often allow the people we serve to become contributors to their community as well. The direct support professionals at SMRC, both campus and in the community, care about the individuals we serve. Many of the staff have been employed for many years and have become like family. They provide support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Bonding is inevitable for both the staff and the people served. Below are some comments shared by the Direct Care staff. We know that "Teamwork Makes The Dream Work." Glenda J. McMillon, Client Services Director

"I have learned to have patience when working with people no matter what. People want to be heard and seen. A few minutes of your time could change a persons life, whether it is the people we serve or our co-workers. We all have something to say. This job has inspired me to have patience with others." Cheryl Clark

"The most rewarding aspect of my job as a DCW is first walking in the door and seeing the smiles on the peoples faces and to hear how their day went and what to look forward to for the rest of the day." Connie Hart

"The most important thing I do as a Direct Care worker is Serving the people I work for. Teaching them how to do things that they may need to live by themselves one day." Brandy Whatley

"The most important thing we do as Direct Care is caring for our people, providing quality care for them, protecting them and educating them." Roshundia Kendrick

"Knowing that I am helping to put smiles on the people we serve faces" is the most rewarding aspect of my job as a Direct Care Worker." Tawana Swain

Ms. Brown honored at the Success Women's Conference

SMRC's Director Lori Brown recently received a leadership award from Lighthouse Business and Professional Women. The group's mission is to unite professional women, support business and community relationships, and provide leadership skills and networking opportunities. Among the 37 nominees for 2017 were doctors, entrepreneurs, casino executives, presidents of companies and directors of area nonprofits. Ms. Brown was the winner of the Military/Government category.



For additional information, contact Pamela Emrick at 601.268.3490