

Asotin County Community Services Employment Newsletter

Serving the Lewis-Clark Valley since 1973

All people living, working, learning and playing in a community based on abilities, not disabilities.

Our phone number: (509) 758-8349; Our website: www.asotincommunityservices.com

April 2017 Edition Designed by Vanessa Lombard; Edited by Cynthia Tierney

ACCS Diversity Project

In July of this year Asotin County Community Services will host surveyors from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Through the survey experience, we take an in-depth look at the policies and procedures that shape how we go about providing high quality, supported employment services. If CARF likes what they find, we'll be accredited for another 3 years. Accreditation inspires potential for additional funding and increased services.

Our diversity project (pictured right), was created with CARF's visit in mind. CARF looks for variety of culture (diversity) in every agency they survey. The wall will not be complete until we add old photos, artifacts and even written histories from staff and customers, so that a true picture of our diversity emerges. Please consider participating by loaning us a piece of your family's history. For more information, please call Cynthia Tierney or Paula Reardon at (509) 758-8349.



People First Language

Do the words used to describe *you* have an impact on your life? *You bet!* Contrary to the age-old "sticks and stones" lesson we learned as children, *words do matter!*

For too long, people who happen to have conditions we call "disabilities" have been subjected to devaluation, marginalization, prejudice, and more. And the first way to devalue someone is through language, by using words or labels to identify a person/group as "less-than," as "the other," "not like us," and so forth. Once a person/group has been identified this way, it makes it easier to justify prejudice and discrimination. Our language shapes our attitudes; our attitudes shape our language; they're intertwined. And our attitudes and language *drive our actions!*

Until we learn to appreciate the power of language and the importance of using it responsibly, we will continue to produce negative social consequences for those victimized by dangerous language habits.

J. Dan Rothwell, *Telling It Like It Isn't*:

READ MORE: <https://www.disabilityisnatural.com/people-first-language.html>

Staff Feature



Please welcome our newest staff, Shelly Andrews, pictured with her brother, Terry. She's merged into the fast lane of our business with grace and competence. This month we honor Shelly in her own words.

I'm originally from Southern Oregon, transplanted to WA/Idaho, back to Oregon and now back to Washington. I was not given that special ability to have children, but I have 2 cats that are my kids.

I worked in the administrative and clinical side of the medical field for over 34 years where I feel I fulfilled my dreams in it. I then moved over to the education side by teaching where I fully enjoyed getting my kiddo love in teaching kindergartners. I also have worked as a guardian, sister, teacher and a mentor for the special needs most of my adult life. It is my true passion.

I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in English and elementary education.

I have a passion for arts, cross stitch sewing, ceramics, speed walking, Scottish terriers, fishing and cooking.

Safety Meeting: 1:30PM until 2:30PM on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. A must meeting for anyone working on the levee, social security, or at the Corps.

Advisory group meeting: on May 24, 2017. If you're interested in attending please contact Cynthia Tierney at (509) 758-8349.



Check your Time Sheet: Each month we mail out time sheets with newsletters. Please make sure the hours we recorded match your records. We can correct errors before the checks are printed if you call us by the 27th of the month. If you report errors after the 27th they may not be adjusted until the next pay period.



THE MOST APPROPRIATE LABEL IS
USUALLY THE ONE PEOPLE'S PARENTS
HAVE GIVEN THEM.