

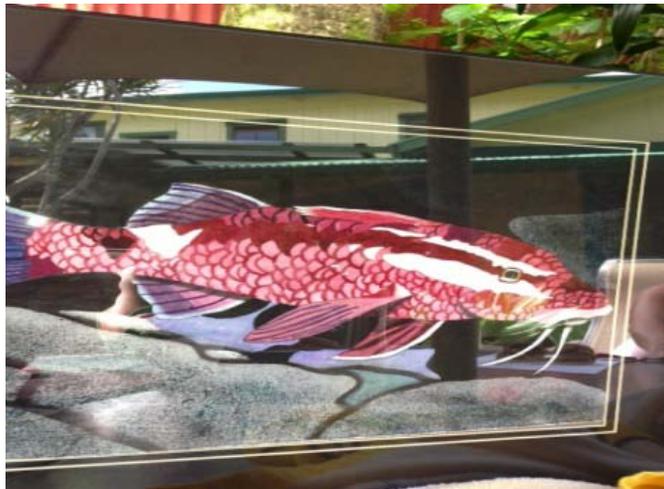


President's Report to the Board

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Meeting Our Mission: Several years ago, the Arc of Kona adopted the arts as a core curriculum. The arts – visual, drama, dance and music – offer a platform for communication and it is communication that is the biggest barrier for the population we serve. This effort began with a couple grants from the University of Hawaii's Center on Disability Studies, when that money ran out we launched our own programs and have had a great deal of success with it. This year alone we have had:

- The AHA arts show in Hilo featuring 4 of our artists work.
- We began using the entire surface of our outdoor storage cupboards as palette's.
- One of our most professional artists from Kohala was featured at his own art opening in Hawi and commissioned to produce an extinct Kumu fish for a film makers fund raiser in Kohala: Look at this quality!



- A weekly Monday Ukulele group led by John Holiday, a volunteer.
- Our own artist in residence, Vicki Akers, leading the group in projects such as creating the characters from the Wizard of Oz and then positioning them along the yellow brick road in our garden area and much, much more.

Another plus for our Participants was the selection of one of our classroom students who was chosen to be the Chair of the West Hawaii Developmental Disabilities Council's Self Advocacy group for the State! Congratulations Joshua Pratt!



Other highlights and proof of success working with the people enrolled in our programs are:

- Surf Day,
- Gardening,
- Once a month full library days that include a special theme each time and lessons surrounding that theme, and
- The Black and White Ball all of which are planned by the class themselves and enjoyed by all.

Our Career Development and Training Center has been very effective, assisting people with all types of disability to find and retain jobs so they can become financially more self-reliant and conversely less dependent on tax payer support. During FY 2013; The Career Center helped 65 individuals make progress towards gainful employment! All of these activities happen in and around goal attainment. Each Participant in any one of the programs has an individual plan customized to maximize strengths and accommodate to limitations. This work is documented and measured to show steady progress. Program delivery is always working towards improving people's lives.

Creating Capacity: The definition of capacity is: actual or potential ability to perform, yield, or withstand. For the Arc of Kona it means growing our knowledge and skill to handle the work given to us to perform. Insuring quality using 'best practices' and keeping our staff on the cutting edge with the latest in training insures quality.

The big story for this year was CARF. CARF stands for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and is our accrediting body. Every 3 years we go through a yearlong cycle that begins in early spring with a Strategic Planning Session with Senior Staff and Board of Directors. Then, in July, we submitted an “Intent to Survey” a very long and complex form that describes our organization in detail and the programs we want to be accredited. It’s also a fairly costly project. Once the Intent is sent to CARF the real work begins at the staff level. Our entire staff is involved as we review all our documents and procedures to make sure we meet the more than 1,000 standards of excellence required to gain accreditation. In October surveyors come to see us in action and in December we get notification. We received our 5th straight maximum 3 year certificate. That means that the Arc of Kona will be accredited through December 2015; fifteen years of continual accreditation! Too add to the thrill and honor of gaining this prestige, The Arc of Kona was honored at the State House of Representatives and then in the Senate Chambers as well. What a day!



We used to be the only Rehabilitation Facility on the big island to receive this honor, but this past year 2 other Rehab Facilities sought accreditation. It’s nice to know that the leadership at Arc of Kona started a trend to ensure quality service provision for all people living with disabilities on this island.

A less successful venture was our outreach to veterans. Arc of Kona began immediately after including Veterans in our Strategic Plan. The effort began in July and continued until the end of the year. I attended many meetings of the Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion, the West Hawaii Veterans Council, the Vet Center and brought the Arc of Kona display to several events. After all that effort, there was virtually no response and the official Veterans Administration was definitely not interested. Without a specific funding source, I realized it was just ‘spinning my wheels’ and

discontinued the effort. And now, well into fiscal year 2014, we finally made a good contact with the Vet representative who can put us in touch with younger vets wishing to go to work. This signifies that our initial investment is beginning to pay off; so all is not lost.

Operationally, we were quite busy this year. We finalized the roof over the concrete slab outside the kitchen and it is lovely! No leaks and so our tables and outside activities are now protected. With our new roof on the main building we were able to secure funds to install 8 photovoltaic panels to help lower our electric bills. We plan to install 4 more panels in the future.



The driveway in Kau at the Activity Center is planned for a re-grade to make driving down it less scary and also the installation of a wheelchair accessible parking spot and ramp to the house. The Arc of Kona was able to get \$20,000 from Hawaii Community Foundation to purchase materials and the US Army Air Corps was going to supply the labor but with the federal sequestration of funding we are now in the process of finding another source of free labor to make it work. Other ongoing projects include mold mitigation in the lower level of this facility and upgrades to the ancient plumbing. To improve our transportation system, the Arc of Kona received a very nice \$10,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Kona to match with funds we had set aside to purchase a brand new van. And, then we applied for a Federal Transportation program to purchase a new wheelchair accessible van that may be delivered sometime in 2016.

Life is not without challenge and accepting Federal, State and local money brings with it plenty of strings and lots of frustration but we have learned to deal with it with a minimum of stress. High on our challenge list this year have been the new regulations surrounding credentialing for all our workers who have contact with this population and the criminal history checks that have converted completely to an on line process that is so rigid it almost always present problems since people usually come with lots of variables. Of course HUD (Housing and Urban Development) continues to treat our Group Home as if it were a major housing project in urban New York City. One of the secrets of the success of this organization is our relatively small but highly efficient Administrative employees who just accept all these conflicting regulations and plow on forward.

The Arc of Kona is proud of its accomplishments and looks forward to another successful year in 2014.