

Reductions in state reimbursements coming

Like many agencies that rely on state money to provide services, ESR is carefully reviewing expenditures in anticipation of revenue reductions this summer.

The state approved a rate reduction of 2.58 percent, which took effect July 1, explained ESR Executive Director Ed Boeve. Additional cuts from the county are likely as it, too, looks for cost saving measures to make up for losses in state revenue. What this means for ESR remains unknown at this point, Boeve said, but it could

Cuts to Page 2

Consumers give back to their community

A group of ESR consumers recently spent some time in the sun picking up trash in a local Stillwater park. The park, known as Autumn Hills, is part of the city's "Adopt-a-Park" program that asks local businesses and individuals to



help keep their adopted park trash-free throughout summer months. After doing their part to help keep their community clean, ESR consumers enjoyed their surroundings with a picnic.

Forest Lake staff, consumers occupy expanded space

Second expansion project planned in Stillwater to address ongoing growth

Hammers and drills have fallen silent in Forest Lake as the expansion project begun earlier this summer is completed.

Those same sounds will soon be heard in the Stillwater

administrative center as ESR begins a second expansion project in response to continuing growth.

"The building owner of the Stillwater site has shown incredible good will in negotiating with us,"

said Ed Boeve, ESR executive director. "The timing and his generous plan to help with costs makes this a project we can't pass up. There is not question we can use

Expansion to Page 3

Agency reaches a milestone as it logs more than 300 people in service

When you hit a milestone that ends in zero, it somehow feels significant.

With this in mind, ESR celebrates reaching an all-time high this summer of serving more than 300 individuals.

"We've been moving closer

to the 300 mark for a number of months," said Sara Hasslen, director of operations, whose duties include admissions to the agency. "This is the summer we finally attained that mark. We're serving 304 people."

ESR's growth has held fairly steady over the last number of years

at about five percent annually.

"Three hundred feels like a significant number," said Hasslen. "There are initiatives going on throughout the agency to meet the individual needs of all those we serve while positioning the agency for continued growth."

From the director

Commitment remains constant in face of growth, reductions in revenue

An ESR staff member recently described the hectic pace of the past several months and said he was hoping for a slow, boring summer from here on out.

It sometimes feels like the world is spinning faster than it used to, and there are times when all of us long for a respite to catch our breath.

It is obvious from reading this issue of ESR-Works that no slowdown is in store around this agency. An expansion and remodeling of the Forest Lake service site is barely complete and we're now planning an even bigger project to combine our central area services and staff in a reconfigured Stillwater location. The demand for services in our communities continues to grow with our consumers-in-service count expected to grow by well over 5 percent during June and July alone this year. Generally our annual

growth has been about 5 percent.

A recent survey of ESR consumers and primary caregivers showed very high satisfaction with our services. I attribute much of this success to the dedication of our staff to first listen to consumers and their families, and then to deliver services that provide the outcomes identified by consumers and the people who care for and about them. The job can be challenging, but staff members don't stop listening and don't stop working to deliver quality services. Surveys show that people who have contact with our staff recognize that effort.

Pressure continues to mount as service rates are cut, service levels come under increased scrutiny, and funding agents search for any possible adjustments in service to reduce their expenditures.

I empathize with local planners who face impossible decisions

in light of legislative actions and recent unallotment cuts by the governor. Our position, however, is to continue advocating for consumers in our service and fighting for adequate revenue needed to support them in achieving community presence and participation.

The cost of finding and keeping jobs in our community has risen as a result of the serious economic recession throughout the country. Our job is to deliver the supports necessary for consumers to maintain and expand their place in our communities. We commit to continue that effort.



Ed Boeve

Cuts *Continued from Page 1*

mean revenue reductions of as much as 4 percent over last year.

"Any reductions in state and county reimbursements require careful planning in order to preserve staff positions, programs and services," he said.

The agency is accustomed to

watching the budget, said Boeve, and staff has brainstormed a variety of cost-saving measures that could be implemented. Steps already taken to reduce expenses include renegotiating several long-term contracts to lower costs, and efforts are underway to set aside as much

revenue as possible to help the agency weather the coming cuts.

"When challenged, our staff members become very creative with their ideas," said Boeve. "This is not the first time we've been asked to do more with less."

ESR Works! is published quarterly for the friends of ESR by its Marketing/Development Office, 1754 Washington Avenue, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082. TTY use MRS 1-800-327-3529. Visit us online at www.esrworks.org



ESR Board of Directors

Marti Fischbach (Chair) Bob Haskins
Kim Carolan Jerry Jungbauer
Janelle Erickson Vicki Nelson
Richard Halverson Jim Thommes
Vicki Strong



Summer not official without a cook out

Executive Director Ed Boeve, above center, fires up a grill at each of ESR's program sites in June to get the summer season officially started. Staff fills in with salads, fruits and chips for a traditional cook-out feast. In Stillwater under an overcast sky, (showers held off until after the cooking was done), Boeve was flanked by Dave B. and Dave M., right, who helped with the cooking.

Advocacy conference sparks sharing, discussion

Ask Amy K. about her individual rights and you might get an earful.

Amy, a member of the ESR Team Council who is served at the Cottage Grove site, recently attended an advocacy conference for individuals with disabilities. Accompanied by an ESR staff member, Amy attended seminars on a host of topics including Social Security benefits, the Consumer Bill of Rights program, and the differences between aggressive, passive and assertive behaviors.

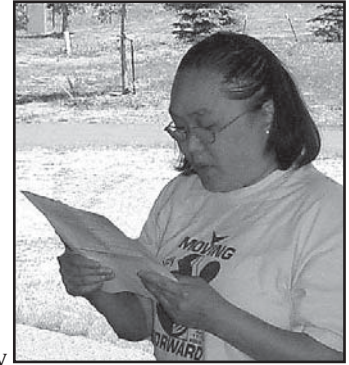
"I learned that I can be assertive by showing people a good, positive attitude and showing good manners towards people," Amy told a group of consumers recently. "I have the right to feel comfortable saying what I want in any situation as long as I am truthful, honest and nice."

Amy also shared examples of how consumers can exercise their rights by keeping in mind certain responsibilities like "listening to others when they are talking to me."

Amy is among a dozen ESR consumers to serve on the Team Council. The group gives consumers a voice in learning about their individual rights and planning activities they enjoy. The group meets monthly and includes representation from all three ESR sites.

"I enjoyed my day at the conference," Amy said. "I like learning about my rights."

To read the entire text of Amy's speech to ESR consumers, visit the ESR Team Council page on www.esrworks.org.



Expansion *Continued from Page 1*

the space."

This is the second offer in a matter of months that comes at just the right time, said Boeve. The just-completed Forest Lake expansion, which allowed ESR to take over the entire building, was proposed earlier this spring when the agency's next-door neighbor vacated their space.

Growth has occurred throughout ESR with all three of the agency's sites, in Cottage Grove, Forest Lake and Stillwater, seeing a share of the

action. However, more individuals are being welcomed into service in the northern part of Washington County, bringing a larger share of the growth to Forest Lake and Stillwater.

The build-out in Stillwater will begin in September with occupancy of the new space slated for this fall. Not only will the project provide room for growth in the agency's programs, it allows the ESR Sales Team to return to the administrative

office. Several years ago, the Sales Team was moved to a separate location when it became necessary to expand at the program site.

"It will be nice to have the Sales Team under the same roof as the rest of the ESR team," said Boeve, explaining that there will be cost savings as the separate sales office is eliminated. "It is just one of the many benefits the agency will realize as a result of this expansion project. This is a great opportunity."

The *WORKS!*

Providing quality support in employment and community for people with disabilities and other special needs!

*Make this the year YOU experience
ESR's annual fundraising event*



Night of Dreams

Friday, Nov. 13 - 6 p.m.
Dellwood Hills Country Club

Tickets \$45 each

*Featuring live and silent auctions,
entertainment, great prizes, delicious hors' d'oeuvres,
(including Dellwood's famous "potato martinis") and more*

Don't miss it! Plan now to attend!

Raise money for ESR
by using your computer

You can raise money for ESR
simply by using your computer!

Just visit www.goodsearch.com
and designate ESR as your charity
of choice, and then earn money each
time you do an online search.

You can raise even more money
for ESR by shopping online at
www.goodshopping.com. After
designating ESR as the charity you
support, a portion of your online
shopping is donated to the agency.

It's fundraising made easy!
Check out these sites today!

ESR

Works!

East Suburban Resources Inc.

1754 Washington Avenue
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082
651-351-0190

www.esrworks.org
mail@ESRworks.org

Return service requested



ESR is an Equal Opportunity Employer.