

Ongoing Goals: The Little Dog Laughed Animal Assisted Therapy

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Our Mission: To use the joy of dog training in support of behavioral therapy professionals in their effort to nurture empathy and nonviolent problem-solving skills.

Key: **DONE OR ACTIVELY DOING** **IN PROGRESS** **YET TO BE ADDRESSED**

Goal 1: To create the infrastructure and resources to support expansion of services in the Portland Metro and surrounding areas.

We identified the following steps to achieve this goal:

1. Recruit, train and support more volunteer dog/handler teams so that we can meet existing demand in the Portland Metro area as well as expand into surrounding areas. Steps toward this goal to include but are not limited to:
 - **Recruit and begin training 4 teams by June 2019.**
 - Streamline and enhance the training/evaluation process so that four teams can be certified in six months or less.
 - **Leverage video training capabilities whenever possible**
 - **Supplement the existing apprenticeship requirement to demonstrate all 3 stages of intervention at a DV shelter with an alternate single day “lightning round” in an environment simulating the shelter.**
 - Provide a strong support system for approved S.T.A.R. team handlers. To include:
 - Identify a suitable location and hold regular group practice sessions bi-weekly. Assigned to REGINA/BOB
 - Continue to identify presenters and content for 2-3 continuing education workshops to help S.T.A.R. teams stay on top of their game.
 - **Encourage continuing education in related disciplines (scholarships to outside classes/events). Now ongoing policy**
 - Move documentation online wherever possible
 - **Catalogue ONLINE the lending libraries of books/videos and their location**
 - **Catalogue ONLINE a props inventory – LINDA to start, others to contribute**
2. Create a sustainable financial plan. Steps toward this goal to include but are not limited to:
 - **Finalize a “Grant Application Kit” of up-to- date information for use by all members of the organization reaching out for support.**
 - Formalize Policies defining:
 - Management of organizational monies (savings, checking, and credit) – Assigned to TINA
 - Scholarship criteria – Assigned to LINDA – define method for obtaining board approval – majority rule
 - Guidelines for assessing the value of organizational participation in local fundraising and promotional events. Assigned to LINDA – create a basic form with questions that will help the board decide – majority rule
 - **Donor relations, from thank-you to keeping the relationship alive with tidbits of news. NEW VOLUNTEER POSITION?**

Goal 2: To create and nurture healthy relationships with client organizations

We identified the following steps to achieve this goal:

- Define realistic screening criteria to be used in evaluating and prioritizing various types of potential client relationships. Types of relationships to include but not be limited to:
 - Ongoing weekly visits at a specific facility, 1 or 2 children at a time (examples: DV shelters, residential treatment facilities) typically over an extended period of time
 - Annually repeated short series of small group classes (example: elementary schools) or multi-week summer schools.
 - Special Projects tailored to match a specific client (example: HomePlate video project)
 - One-time events/sequences for larger groups (examples: Girl Scout summer camp; Adelante Chicas, workshop on “Consent”)
 - One-time very short duration meetings with pairs of children.

2. Do not take on new clients until we have:

- Applied the previously defined screening criteria
- Verified that we have appropriately trained teams to support them.

3. Examine each client’s method of connecting with at-risk youths, and where suitable create intervention models that support those methods.

- Whenever possible, co-train with client staff (e.g., PBIS training)
- Conduct limited-term Special Projects to experiment with and evaluate the effectiveness of new tactics. Example:
 - Special Project: HomePlate support (a) their focus on helping youths prepare for and move into jobs in the real world and (b) their support for immigrant Muslim women by creating a monthly dog-training job where the participants help train the dogs for short videos.

4. Provide clients and potential clients information that clarifies and validates our program.

- Create a professionally filmed/edited videotape illustrating our process and linking what they see to their own priorities.
- Create a brochure which succinctly describes in terminology appropriate for therapy professionals what our program does and does not do. This brochure will include the evidence-based assessment by Pacific University.

Goal 3: Continue to capture all forms, procedures, expenses, guidelines – EVERYTHING needed to intelligently guide others to replicate our program elsewhere.

- Create a list of interested organizations, building on contacts made at ClickerExpo and elsewhere
- Create a full-featured workshop on how we work, etc.