

## SERVICE DESCRIPTION

# COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

Community Initiatives provides supported day programming for person's who are intellectually challenged. Community Initiatives helps individuals and their support networks to develop and implement person centered plans. Staff support individuals who live independently, with family or with caregivers.

### **HISTORY:**

Community Initiatives was originally known as the Achievement Centre which was a sheltered employment program. The Achievement Centre was a core program of Salt Spring Island Community Center when it became a society in 1975. In 1989 the Achievement Centre changed its service objectives in order to provide a day program. The name changed to Community Initiatives. Over time the focus has changed from vocational and educational activities to more arts, recreation, fitness and community integration activities. CI is in transition as Salt Spring Island Community Services moves to a person centered planning agency.

### **POPULATION SERVED:**

Community Initiatives supports persons who are intellectually challenged. People served must be eligible for service through Community Living British Columbia (CLBC).

### **GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

1. Maintain independence in skills of daily living in community settings.
2. Develop person centered plans and support persons served to achieve their desired goals as articulated in their plan.
3. Increased socialization and community integration.
4. Increase or maintain physical mobility/fitness.
5. Maintain memory/cognitive skills.

6. Increased ability to communicate, with or without support and within their capabilities.

**SERVICE DELIVERY PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES:**

1. Services will support the integration of persons served into the day-to-day life of the community.
2. Services for each person will be developed through a person centered planning process. The planning process will recognize and support the person's unique characteristics, strengths and needs. The support network will be a key resource and support in the planning process.
3. Individuals have the right to control their own lives and take responsibility for their actions.
4. The climate of service delivery will be caring, respectful, safe and open.
5. People will be treated with dignity.
6. Effective service includes empowerment, advocacy, and information.
7. Services will be provided in an environment that allows people as much freedom as possible, while at the same time ensuring their safety and security.
8. Services will be provided in a discreet and confidential manner.

**SERVICE DELIVERY ACTIVITIES:**

1. **Person centered planning activities:** Staff help individuals identify and highlight their unique talents, gifts, and capabilities in order to help them develop individual plans.
2. **Individual Activities (personal choice):** Reading, artwork, beading, puzzles and outings with staff.
3. **Group Activities:** Playing games, artwork projects, watching films, sing-a-long, performing arts, memory training, flash cards and off-island outings.
4. **Community Involvement/Integration:** Library, shopping, coffee in town, banking, theatre, etc.
5. **Physical Activities:** Bowling, exercise class, walks in the park or at track, yoga, swimming, horseback riding and dancing.

6. **Self-Help Skills:** Shopping, cooking, setting the table for the lunch, banking, facilitated communication, self-care activities, bathroom etiquette, practice reading/writing and/or other activities as outlined in person centered plan.
7. **Support Families/Caregivers:** Daily communication re: participants activities, training opportunities, person centered planning activities, advocacy and support.

**LOCATION:**

The program is based at 268 Fulford-Ganges Road. Community Initiatives space includes kitchen facilities, a private office and a wheelchair accessible washroom.

Participants are integrated into community activities (bowling, yoga, library, coffee shops, etc) on Salt Spring Island. Off island activities (horseback riding, swimming, McDonald's) are also provided.

Transportation is provided.

**Hours:**

9am to 3pm

Monday - Friday

**STAFF RESOURCES:**

Two workers and a team leader support persons served. Staff report to the Director of Child and Family Services.

**ACCESS TO SERVICE:**

- The service may be accessed through Community Living BC Social Worker or by contacting Salt Spring Island Community Services.
- Recommendations for acceptance to service are made by the CI Team Leader. Acceptance criteria are outlined in the Participants Handbook.
- Final acceptance decisions are made by the Director of CI.
- Persons can learn about the organization and its services by contacting CI's Team Leader. Visits to CI are welcomed.

**Contact:** Community Initiatives at 537-9971 or Carl Albert at 537-1827

**Wait List:**

1. Individuals appear on the waitlist in order of priority based on criteria such as support requirements and individual situation; length of time waiting; urgency and intensity of needs.
2. Individuals on the waitlist will be contacted periodically. All contacts will be documented on the waitlist file.
3. CI's team leader will assist the individual in accessing support and service in the community.
4. The waitlist information will be incorporated into the agency's information management system.

**STANDARDS/REFERENCES/BEST PRACTICES:**

1. Standards For Residential Services For Persons with Developmental Disabilities (BC Ministry for Children & Families - Community Living Services for Adults)
2. British Columbia Association for Community Living
3. A New Vision of Community Living (Community Living Transition Steering Committee, 2002)

**FUNDING/SPONSORSHIP:**

The service receives core funding from CLBC. Some local fundraising contributes to special projects and activities.

**PARTNERSHIPS/KEY CONNECTIONS:**

1. CLBC
2. Choices
3. Local Advisory Committee – Salt Spring Island
4. British Columbia Association for Community Living
5. Victoria Association for Community Living