

I have worked at PCL for almost ten years. Each day I go to work, I face new challenges and opportunities to welcome positive changes in all of the individual's lives that I have supported. During the 10 years, there has been so many different things that I have either done individually or as a part of a group effort to assist with enhancing the individual's life. The biggest story that stands out for me is when I assisted four individuals to go on a trip of a life time. During the whole planning process of the trip, I demonstrated numerous core competencies. The three that I have chosen to demonstrate in this essay are collaboration, creative problem solving and decision making and fostering independence in others.

All of the Pastern staff members collaborated during the planning process of the fundraiser for the big trip. Myself and another staff member worked together to research the cost of things and come up with the budget. I encouraged all staff members (and myself), to reach out to the community to come up with donations for the chili dinner. When there was a change in the staff that would be going on the trip, I collaborated with management to come up with a solution and I stayed positive the whole time.

I demonstrated creative problem solving and decision making during the whole process from start to end. After deciding where the big trip was going to take place, I had to come up with the plans of what to do while there, what individuals would stay in what rooms, getting donations, raising money and coming up with a fundraiser idea. I had to take all the four individuals personalities, moods and their opinions in mind when I came up with these ideas. I also came up with an incentive reward board that was named "road trip to Cleveland". This board was to encourage all of the guys to get along, make positive choices and to complete their daily routines, in order to earn the reward of the big trip.

The last competency that I will focus on is fostering independence in others. Each of the individuals assisted in asking for donations and picking them up, helping pick up the supplies that were needed and they assisted with setting up and cleaning up the day of the fundraiser. Each individual was asked what they would like to do while on the trip and we were able to do everything they each wanted

to do. I assisted the individuals with ensuring they had passports, money saved, and enough clothing for the trip. The individuals felt accomplished and proud after each step in this process, because they completed something and they were apart of everything.

Thank you PCL management, staff and all the individuals in care who have taught me about the core competencies and have helped me to utilizes these skills and knowledge to become a better staff member than I was 10 years ago.