



developmentally
focused

family involved

relationship based

trauma informed

competence centred

ecologically oriented

Ranch Ehrlo introduces new innovative programming

Ranch Ehrlo has introduced a new, innovative crisis management tool to help improve safety at the Ranch.

Ukeru, Japanese for “to receive”, is a crisis management approach that prioritizes comfort over control. It is not intended to replace any existing practices at the agency but rather to complement our CARE principles and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention techniques, further enhancing the quality of life for our participants and the safety of our staff.

“We were listening to our staff feedback about the importance of safety in the workplace. We all understand that the work we do is hard but

rewarding. We work with some difficult participants with highly complex needs and staff safety needs to be a priority,” explained Natalie Huber, Ranch Ehrlo CEO.

A project team of directors and vice-presidents from multiple disciplines across the agency was created to address this issue and determined that Ukeru would be the best fit for the Ranch.

Ukeru has been implemented in over 600 organizations across the world similar to ours’ and has been proven to reduce staff



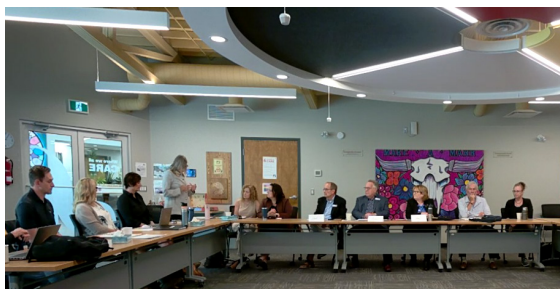
Southern program staff taking Ukeru training

injury, improve staff's sense of safety, and drastically decrease participant crises. These results benefit the staff and lead to an overall positive care experience for our participants.

We began training staff and implementing the technique in the north. Training in the south began in January and will continue until the spring.

Huber added, "We know our young people and participants who come to the Ranch often have experienced traumatic events. If we can add a tool that helps reduce future traumatic events and keeps staff safe, then it is a win-win."

COA accreditation successful



Ranch Ehrlo Society continues to maintain the highest level of standards of care for the children, youth, adults, and families that we serve.

Ranch Ehrlo has been reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) following a year review of the agency which culminated with a site visit in September 2023.

COA is an international, non-profit human service accrediting organization that accredits more than 2,200 organizations. They review agencies based on a set of standards that are developed in conjunction with international subject matter experts.

During the exit meeting in the fall, the COA team provided very positive feedback about Ranch Ehrlo's programs and processes.

Common themes that emerged included the review team's appreciation for our commitment to best practices, continuous improvement, and learning, with internal integrity seen throughout the agency.

"The COA reaccreditation signifies the exceptional quality of how we serve and operate as an agency. It has also brought attention to our dedicated staff who continues to make the agency a success in fulfilling its mission and helping all individuals realize their full potential," commented Natalie Huber, Ranch Ehrlo CEO.

Ranch Ehrlo was first accredited in 1977. We are one of less than 50 COA-approved agencies in the country, and the only COA-accredited organization in Saskatchewan! Our next reaccreditation will be in 2027.

"The COA reaccreditation signifies the exceptional quality of how we serve and operate as an agency

- Natalie Huber, Ranch Ehrlo CEO

Caseworker creates first sharing circle at the agency

Caseworker Damon Weigl brought something new to the Ranch to help youth that has its roots in Indigenous history – a sharing circle.

As part of his master's degree project, Weigl convened a diverse group, including elders, knowledge keepers, elder helpers, and Métis leaders who represented all of the linguistic groups within the Treaty 4 Territory - Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, Michif, to contribute to the development of an Indigenous-based assessment tool.

"We talk about being an evidence-based practice agency. Well, practice-based evidence is something that social workers are acknowledging now. That essentially means if something has been practised, and practised for millennial for mental health, and it works, we should be looking at these tools. It's acknowledging traditional ways of healing," Weigl stated.

Weigl knew he wanted elder experience and knowledge for his project, so he turned to Jamie Lerat, Ranch Ehrlo's Indigenous advisor for help.



On May 24th the sharing circle met for the first time and included 14 Indigenous leaders active in their communities as well as clinical directors Sophie Grahame and Janet Miller, and David Rivers, vice-president of clinical and family services, as well as Weigl and Lerat. Following the circle, Weigl and Lerat met with each leader in their home community.

“Through our first meeting and the individual meetings, we came out with some things that are essential for childhood development from an Indigenous perspective. The one echoing sentiment was values and morals, which are called the Seven Sacred Laws or Seven Sacred Campfires or Seven Sacred Teachings, depending on the community,” Weigl explained.

The Ranch does promote the Seven Sacred Teachings to some extent. They are a theme of our reconciliation path, TRC education newsletters, group home teachings, and they are featured prominently in the Awards Night events. However, Weigl stated in presentations to the clinical directors, there is a lot more excitement to expand its teachings across the agency.

In October the sharing circle was brought back together to see the Indigenous assessment tool Weigl had created with their input. A youth who helped him with the tool also attended the circle to share her experiences and what is important for her development as an Indigenous child at Ranch Ehrlo.

“I think this tool and sharing circles are extremely important for the agency. It is culturally relevant and in line with our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. I think that opening the door, having those voices of stakeholders being heard is really important for the agency,” Weigl concluded.

Sweet success



Raymond and Colleen

Colleen Smith knows a lot about numbers and surprisingly, a lot about baking. Recently the supervisor of accounting at Ranch Ehrlo used the latter skill to build relationships with participants.

Smith, who has a pastry diploma on top of her accounting education, teamed up with Gopher House Supportive Living Program (SLP) participants including Raymond for Ranch Ehrlo's holiday baking competition.

Ranch Ehrlo Society supports persons with differing abilities by

providing group living, educational, and vocational programs to people with multiple, complex developmental needs.

Smith saw the holiday baking challenge on our staff site and knew she wanted to be involved. She contacted a program director to let them know of her skill set and desire to build relationships with our participants.

Smith interacts frequently with SLP participants when they drop by the accounting office, but she was looking for an opportunity to get to know participants better and build stronger relationships.

Smith was put in touch with Gopher House, and she came prepared to teach them an easy five-minute, one-bowl cake. Smith explains that she chose that particular recipe because she remembered her CARE training and wanted to be thoughtful in working within the zones of proximal development of the participants and building their competencies.

Ranch Ehrlo is a CARE-certified agency. All our employees receive the training which is based on six practice principles: developmentally focused, family involved, relationship based, trauma informed, competence centered, and ecologically oriented, and is designed to significantly influence the way professionals work with youth and participants.

When the day arrived Smith not only passed on her baking skills, but she also learned from Raymond about the proper way to make Bannock, creating a reciprocal relationship.

The following day Smith and Raymond presented their cake in matching aprons to the judges. The cake took first place!

“Spending time with the participants is so heartwarming and I think it is important. It really makes you understand what the

mission of Ranch Ehrlo is, and I truly believe we are giving our participants the best possible life we can give them,” Smith concluded.

Mark your calendars



We are excited to announce our 7th annual powwow, which will take place on August 29, 2024, on Treaty 4 Territory, Pilot Butte campus.

The day will begin with a pipe ceremony at 8:30 a.m., followed by a feast at 10:30 a.m. and the grand entry will begin at 1 p.m. Our

family-style carnival and canteen will kick off at 2 p.m.

Our powwow provides a valuable opportunity for individuals of all ages to engage with Indigenous culture firsthand and learn more about Ranch Ehrlo and the work that we do. Our powwow is open to the community and people of all ages and backgrounds, so feel free to bring your family and friends along.

Those interested in volunteering at our event can reach out to Kayla McKee at kayla.mckee@ranchehrlo.ca or 306-751-5684 for more information.

Thank you to our sponsors and donors

Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors who helped Ranch Ehrlo in the past two months:

Tim Hortons \$43,713.12 to Ehrlo Sport Venture

Jumpstart grant \$17,740 for the Outdoor Hockey League

Jumpstart \$4,500 for the Monday Night Football League

Winterfest



Our southern Winterfest took place during the week of February 20th and came to conclusion with our 3rd Annual Ice Fishing Derby on February 24th at Pasqua Lake. The tug-of-war activities had a lot of engagement with both staff and youth!

Corman Park ER



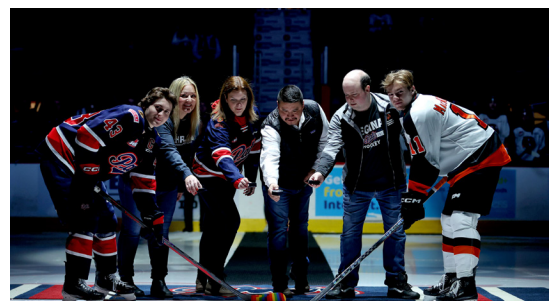
Progress continues on our new Emergency Receiving (ER) building at our Corman Park campus. Step by step, we're constructing a space that will provide support, hope, and temporary care to youth awaiting placement in and around Saskatoon.

Sweet Grass Café



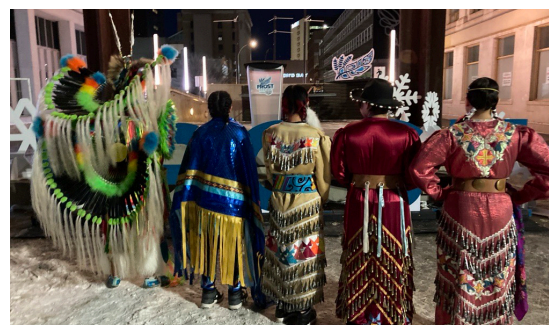
Our internal catering service, the Sweet Grass Café, has recently moved to a new location where participants and staff are excited to continue growing our catering services within Ranch Ehrlo. The catering is operated by participants and staff in the Vocational Training Employment and Supported Employment programs.

Sport Venture puck drop



On Feb. 13th, Gloria Patrick, Sport Venture manager, took part in the ceremonial puck drop for the Regina Pats “Hockey is for Everyone” game. The event recapped different initiatives the Pats have partnered with over the past few years including the OHL.

Powwow club at Frost



Our Ranch Ehrlo powwow club, led by passionate and talented youth dancers and drummers, did an outstanding job performing at the 2024 Frost Regina opening ceremony.