The past four months have been amazing! First and foremost, I would like to say thank you to all my new coworkers. From day one, everyone has extended a warm welcome to me; and I feel right at home. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending client visits with my coworkers and hosting several *Cup of Joe with the CEO* listening sessions, to better understand the types of services we provide and the needs of our clients and coworkers. I am thankful for our tremendously supportive Board of Directors and our **Board President**, Tom Hall who are deeply committed to the mission of The Coordinating Center. I have met with each one and now have a greater understanding of their interest in serving and the skills they bring to The Center. The level of passion and commitment they each bring to their role is admirable.

I am proud to say, The Coordinating Center’s Team is a passionate group that is fully dedicated to our mission, vision, values and our three new Strategic Objectives: 1) Coworker Retention, 2) Sustainability and Growth and 3) Measuring Impact. Aligned with these objectives, we recently celebrated all coworkers at our annual all Coworker Appreciation Breakfast and Resource Fair in recognition of National Case Management week.
Coworker Appreciation Breakfast and Resource Fair in recognition of National Case Management week, 2019. We have conducted focus groups to better understand how to celebrate and maintain a stable roster of coworkers. We have been approved by the Maryland Department of Disabilities to provided coordination of community services for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For our existing programs, we continue to grow (e.g., Medical Legal Services, Community First Choice, Health Plan Services). We are actively building upon existing efforts that measure and demonstrate the positive impact of our work in terms of cost savings or return on investment and applying these methods to other programs at The Center.

What I really like about my new coworkers is that they like to have fun. For example, we enjoyed snow cones in the parking lot and created a new company Cheer highlighting our values (excellence, collaboration, impact, learning, integrity, and inclusion). Together, we participate in Wednesday Wellness Walks around the building, we serve our community by volunteering, and we have fun team outings like making crafts, touring historic downtown Annapolis, and taking a boat cruise on the Chesapeake Bay. Most of all, we like food!

I am looking forward to the many more days, months and years serving The Coordinating Center’s clients and my fellow coworkers. I am grateful everyday for coming to such an amazing place! If you have questions or would like to learn more about The Center, please feel free to reach out to me anytime, my email is tthoward@coordinatingcenter.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Seeking Sponsors and Restaurateurs for a Taste of the Arts at CenterFlix**

New to our CenterFlix Fundraiser this year is a "Taste of the Arts," a tasting event featuring local eateries, breweries, live music and a live auction. To learn more about the benefits of becoming a restaurant sponsor or to sign up, visit our website or contact jburton@coordinatingcenter.org. Help us make a difference today!

CenterFlix benefits The Coordinating Center’s Family Resource Fund, which provides critical resources and supports for people with disabilities. Join us on May 7, 2020 at the American Visionary Arts Museum in Baltimore for a fun filled evening reception that celebrates the lives of people with disabilities through music, art and short films starring people with disabilities.

**VIPhysicians&Kids**

VIPhysicians&Kids is The Coordinating Center’s new Medical Home for children and youth with special health care needs (ages 0-22), who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and require long-term health and related services. A wide-range of conditions and diagnoses are experienced by this population (i.e., asthma, autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, and sickle cell anemia), and our medical care team is trained to work with these children and families.
experienced by this population (i.e., asthma, autism, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, and sickle cell anemia). VIPhysicians&Kids aims to partner with pediatric practices, the child/youth, and their family to deliver a collaborative self-management, care coordination model. This program is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Maryland Department of Health's Office for Genetics and People with Special Healthcare Needs.

Thank you to our Sponsors

The Coordinating Center held its 4th annual Resource Fair at its Coworker Appreciation Breakfast during National Case Management Week (October 13 - 19th). Twenty-five (25) companies participated in the Resource Fair with nearly 300 coworkers. The Center would like to thank all of the companies who participated as sponsorship proceeds benefit The Center's Family Resource Fund. This Fund provides vital services and supports, such as: adaptive equipment, dental/vision care, pharmacy/medical supplies, assistive technology, respite, summer camp, emergency housing, and other care critical needs. Studies have shown that a small investment in things like transportation, medical supplies, medication, groceries, and other care gaps can make all the difference in reducing avoidable hospital use.
Meet a Client

Meet Malika

At 20, Malika sustained a gunshot wound that left her paralyzed from the chest down. She spent one month in the intensive care unit and four months in a rehabilitation facility. Malika worked hard in rehab so that she could return home. “My daughter spent a lot of time at the facility, watching everything I did,” Malika said. “I knew I had to work hard and make her proud.” While at the facility, Malika joined a peer-mentoring program to help other patients with similar injuries. “I didn’t have someone tell me what to do or how life was going to be different,” she said. “I now can help women understand what it is like to be a mother with a spinal cord injury.”