

El'dad Ranch

Alternative Justice Program.

Eligibility Requirements:

Adult Male

- Male, over 18

Intellectual Disability

- Documented intellectual disability as determined by Family Services. (As opposed to mental illness) Dual diagnosis is acceptable and common in the individuals coming but the intellectual disability is what carries the funding for the program. FASD is also common among residents at El'dad.

Probation or Conditional Sentence

- Residents must have a CSW through Supported Living or Special Needs.
- Needing a place to serve a conditional or probation period.
 - (Sentence for a Violent or Sexual Crime needs to be reviewed on a case by case basis with considerations for the safety of staff and the community that El'dad is accountable)

Desiring Change

- Willing and desiring to participate in program where they can grow in areas of their choice that is both positive and productive.
- Individuals from a rural background usually handle the relative isolation of El'dad better than individuals who have only known an urban environment.

First Step: CSW contact Kevin Drain – El'dad Ranch (204 326-1050 – Ex 3) or the Eastman Region Family Services Supervisor (204-346-6259)

El'dad's goals

The Alternative Justice Program (AJP) is based on the premise that men with intellectual disabilities who have come into conflict with the laws of society are a part of a population called vulnerable people. As such, it is possible that a program which holds them accountable for their actions yet at the same time provides a safe place to learn skills, positive values, and positive relationships may be more effective in changing behaviour than time in a prison. The El'dad AJP program is a residence program, along with a day program which offers vocational training, and education, as well other assistance to the men. Together, staff and men work at designing an individualized program that can result in a meaningful and productive future for the individual.

Entry

Alternative Justice Program is a provincial resource.

- The AJP program of El'dad Ranch is regarded as a provincial resource, which means that although it is located in Eastman Region, it accepts and serves Family Service clients from the entire province. When a man with an intellectual disability, who is part of the Family Service system, comes in conflict with the law there are options for alternative sentencing.

Referrals are done through Family Services

- The Probation Department, may work together with Family Services to ascertain if a placement at El'dad would seem to be appropriate. Initial screening is done by Family Services. When they have a potential candidate they begin a dialog with the El'dad Director and the relevant House Manager. If the fit appears to be positive, then the resident is brought into the discussions.

Potential Residents are encouraged to visit El'dad first

- A visit is arranged to El'dad and the individual can see the residence and the type of programs available and ask any questions. Part of the contract is an agreement with the resident that they will abide by the guidelines of El'dad and they will participate in the various programs of El'dad. If a visit is not possible, El'dad staff is able to visit the potential client in the correctional centre in order to make a personal connection.

Residence Program

Location

- El'dad is located on an 18 acre farm site about 12 km from Steinbach. There is 24 hour supervision of residents in the Justice program.

RCW's

- In the Residence program there is a cadre of residential care workers (RCW 's) who are on hand to assist with the life skills needed to go about the business of living, meals, laundry, keeping accommodations clean etc. A RCW sleeps over in the same dorm as the men and is available if there are any needs during the night. We have a close working relationship with the local probation department and any incidents are reported and dealt with in consultation with the appropriate Probation and/or Family Service officer.

Individual Planning and Goals

- All residents must have an IPP that is done in conjunction with the CSW, El'dad and the resident. Residents are involved with developing and participating in their individual planning. Each goal that is identified will have an RCW assigned to help the resident work towards achieving that goal on a weekly basis.

Groups

Restorative Justice;

- We run a group on based on Restorative Justice every other weekend. Discussion topics are decided in advance by the needs of the residents. The groups have included honesty, community, and friendship. The topics can also have an addiction focus depending on the needs of the participants. Residents are asked questions and encouraged share their thoughts with everyone.

Dorm Meetings

- Every other weekend we run a meeting on dorm life. Residents are encouraged to share their concerns and frustrations in a safe and open forum. This allows residents to practice assertiveness and respect for others. It also gives the residents a sense of control and ownership into their living situation.

Counselling

- Once a week we have a counsellor working one on one with each of our residents. The counselling model is based on solution focussed therapy. This works towards recreating successes. Goals are identified and tracked regularly while emphasizing on the things that went well. This helps the clients develop self-esteem and hope for their future. Clients feel empowered and supported to make real changes.

Reconnecting with Community

- El'dad strives for our residents to connect within community. To facilitate this, we encourage our residents to participate in activities outside El'dad. We have had residents going to church, church groups, school, literacy programs, gym, sports, swimming and volunteering. Aside from some of the intrinsic benefits from these activities, there is also the opportunity to establish positive friendships.

El'dad Ranch Day Program

Day Program's Purpose;

- The El'dad Day program is perhaps the most intentional, proactive, and integrated part of the El'dad program. As a whole, the El'dad Day Program is a multifaceted program which provides participant support, life skills, education, vocational training, and assistance in designing a future of choice for men with intellectual disabilities. One of our main goals is to achieve community involvement for our participants through meaningful employment.

El'dad Ranch Day Program objectives;

- Individualized, participant directed planning
- Job readiness
- Skill development
- Continued learning
- Supported community employment

Phase 1

During the first part of the program a new participant works on-site in various programs, depending on the season and the skills of the individual. These programs assist in a variety of ways:

1. Work Ethic

- a. Firstly, it gives the participant an opportunity to acquire basic work ethic routines, such as getting ready for work on time, staying on the job, following instruction, dressing appropriately, working under a supervisor, and working with a team.

2. Basic Skills

- a. Secondly, it teaches them basic skills. They may learn to operate and maintain chainsaws, splitters, and many hand power tools. Depending on their maturity, and abilities they may learn how to operate a skid steer loader.

3. Responsibility

- a. Thirdly, it teaches them safety and responsibility. Those who learn and demonstrate these skills will find they are given more autonomy and responsibility.

Activities

Projects

- During the summer there are usually small projects with an emphasis on animal husbandry, currently chickens, beef calves and honey bees. They are also involved in planting and maintaining a vegetable garden. In these projects the participants learn and are involved in being sensitive to and responsible for the animals' needs, as well as understanding what animals and a garden provide. During the winter there are projects involving firewood and small scale construction. There is also a machine shop where participants may learn skills related to automotive mechanics and welding.

Phase 1 Activities (cont.)

Maintenance

- There is also a program of general maintenance, which the participants rotate through, usually working one on one with a counsellor on various common service and repair tasks that are common in our society. This includes servicing and using lawn & garden equipment as well as vehicles, winterizing buildings, repairing leaky faucets, cleaning eaves troughs, leveling potholes in the driveway, replacing glass windows, paintings, etc.

Nutrition

- Every week the participants, in rotation, spend a day planning, shopping and preparing a meal for the other people in the program. This covers an understanding of basic nutrition and what should be in a meal, based on the Canada Food Guide. Time is spent learning how to purchase food locally and prepare it.

Community Employment

- Lastly there are occasional fully supervised work projects in the community. Some are with a local employment agency which provides a job coach for the individual on temporary outdoor projects, such as lawn care or snow removal. In several of these programs there is the opportunity for the participants to earn small amounts of money and begin learning how to use it responsibly.

Staff Support

- All of these tasks give the staff a chance to spend time one on one with the participant. This time is used to build relationships, as well as discuss values and issues in their life. It is also an opportunity to assess when they are ready to handle more independence and responsibility.

Individualized timeline

- During the first three to six months of a participant's stay, there are ongoing discussions both with the participant and those interacting with him, as to the participant's vocational interests and his readiness to assume tasks that require more responsibility.
- The vocational director spends time assessing the skill and interest level of each participant. This is maintained throughout the time that the participant stays at El'dad.

Training allowance

- We provide an incentive based training allowance to participants. Depending on their skill level in certain areas, we will pay participants between \$1-5/hour. When they reach the \$5/hour amount, it is an indicator that they are ready for offsite employment.

Phase 2

During the second phase, participants are connected to the community through job readiness classes, volunteer opportunities, and/or work experience options.

Education and training

- Some of the participants choose to stay more involved in the on-site programs; they continue on in the various programs listed above, along with those that are not yet ready for the stress and responsibility that comes with working off site. Others will enter a program that generally includes some academic upgrading of their choice, and a work experience program of their choice that may lead to a maximum of four days per week work off-site.

Transition to employment

- Under the Vocational/Education program we have had work experience programs with construction companies, grocery stores, gas stations, other non profit agencies, and educational options in sectors including High School Equivalency, computer applications and drivers education. This phase begins after the on-site program and lasts as long as the participant is showing progress in the program or until it is demonstrated that he cannot cope with his current placement.

Phase 3

Job coaching and staying connected

- This phase supports community options from Phase 2 with very close job coaching or supervision at the beginning and then regular visits on-site to monitor the participant and communicate with the job supervisor. In both the on-site programs and the off-site programs there are daily vocational logs filled out by the immediate supervisors. In addition, one day a week (the fifth work day for those working four days per week off-site) is reserved for general work at El'dad. This allows the day staff to stay in contact and observe behavioural changes in participants that spend a good deal of time off site.
- If employment placements do not work out, then the participant would return to the El'dad Day Program and continue with Phase 1-2.

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