

CooperRiis News

June 1, 2007

CooperRiis Announces A New Executive Director

Dear families, friends and colleagues,

We are proud and delighted to announce that Bob Sawers will become the Executive Director of CooperRiis on September 1st.

As you can well imagine, we were somewhat apprehensive about Virgil and Lis' departure. We expected to spend months reviewing potential candidates and then selecting one who would be up to the challenge, as well as up to living with his

or her family within the community of CooperRiis. It takes a special person and family to do this and the amount of dedication that is required for the job is tremendous.

In our minds and hearts, Bob almost immediately fit the criteria. We felt as though his and Karen's willingness and desire to become a part of the CooperRiis dream was incredibly fortunate. As we saw him and Karen connecting quickly to the

community and as we heard such strong and positive feedback from the Board, staff and residents, we decided to proceed immediately to ask him to join us.

So, yes, one month ago we were stunned as we accepted Virgil's resignation. Now, within the month, we are astounded that we have already hired his successor!

—Don & Lisbeth



The Sawers Family



Karen and our family have been living and working in a healing farm therapeutic community for over 17 years and we love this lifestyle. We have been blessed. Now we are so deeply honored to have been invited to join the life and work of CooperRiis. Indeed, I am also humbled to have been asked to serve with such a dedicated Board of Directors and staff who are fully invested in the recovery of the vulnerable individuals who come to the CooperRiis community as residents.

We look forward to getting to know all of you who may be receiving this mailing, especially the families of the residents, who I also see as integrally involved in the healing process. I'll be reaching out to each of you as we begin this adventure in September.

—Bob Sawers.

My Friend—My Successor

Bob, Karen and their growing family have been well known to Lis and me for almost 18 years. After I resigned as Executive Director, my first call was to Bob to see if we might be able to interest him in applying as my replacement. He is uniquely qualified for the role and I trust him to be able to carry forward the special mission and vision of CooperRiis in an almost seamless manner.

I knew him first as he spent five years at Gould Farm, my alma mater so to speak and the oldest healing farm community in the country. He then went to Hopewell in Ohio, a healing farm community that opened in 1996. He was their first Clinical Director and has been their Executive Director since 2000.

Bob and Karen recently spent time with us at CooperRiis and blended in immediately. The feed-

back from residents and staff alike has been unanimously positive.

I am truly excited that Bob, Karen and their six children will be joining the CooperRiis community. Bob will work with me for two weeks in July and begin his work as CooperRiis Executive Director on the 1st of September. As you get a chance to meet him, I trust you will see immediately why we are so fortunate that he has responded to our call.

—Virgil