Resource Center for Independent Living

Consumer Newsletter - Summer 2020

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Kansas Voter Registration Application and the MIGHTY flyer are between pages 3 and 5 in this newsletter.

Office Closures

**July 3rd** – Independence Day

**September 7th** – Labor Day

Vote From Home!

Did you know you can vote in every election without even leaving your house? The primary election is August 4th and that seems like a long way away, but to cast your vote you must be registered by July 14th!

Registering to vote is easy. You can register online at www.sos.ks.gov or you can complete the Kansas Voter Registration application in this newsletter. All you need is a State issued ID or driver’s license. If you need help registering online or completing the application, call RCIL!

If you think you are registered, you can check your registration status by visiting www.myvoteinfo.voteks.org or by calling your local county election office. Remember – If you’ve moved or changed your name, you need to update your voter registration with your new location or your new name. Even if you just moved across the street.

While you’re at it, you

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SPIL Workgroup: Employment

The Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Employment workgroup continues to meet quarterly to work towards achieving their three main goals which are: 1) Providing opportunities for people with disabilities to learn about work incentives, 2) Providing opportunities for employers to learn the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities, and 3) Preparing or partnering with other agencies to support Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) efforts.

Currently, the members are developing updated goals and objectives focusing on increasing employment opportunities for Kansans with disabilities. These new goals will be in place for the next three years.

The workgroup consists of persons from different agencies and disability services providers. It is open to anyone who is interested in joining. We need consumer and employer input and membership! Persons with current or previous employment experience can be especially helpful. If you are interested in joining the workgroup, or learning about your employment options, contact Adam Burnett at the Osage City RCIL office at 785-528-3105.

RCIL Directors

Deone Wilson – Executive Director

Mike Pitts – Deputy Director

Becky Brewer – Director of Financial Management Services

Adam Burnett – Director of Core Services

Tania Harrington – Director of Disability Services

Alternate Formats

To receive a copy of this newsletter in an alternative format, please call 1.800.580.7245.

Online Friends Group Meeting

If you’re like me, being stuck at home and afraid, or unable, to go out and visit with friends and family has become kind of depressing. I never realized how important that social interaction was to me. As we all learn to navigate our new circumstances, RCIL is offering you a new and fun way to connect with the Independent Living staff and with other RCIL consumers.

RCIL has recently started an online Friends group! RCIL Friends groups usually meet in person and play games, learn about a topic, and share information with other consumers in attendance. The online group is the same except you can do it wherever you are via your computer or phone. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm via Zoom. All participants who attend will be entered for a door prize!

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14th. You can join us by phone or by computer / video. If you are interested in participating in the online Friends meeting please contact the Osage office. You will receive an email or phone call with the instructions on how to join the meeting.

Am I Committing Medicaid Fraud?

Are you unknowingly (or knowingly!) committing Medicaid fraud?

You are committing Medicaid fraud if you, or your Direct Support Worker (DSW), are submitting time for payment under your Home and Community Based Services for any of the following:

* DSW did not actually work for the consumer
* Consumer is out of the home. You **cannot** claim **any** time worked if the consumer is:
	+ **In the hospital, rehabilitation facility, nursing facility or any other inpatient facility**
	+ **If the consumer is in jail or prison**
	+ **If the consumer is out of the home for any other** **reason** (unless the DSW has been approved to accompany the consumer to provide their care while on a trip)
* Providing unauthorized activities (for example: lawn care, gardening, pet care - unless it is a service animal)
* Claiming activities were provided that the DSW did not actually provide

Other types of Medicaid fraud include:

* Claiming time worked for the consumer while actually working at another job
* Claiming time worked for two or more Medicaid beneficiaries for the same time period (overlapping time)

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**Kansas Voter Registration Instructions**

For further information, contact the Office of the Secretary of State, 1-800-262-VOTE (8683) V/TTY. This form is available at www.sos.ks.gov.

**You can use this application to**:

* register to vote in Kansas
* change your name, address, or affiliation with a political party

**To register to vote, you must:**

* be a U.S. citizen and a resident of the state of Kansas.
* have reached the age of 18 years before the next election.
* have received final discharge from imprisonment, parole, or condi­tional release if convicted of a felony.
* have abandoned your former residence and/or name.

**How to register to vote:**

* Return your completed application to your county. Addresses are on the back of this application. Your county election officer will mail you a notice when your application has been processed.
* Voter registration closes 21 days before any election. In order to be eligible to vote in that election, your application must be postmarked on or before that date.
* If you decline to register to vote, that fact will remain confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only. If you do register to vote, the office where you apply will be kept confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only.
* If this form is incomplete, it may be rejected.

**Identification number requirements**

Enter your current Kansas driver’s license number or non-driver’s identifica­tion card number. If you do not have either one, enter the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have any of these numbers, write “none” in the box. The number will be used for administrative pur­poses only and will not be disclosed to the public. K.S.A. 25-2309

A blank copy of the Voter Registration application is under the 2020 Summer Consumer Newsletter (PDF version) on the RCIL website – Newsletters.

MIGHTY

Do you have a mobility-related disability?

Looking to lose weight?

We are offering a research weight management program that provides:

* diet plan
* physical activity
* social interaction without leaving your home!

All participants must be over the age of 18 and willing to:

* Be randomized to either
	+ Individual home visits
	+ Group participation via video conferencing
* Track food and beverage intake
* Participate in physical activity according to randomization

Participants will learn behavioral strategies from a trained health educator.

Participants will receive compensation for their participation in the study. No travel is required.

For more information contact:

Trish Smith at mighty@ku.edu or call 785-764-1312 or visit [www.ebl.ku.edu/mighty](http://www.ebl.ku.edu/mighty).

Individuals must live within 50 miles of Kansas City or Lawrence.

This program is 18 months and take place in the home.

Am I Committing Medicaid Fraud? Continued

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* Receiving pay from Medicaid and accepting private pay from another source for the same service
* Giving or accepting “kickbacks” (something of value in return for receiving services)
* Splitting the DSW’s pay with your DSW
* Knowingly submitting false information
* Using another person’s AuthentiCare ID # to submit time worked
* Providing incorrect dates and times for services performed

There are serious consequences for committing Medicaid fraud and may include:

* Arrest and prosecution, criminal penalties, fines and jail time
* Civil damages and monetary penalties
* Termination of Medicaid services
* Exclusion from working in any facility receiving federal health care funds
* Loss of certification (example: CNA, LPN, RN, etc.)

To report suspected Medicaid fraud, call 1-866-551-6328.

Retaliation against any individual who reports suspected fraud, or participates in an investigation of such reports, is strictly prohibited by law.

As the employer for your Direct Support Worker(s), you are responsible to ensure you and your Direct Support Workers are not committing Medicaid fraud.

5 Apps for People who have Vision Loss

I get questions many times about available apps for people who have vision loss. I thought I would write a brief description of five apps that have great features for people who are blind or visually impaired.

1. LookTel Money Reader – This app uses the camera on the back of the phone/tablet and then says out loud, along with large print on the screen, what denomination the bill is. This allows easy money identification at home or while out.
2. Tap Tap See – This app also uses the camera to take a picture of an object the person needs to identify. Using an internet search, Tap Tap See will give an audio description of the item.
3. Be My Eyes – Be My Eyes is similar to Tap Tap See, it uses the camera but you connect to a live person. This person is a volunteer so they do not have any training with working with people with vision loss. The person with the vision loss uses their camera to show what item they need identified or read and the volunteer assists them.
4. KNFB Reader – While this app is not free like the others, it has a purpose most would find priceless. This app converts text to speech and/or Braille for users. It can read documents long and short by taking a picture using the camera on the phone/tablet and using ocular character recognition (OCR) to read the document out loud.
5. Seeing AI – This is one of my favorite apps. Seeing AI has multiple purposes, again using the phone/tablet’s camera. This app can identify text such as KNFB Reader using OCR for short and long text. And unlike any other OCR it is able to read some handwriting! It can also identify money like the LookTel Money Reader. It has a bar code reader to give product descriptions and read labels. It can also give a description of people and the scene/surroundings indoors.

These apps are not a one size fits all or needed for everyone but a great tool for a person’s tool kit. If you have questions on how to download an app or need additional resources, please contact Mandy Smith at 785-528-3105.

2020 Friends Group Schedule

Friends are groups of individuals who have, or have experienced, a disability. We meet monthly to share & learn about disability related topics, to advocate for change in our communities, and to have fun!

RCIL Offices are CLOSED on July 3, 2020 and September 7, 2020!

Due to COVID-19 ALL Friends group meetings are subject to change. PLEASE CALL AHEAD to check the status of your meeting.

For more information about RCIL Friends group **or** To request accommodations 2 weeks prior to a meeting

 **Contact RCIL at: 1-800-580-7245 or** **info@rcilinc.org**

 *In cases of inclement weather, please call ahead!*

El Dorado Time Topic

 July 15th 1:00pm – 3:00pm ADA Celebration

 Aug 19th 1:00pm – 3:00pm Beating the Heat

 Sept 16th 1:00pm – 3:00pm How To Be Your Own Advocate

\*Location: RCIL Office

615 1/2 N. Main, El Dorado, KS 67042

Emporia Time Topic

 July 27th 1:30pm – 3:30pm To Be Determined

Aug 31st 1:30pm – 3:30pm To Be Determined

 Sept 28th 1:30pm – 3:30pm To Be Determined

\*Location: Broadview Towers Apartments

110 W. 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801

Eureka Time Topic

 July 7th 1:00pm – 3:00pm ADA Celebration

Aug 4th 1:00pm – 3:00pm Beating the Heat

Sept 1st 1:00pm – 3:00pm How To Be Your Own Advocate

\*Location: Magic Circle Apartments

301 Magic Circle Rd., Eureka, KS 67045

Ft Scott Time Topic

 July 10th 12:00pm – 2:00pm Meeting Cancelled

 Aug 11th 12:00pm – 2:00pm Microwave Dinners

Sept 8th 12:00pm – 2:00pm How To Be Your Own Advocate

\*Location: Bourbon County Senior Center

26 N. Main St., Fort Scott, KS 66701

Iola Time Topic

 July 28th 1:00pm – 3:00pm Stress Management

 Aug 25th 1:00pm – 3:00pm Microwave Dinners

 Sept 22nd 1:00pm – 3:00pm How To Be Your Own Advocate

\*Location: Iola Housing Authority - Kitchen

217 N. Washington Ave., Iola, KS 66749

Osage City Time Topic

 July 8th 1:00pm – 3:00pm How To Prepare To Vote

 Aug 12th 1:00pm – 3:00pm Homemade Masks

Sept 9th 1:00pm – 3:00pm How To Be Your Own Advocate

\*Location: Park Place Apartments

207 S. 6th St., Osage City, KS 66523

Paola Time Topic

 July 24th 1:00pm – 3:00pm Stress Management

 Aug 28th 1:00pm – 3:00pm Microwave Dinners

 Sept 25th 1:00pm – 3:00pm How To Be Your Own Advocate

\*Location: Timber Ridge Apartment Homes - Clubhouse

908 N. Hospital Dr., Paola, KS 66071

Online Friends Time Topic

 July 14th 2:00pm – 3:00pm Cooking for One

 Aug 11th 2:00pm – 3:00pm Voting Rights & Responsibilities

 Sept 8th 2:00pm – 3:00pm Housing Resources

\*Location: Zoom – Video Conference by computer or phone

Enter For Your Chance to WIN a FREE Prize!

To be entered into a drawing for a **FREE** prize, complete the quiz below and turn it in to RCIL by July 17, 2020 in the following ways:

* By mail: RCIL P.O. Box 257 Osage City, KS 66523
* OR e-mailing your answers to info@rcilinc.org

The winning ticket will be drawn on July 20, 2020 and the prize will be mailed to the winner on the same day.

Fill in the Blanks

1. The Lawn care, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and pet care (unless it is a service animal) are examples of providing unauthorized activities when submitting time for payment under the Home and Community Based Services.
2. Online Friends Group meets the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm via Zoom.
3. Advance voting is available for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ registered voter who signs up by July 28, 2020.
4. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one of the five apps available for people who have vision loss.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vote From Home! Continued

Continued from page 1

can sign up for advance voting and vote from home! Advance voting is available for any registered voter who signs up by July 28th. Advance voters receive a ballot in the mail as early as 20 days before the election. Just complete and mail the ballot to your county election office by (or drop it off before) Election Day.

Advance voting is a good option this year because many locations are struggling to find poll workers due to concerns about COVID-19. A lack of workers may mean elimination of polling sites and long, long lines at sites that are open. Not only does advance voting reduce your exposure to COVID-19, it also eliminates last-minute barriers such as bad weather, not having transportation, being sick, or simply wanting to avoid the crowd.

Only 1 out of every 4 Kansans voted in the 2018 primary election. So your vote DOES make a difference. If you have questions or need assistance, contact RCIL at 1-800-580-7245.

**Voter Registration Deadlines**

* July 14th – last day to register for the August primary election
* October 13th – last day to register for the November general election

You Asked for It

**I have a power chair and it need new batteries. Who can help me with this?**

Our Independent Living Specialists can assist you by developing a plan on getting new batteries and working with you with tasks identified on the plan such as locating vendors who sell batteries and applying for financial assistance.

**What does the ADA stands for?**

The ADA stands for the Americans with Disabilities Act. It was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

**What are some of the positive changes the ADA made in the United States within the last 30 years?**

Curb cuts, reasonable accommodations at a workplace, and accessible public transportation are just a few positive changes that happened in the United States within the last 30 years. If you are interested in making a positive change in your local community to accommodate people with disabilities, call RCIL to learn about their RCIL Friends groups at 1-800-580-7245.

If you have any questions or need any resources contact an Independent Living Specialist at 1-800-580-7245.

Moved?

If you’ve moved or changed your phone number, name, or email address, call 1.800.580.7245 so we can keep in contact with you!

We’re on the Web!

Visit us at: www.rcilinc.org

Find us on: facebook and twitter

HIPAA Privacy Notice

RCIL’s Notice of Privacy Practices based on the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is available in every RCIL office and on the RCIL website at http://rcilinc.org/resources. You can request a copy of the notice at anytime by contacting RCIL at 1.800.580.7245 or info@rcilinc.org.

RCIL Home Office

Address: Phone: Fax:

P.O. Box 257 1.785.528.3105 Voice 1.785.528.3665

1137 Laing 1.800.580.7245 Toll Free

Osage City, KS 66523 1.877.929.7655 Payroll Help Desk Payroll Fax:

 1.785.528.2938

Satellite Offices

El Dorado Emporia

615 1/2 N. Main 215 W. 6th Ave., Suite 201

El Dorado, KS 67042 Emporia, KS 66801

1.316.322.7853 Voice 1.620.342.1648 Voice

1.800.960.7853 Toll Free 1.888.261.4024 Toll Free

1.316.322.7888 Fax 1.620.342.1821 Fax

Iola Topeka

104 S. Washington Ave. 1507 SW 21st St., Suite 203

Iola, KS 66749 Topeka, KS 66604

1.620.365.8144 Voice 1.785.267.1717 Voice

1.877.944.8144 Toll Free 1.877.719.1717 Toll Free

1.620.365.7726 Fax 1.785.267.1711 Fax