13th Kansas Disability Caucus
August 13 - 14, 2015

The 13th Kansas Disability Caucus will be held at the Ramada Inn Downtown in Topeka, KS on August 13 and 14, 2015. People with all types of disabilities, of any age, representing every county of the state, are invited to attend. The purpose of the Caucus is to develop new disability leadership in Kansas, to educate Kansans with disabilities about the mechanics of the policy making process and encourage their participation in it, to determine major issues facing Kansans with disabilities, and to elicit solutions for issues identified.

In 1988, ninety people attended the first Kansas Disability Caucus in Salina, KS. It was these voices, uniting in a common cause, that helped to pass the first consumer directed personal care assistance program in Kansas. It was not uncommon, in the early years, to have founders of the disability rights movement, such as Ed Roberts, in attendance. From 1993 to the present, the Caucus has been held in Topeka. Now the Caucus is formatted to offer education about emerging issues. We gather feedback from the disability community via regional Caucus sessions. The Kansas Disability Caucus supports and encourages successful outcomes for people with all types of disabilities of all ages, especially encouraging the involvement of young adults.

A lot is currently happening in Kansas! The current State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) created Outreach, Housing, Transportation, and Employment Workgroups for the purpose of improving awareness and access for people with disabilities in Kansas. In addition, with the passing of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), there are significant positive changes on the way for Independent Living Programs and Workforce Centers. This is an exciting time filled with opportunities if people with disabilities grab a seat at the table.

The 2015 Disability Caucus theme is “ADA 25: Igniting the Fire for Employment, Involvement and Independence.” It is our sincerest hope that you will join us when the Kansas Disability Caucus returns August 13-14th in Topeka. If you are interested to attend or would like more information, contact Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL) at 785-215-8048 or rosie@kacil.org. Registrations are due to KACIL by July 6th, 2015.
Attention, Guardians!
Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Proposes New Policy on Conflict of Interest

Are you being paid to provide personal services or sleep cycle support for an HCBS participant that you are guardian of? KDADS has drafted a policy that is set to become effective July 1, 2015, to assure that conflict of interest is addressed when a person directing care on behalf of an HCBS Program participant is proposing to or is providing paid supports to the individual through home and community based Medicaid services.

Participants can maintain control of services and conflicts of interest may be mitigated by securing Durable Power of Attorney or separating the “employer of record” from the “manager/worker” and the use of administrative firewalls to separate the two entities.

KDADS has established the following policy to address potential conflicts:

1. A court appointed legal guardian is not permitted to be a paid provider for the participant unless a court determines that all potential conflict of interest concerns have been mitigated in accordance with KSA 59-3068.
   a. It is the responsibility of the appointed guardian to report any potential conflicts to the court and to maintain documentation regarding the determination of the court.
   b. A copy of the special or annual report in which the conflict of interest is disclosed will be provided to the State or designee.

2. If the court determines that all potential conflict of interest concerns have not been mitigated, the legal guardian can:
   a. Select another family member or friend to provide the HCBS services to the participant. If a family member or friend is not available, the participant’s selected MCO or FMS provider can assist the legal guardian in seeking alternative HCBS service providers in the community; OR
   b. Select another family member or friend (who is not a legal guardian or activated DPOA) as a representative to develop or direct the plans of care. In that case, the MCO will obtain the participant’s written consent of delegated representative to act on behalf of participant, initially and annually thereafter; OR

Want more information? On the internet, go to: http://www.aging.ks.gov/PolicyInfo_and_Regs/Pls/DraftPolicies/2015_04_01_KS_HCBS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy.pdf or call your Targeted Case Manager or managed care coordinator. RCIL will mail you copies of the policy and forms, if requested. Call us at 785-528-3105 and request a copy of the “Home and Community Based Conflict of Interest Policy.”

Summer 2015
RCIL Celebrating the ADA 25th Anniversary

It's time to celebrate the ADA 25th Anniversary! Do you know what the ADA is? The ADA stands for the Americans with Disabilities Act and it became law on July 26, 1990 signed by President George H. W. Bush. It is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life such as jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA is divided into five titles that relate to different areas of public life.

Title 1 – Employment: this title is designed to help people with disabilities access the same employment opportunities and benefits available to people without disabilities. Employers must provide reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants or employees upon request.

Title 2 – State and Local Government: this title prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by “public entities,” which are programs, services, and activities provided or made available by state and local governments. The public entity must make sure its programs, services, and activities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. For example this might include public bus service, parks, public schools, and universities.

Title 3 – Public Accommodations: this title prohibits private places of public accommodation from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Examples of public accommodations include hotels, restaurants, retail merchants, doctor’s offices, golf courses, private schools, day care centers, health clubs, sports stadiums, and movie theaters.

Title 4 – Telecommunications: this title requires telephone and Internet companies to provide a nationwide system of interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services that allow individuals with hearing and speech disabilities to communicate over the telephone. This title also requires closed captioning of federally funded public service announcements.

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From the Payroll Helpdesk

1. Direct Support Worker's (DSW's) cannot work until all paperwork is complete for each Consumers/Participant Employers. DSW's working for Multiple Consumers/Participant Employers must receive a call or e-mail from RCIL before they can begin working for the additional Consumer/Participant.

2. DSW's cannot work without having an active KS AuthentiCare ID number.

3. When hiring a new DSW always call our office and request a new DSW packet. Packets are updated regularly so only current packets updated in 2015 will be accepted.

4. All consumers must have an authorized phone number for the DSW’s to clock in and out on. Multiple authorized numbers are allowed.

5. We are using a new form for incomplete claims these are called “KS AuthentiCare-Consumer Verification of Time Worked” they are for incomplete claims ONLY and cannot be copied. Consumers/Participant Employers and their DSW need to add the missing information sign and return within 60 days of time worked in order to be paid.

6. If you have any issues with clocking in and out, call our EVV Specialist Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 1-877-929-7655 to verify time worked.

7. Consumers/Participant Employers are encouraged to call RCIL to verify that your DSW’s time worked was properly captured by KS AuthentiCare.

If you have any Questions please call Payroll Helpdesk at 785-528-5045.

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Wheatland Fishing Has No Boundaries (WFHNB)  
September 26 – 27, 2015

WFHNB is an educational, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to opening up the great outdoors to disabled individuals through the world of fishing. It introduces educational devices to aid the disabled angler and affords a fishing experience for individuals who otherwise may not have such an opportunity. Annual two or three day events are held by chapters all over the continent. With the varied locations of the chapters, many different types of fishing and kinds of fish are available for our disabled anglers. All participants have experienced guides, as well as boats, bait, and special fishing equipment, if needed. Meals are prepared to compliment each day of fishing as well as entertainment. This people-helping-people event creates an atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie shared by both the participants and the volunteers.

This event will be held on September 26 – 27, 2105 at the El Dorado State Lake, Blue Stem Point Area 3, Goose Cove. The cost of the event is $20 per participant. Adoptive fishing equipment will be available if needed. They request to bring your own fishing pole if you have one. If you do not have one, poles will be provided. Meals will consist of breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Transportation is the responsibility of the participants and will not be provided. Registration and Volunteer information is available on their website at wheatlandfishinghasnoboundaries.org. It is due by September 1st to PO Box 188 Towanda, KS 67144. For more information visit their website or call Barb Marlene at 316-258-9280.

the ADA Anniversary Continued

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Title 5 – Miscellaneous Provisions: this title contains a variety of provisions relating to the ADA as a whole. Examples are state immunity, attorney’s fees, and its impact on insurance providers and benefits. This title also provides a list of certain conditions that are not to be considered as disabilities.

Now you know what the ADA is, take a minute to think about life without the ADA. Do automatic doors, elevators, curb cuts, ramps, accommodations in the workplace and accessible transportation help make communities more accessible and people independent? These are just a few examples of things supported by the ADA that everyone with or without disabilities benefit from every day. During the month of July, RCIL is celebrating the 25th ADA Anniversary during its RCIL Friends group meetings in El Dorado, Emporia, Eureka, Fort Scott, Iola, Osage City, and Paola. Each group will have speakers on the ADA and refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome to join the celebration! Contact RCIL at 785-528-3105 if you would like to attend or want more information.