Consumers are encouraged to provide feedback on the HCBS Waiver Renewals

The Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is preparing to submit the paperwork necessary to renew the waivers that guide HCBS in Kansas. The draft includes changes to the existing services. Consumers are encouraged to read the information that KDADS is going to submit to the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services and provide feedback.

The draft renewals, which include the Transition Plan for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings and proposed changes for each HCBS Program’s renewal are available online at www.KDADS.ks.gov for public comment until December 10, 2014. The Public Comment period allows all consumers and providers of the following programs: Frail Elderly, Intellectual/Developmental Disability, Physical Disability and Traumatic Brain Injury to make comments.

Additionally, KDADS has provided a summary of the proposed changes. Only the areas of proposed changes identified in the summary document are available for public comment. New documents with helpful information about the transition plan have been posted online as well.

You may access the documents three ways:

**Online:** www.KDADS.ks.gov – on the home page.

**In Person:** At your local Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO), Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) or Center for Independent Living (CIL).

**By Email:** HCBS-KS@kdads.ks.gov – Please notify us if you need an accommodation.

Questions and Answers are made available online and shared through appropriate public sessions, conference calls, listservs and bulletins during the comment period. A summary of responses will available online after the public comment period has ended for the renewals or any changes to them, and the summary of responses will be provided to CMS as part of the renewal submission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments and Public Input on a Transition Plan can be submitted to KDADS during the comment period in the following ways:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>By Phone:</strong> 785-296-4986 or 785-296-3473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By Email:</strong> <a href="mailto:HCBS-KS@kdads.ks.gov">HCBS-KS@kdads.ks.gov</a> – <strong>Subject:</strong> HCBS Renewals Public Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By Mail:</strong> KDADS, Attn: HCBS Programs, 503 S. Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS 66603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By Fax:</strong> 785-296-0256, Attn: HCBS Programs</td>
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Consumer Christmas Parties

It's that time of year again! The holidays are around the corner. Everyone is busy preparing their delicious foods and buying gifts to give their family and friends. Other annual events include the RCIL consumer Christmas parties!

Below is a listing of the dates and locations of the parties. Pick the event you would like to attend and RSVP to the RCIL office hosting that event at least one week prior. Please be sure to request special accommodations when you RSVP if necessary.

The Christmas parties are being held in conjunction with the December RCIL Friends meetings. There will be fun activities and food provided. If you have questions or would like more information, feel free to contact your local RCIL office.

RCIL staff would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and safe travels.

Christmas Parties Schedule

Osage City - Dec. 10 at the Park Place Apartments (207 S. 6th St.) from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Iola - Dec. 15 at the Townhouse Apartments (217 N. Washington Ave.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

El Dorado - Dec. 17 at the RCIL Office (615 1/2 N. Main) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Fort Scott - Dec. 17 at the High Rise Apartments (315 Scott Ave.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Paola - Dec. 19 at the Paola Senior Center (121 W. Wea St.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Emporia - Dec. 22 at the Broadview Towers Apartments (110 W. 6th Ave.) from 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Eureka - Dec. 23 at the Magic Circle Apartments in the South Community Room (301 Magic Circle Rd.) from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

KS Youth Leadership Forum

Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) is pleased to announce the 15th Annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for students with disabilities to be hosted at Washburn University on July 13-18, 2015. There will be no charge for students to participate in this Forum.

YLF is a great opportunity for students to learn about leadership, goal setting, assertiveness, disability awareness, advocacy, disability heritage and much more. KYEA are looking for students with disabilities in Kansas who are in 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2014 and have demonstrated leadership potential or interest in school and the community, to apply to attend YLF. If you know of a student who is interested in attending YLF, he/she will need to complete and mail the application to the KYEA office no later than December 15, 2014. The application can be found on the KYEA website at www.kyea.org/upcomingksylf or contact KYEA at 1-866-577-5932 to request an application.

If you have questions or would like more information about YLF, please call KYEA at 1-866-577-5932.
Attention
HCBS/FMS Consumers

The Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services has determined that all self-directing HCBS consumers must have their own Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN). RCIL is working to make this as easy as possible for consumers but it will require some paperwork. Please watch your mail for the important information/form packet, read it carefully and return it by the date requested in the packet. If you haven’t received the packet, please call RCIL 1-800-580-7245 and request another FEIN packet.

The Kansas Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps qualifying households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit. The 2015 application period for LIEAP is from January 20, 2015 through March 31, 2015.

In order to qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor.

2. Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchase of the primary heating energy.

3. The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 130% of the federal poverty level.

4. Benefit levels vary according to household income, number of persons living at the address, type of dwelling, and type of heating fuel.

During the application period, you can complete an application online at www.dcf.ks.gov or you can request an application by calling LIEAP at 1-800-432-0043 or pick up an application at your local

From the Desk of the Payroll Department

Many times we receive calls asking questions concerning the Direct Support Worker’s (DSWs) paychecks. Here are just a few tips that might help with ensuring your DSW’s pay is in the system and they will be getting paid correctly and on time.

- To help ensure your DSW’s are paid timely and accurately, encourage them to use Direct Deposit. DSW wage payments can be automatically deposited into their current bank account or onto a First Tennessee Bank or other authorized pay card. Direct deposit reduces the amount of days DSW’s wait to be paid and eliminates hassles of checks being lost or delayed in the mail.

- Make sure your DSW is clocking out before the next DSW clocks in so it doesn’t result in overlapping time. When there is overlapping time, we have to make adjustments which slows the payroll process.

- Remember to keep your DSW hours within the weekly plan of care.

- Most plans of care do not allow for your DSW to work over 10 hours in one day.

- Your DSWs must only use the telephone number that is “authorized” for the consumer when clocking in and out of KS AuthentiCare.

- Your DSWs cannot claim time while the consumer has been admitted into the hospital or any other facility. This is considered Medicaid Fraud.

- For IDD Consumers Only: Make sure that your DSWs aren’t working before their background checks are complete.

- Remember the Holiday seasons are approaching. All RCIL offices will be closed for Christmas on December 25th and 26th and New Year’s Day on January 1st. There will be no change in your DSW’s pay dates during this time. Paydays will still be on Fridays.

Continued on page 5
Consumer Success Story

Poem written by Stephany

When Jesus Called My Name

I was down in a pit of darkness, broken and all alone. I thought my life was over till Jesus called my name. I knew a man named Jesus, I had never lived my life for Him, but I knew I needed Him as death was knocking on my door. I lay there in that bed knowing I needed his help to change as this addiction had taken control as this 500+ lbs I carried would take me to my grave but Jesus called my name.

This is a free gift from Jesus. He came to set us free. He took our place upon the cross, he shed his blood for you and me. I am very blessed someone shared Jesus with me. I know how He has changed my life and I will never be the same. With all my past behind me and enough on my plate for today, I have lost 187 lbs, something I could have never done on my own. Thank You Jesus for setting me free!! I know that I cannot see Him but I know that He is there. He has placed his love down deep in my heart, a love I want to share. This love is like no other and it grows stronger every day. He teaches me as I spend time with Him how to love myself and others with his love I have received. He has brought me up out of that pit of darkness and yes, it's taken some time. This road I'm on with Jesus is a relationship that grows stronger one day at a time. I know He will never give up on me as I sometimes do. I know who holds my future and I know who holds my hand. I will never regret the day I answered when Jesus called my name.

"Hi!” I am Stephany and I am 52 years old. This poem is my life and how Jesus saved me and how much he loves me. My poem recently made it to the semifinalist in a poem contest and it will be published in a book called, “Beyond the Sea.” I would not be here today if I had not answered his call. I have overcome many obstacles and I have achieved many things I gave up on or these things I placed on the back burner. I received my high school diploma in December 2013. I became a part-time Para and I am enrolled in Faith Bible Institute.

Always remember, Dream Big – You are never too old – and being disabled does not mean you are dead. We still matter and there is something we can do, we just have to want it and Jesus knows the way. Every day is a blessing and every day is worth living. Focus on the good because we all have something to “smile” about. I want to thank those who went to the Disability Caucus in 2011 and all the other groups and other people God has placed in my path to help strengthen me so I am able to overcome my addiction to food. This is something I will deal with for the rest of my life and I know I am not where I need to be but I know I am not where I was and I am getting better each day with God’s help.

~Stephany

KS LIEAP Cont.

Continued from page 3

Department for Children and Families (DCF) office.

Note: DCF will deny your application if they received it before or after the applica-
tion period.

Contact LIEAP Customer Service at 1-800-432-0043 or your local DCF office for more information.

RCIL Consumer Newsletter

What is the Cold Weather Rule?

The Cold Weather Rule helps ensure households will have electric and gas service during the winter. You must make pay arrangements with your utility company to use the rule. For more information about the Cold Weather Rule please go to the Kansas Corporation Commission website at http://kcc.ks.gov/pi/cwr_english.htm or contact them at 785-271-3000.

What is the KanCare Consumer Assistance Phone Number?

1-866-305-5147. They can answer general questions and accept requests to change KanCare health plans.

Where can I find food banks and commodities?

Check with your local RCIL office. They have a list of food banks and commodities resources in your area.

Contact the Information & Referral Specialist at 1.800.580.7245 if you have any questions or need any resources.