Important Changes Made To Your Home and Community Based Services

During the time of the Public Health Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Kansas received permission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow several temporary exceptions to the State's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs/waivers. These exceptions allowed HCBS participants more flexibility to access services. The Public Health Emergency ended on May 11, 2023. The state allowed six months before these exceptions ended which was on November 11, 2023.

Here is a summary of the exceptions that end, or change, effective November 11, 2023:

**Background Checks** - Direct Support Workers (DSW) providing HCBS services cannot start until the required background checks have been completed.

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RCIL El Dorado Office Has Moved!

RCIL moved its office in El Dorado into a bigger office space on October 30, 2023. Their new address is 120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3. The office hours still remain the same which is Monday and Wednesday from 8:00am - 4:00pm and Friday from 12:00pm - 4:00pm. If you are in the El Dorado area, feel free to stop by and check out our new office!
RCIL Hires Independent Living Specialist

RCIL is excited to introduce Tami Comstock as the newest member of the Core Services team. Tami started on September 20, 2023 as an Independent Living Specialist (ILS) in the Iola Office. She will be providing RCIL’s five core services in Allen County and surrounding counties. The core services are information and referral, advocacy, peer counseling, independent living skills training, and transition services. Welcome Tami!

Nominate a Direct Support Worker For RCIL’s DSW of the Year Award

The services Direct Support Workers (DSWs) provide are crucial to the health and independence of Kansans with disabilities that receive Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). RCIL wants to provide an opportunity for HCBS consumers and their families to recognize DSWs for their outstanding service and dedication with a “DSW of the Year” Award. This is your opportunity to nominate a Direct Support Worker that you feel is deserving of this recognition. All nominations will be considered.

The RCIL Board of Directors will select a Direct Support Worker for the award and then all other nominees will be entered in a drawing for a prize. The winner will be announced after January 22, 2024.

Deadline: All nominations must be submitted by December 31, 2023.

Please submit the following information listed below by email at info@rcilinc.org OR by mail at RCIL P.O. Box 257 Osage City, KS 66523.

1. Your Name:
2. Name of Nominee (Direct Support Worker):
3. What my Direct Support Worker means to me:
Daily Hour Limit – Personal Care Services (PCS) are limited to no more than 12 hours per day unless an exception has been granted by the Managed Care Organization or the service plan for Personal Care Services is over 84 hours per week. For example, total PCS hours billed on a single day cannot exceed 12 hours for all workers. This is for Personal Care Services only and does not affect Enhanced Care Services (Sleep Cycle Support) or Comprehensive Support. Please ensure your workers are not clocked in for over 12 hours per day for Personal Care Services.

Enhanced Care Services (sometimes called ECS or Sleep Cycle Support) - must be provided by someone living outside the home of the HCBS participant. Live-in DSWs can no longer provide ECS – Sleep Cycle Support without an exception from the Managed Care Organization. If you do not have an exception for your live-in worker to provide ECS – Sleep Cycle Support, please do not let them clock in for that service.

Conflict of Interest - Spouses, parents of minor participants, and other legal representatives can only be paid by the HCBS programs/waivers if they meet certain conditions as outlined in the waiver and policy.

Service Utilization – HCBS participants must receive at least one service every 30 days to remain eligible for HCBS.

Changes that are becoming permanent:

Paid Family Caregivers – Pending waiver amendment approval by CMS, adult HCBS participants may employ family members or other persons living in the home as their paid DSW to provide approved daily living activities as outlined in Person Centered Support Plans. However, this does not include a live-in DSW (family or not) to provide ECS–Sleep Cycle Support without an exception from the Managed Care Organization.

Please contact the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. at 1-800-580-7245 or 785-528-3105 with any questions regarding these changes.

Have you Moved?

If you have moved or changed your phone number, name, or email address, call 1-800-580-7245 so we can keep in contact with you!

HIPAA Privacy Notice

RCIL’s Notice of Privacy Practices based on the Health Insurance Portability and 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.
Adam Burnett Receives Spirit of Hope Award

Every year the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEAA) presents the Spirit of Hope Award, in memory of John Peterson. This award celebrates people from all walks of life that recognize the potential and worth of youth with disabilities in Kansas. Adam Burnett, Director of Core Services, received the Spirit of Hope Award from KYEA during RCIL's staff meeting on September 28, 2023. Adam has made working with youth with disabilities his life's work and his legacy during his 20 plus years with RCIL. He is passionate about empowering youth with disabilities and he has consistently made his work with youth with disabilities a priority.

Adam assisted with the development and continues to solely implement the Transition Age Independent Living Services (TAILS) curriculum for countless youth with disabilities. He works with small groups of transition age youth with the objective of the youth becoming aware or growing their awareness of their own self-worth and their importance to others. He also assists with the development of strength-based goal setting so that the youth envision their future as a successful, independent adult. From his work delivering the TAILS program, a youth peer support group called Youth Transition Club was developed. He organizes monthly meetings to keep youth with disabilities connected and to confirm that he is a part of their support network. Adam also has consistently been at the table with decision makers informing them of the development of youth transition programs and services. He has led numerous Disability History and Awareness Day events at schools for over ten years. In recent years, his leadership and commitment is what brought Disability Mentoring Day events to a reality for the youth in Osage County.

Congratulations to Adam for receiving this award!
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<td>Mar 28th</td>
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<td>Jan 24th</td>
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<td>Emotional Health</td>
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To advocate for change in our communities, and to have fun, we meet monthly to share and learn about disability-related topics. Friends are groups of individuals who have, or have experienced, a disability.
Consumer Christmas Parties

The holiday season is here! RCIL will have their annual consumer Christmas parties during the month of December. The Christmas parties' schedule is listed on the right of this article. 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. It is from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm unless it is noted in the schedule. There will be fun activities and prizes. Food is provided at all Christmas parties. If you have questions or would like more information, feel free to contact your local RCIL office.

RCIL Friends Group in Iola and Fort Scott

We are pleased to announce the restarting of the RCIL Friends group in Iola, KS. Our first meeting was held on November 14, 2023 at the Iola Townhouse in the meeting room located at 217 N. Washington Street. After the busy holidays are over, we will set a monthly time and date.

Please join us for camaraderie, door prizes, sharing of information, and learning more about RCIL and things that matter to you. Also be thinking of items you would like to discuss for future meetings. By the end of the year, we hope to start Friends Group meetings in Fort Scott.

Our ILS Tami Comstock is the facilitator for the Iola Friends Group and the Fort Scott Friends Group. She is looking forward to meeting you at Friends Group meetings. For more information, contact Tami at the Iola RCIL office at 620-365-8144.
Establishing A New Place

Independent Living Specialist, Suzanne, received a call from Kathleen stating she is blind and she recently moved into the area from out of state. She requested assistance to find housing, transportation, and to locate resources in her town. She found temporary housing to stay while she searched for a place to live on her own. Suzanne provided Kathleen a list of resources in the area and helped her connect with those resources. Kathleen was able to use public transportation to travel where she needed to go in town. RCIL also helped Kathleen apply for additional programs and services to help her live independently and obtain a Kansas identification card. She found medical doctors that she needed. She updated her contact information and applied for Supplemental Security Income at the Social Security office.

Kathleen found an apartment that was on the second level of the

Continued on page 7

Miami County Resource Guide

Information and Referral (I&R) is a Core Service that RCIL offers to anyone with or without a disability. RCIL staff receive calls from consumers with questions about available community resources in their county. Below are a few resources available in Miami County.

Contact RCIL at 785-528-3105 if you have questions or need assistance to locate resources in your area.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Name</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECKAN</td>
<td>Housing &amp; Food Assistance</td>
<td>785-242-7450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Layton Center</td>
<td>Therapy, Medication Management, Counseling</td>
<td>913-557-9096</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Public Transportation</td>
<td>Provides rides for residents who live in Miami County</td>
<td>913-557-4361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami County Health Department</td>
<td>Immunizations, Health Screenings, Car Seat Safety</td>
<td>913-294-2431</td>
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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 January 12, 2023 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 January 15, 2023 and the prize will be mailed to the winner.

Fill in the Blanks

1. RCIL moved their_________________________ office.

2. Consumer Christmas Party in Osage City is on December _____ th.

3. RCIL Friends Group will be restarting in ______________ Kansas.

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Phone Number: _____________________________

Establishing A New Place Continued

Continued from page 6

apartment building with an exterior staircase. Even though it wasn’t accessible for her, she moved into the apartment because she needed a place to live. After she moved into the apartment, she continued her search to find accessible housing. She contacted numerous landlords and received no luck. Eventually, Kathleen’s current landlord had an apartment available on the ground level and offered it to her. Kathleen moved into her new apartment. She reported to Suzanne that she learned how to communicate with her landlord and how to report maintenance issues.

Kathleen told Suzanne that she is living more independently since she has a place to live and reliable transportation. She said she met some neighbors that she can rely on when she needs help. She also said that she learned how to reach out to people who have knowledge of local resources.
RCIL Home Office

Address  
P.O. Box 257  
1137 Laing St.  
Osage City, KS 66523

Phone  
785-528-3105 Voice  
800-580-7245 Toll Free  
877-929-7655 Payroll Help Desk

Fax  
785-528-3665 Payroll Fax  
785-528-2938

Satellite Offices

El Dorado  
120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3  
El Dorado, KS 67042  
316-322-7853 Voice  
800-960-7853 Toll Free  
316-322-7888 Fax

Emporia  
215 W. 6th Ave., Suite 201  
Emporia, KS 66801  
620-342-1648 Voice  
888-261-4024 Toll Free  
620-342-1821 Fax

Iola  
104 S. Washington Ave.  
Iola, KS 66749  
620-365-8144 Voice  
877-944-8144 Toll Free  
620-365-7726 Fax

Topeka  
1507 SW 21st St., 203  
Topeka, KS 66604  
785-267-1717 Voice  
877-719-1717 Toll Free  
785-267-1711 Fax