

Life Patterns Lowdown

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Topeka Office Welcomes a New Staff Member

Our Topeka office is thrilled to welcome a new member to our team! Robyn Pugh has joined us as the Accounts Manager and oversees our accounts receivable and payable. Robyn graduated from Washburn University with a degree in accounting, and has spent the last 26 years working for a CPA firm that focused on the Healthcare Industry. Her experience and knowledge makes her a great asset to Life Patterns, Inc.!

COVID Exceptions Update:

As we near the end of the Public Health Emergency, we are also nearing the end of the COVID Exceptions for HCBS waived services. The Public Health Emergency ends on April 16th of this year unless the State of Kansas extends it. However, once the Pandemic labeling has been lifted, KDADS has stated there would be a 6 month timeframe for everyone to get back into compliance following the typical Medicaid/Waiver guidelines.

There are talks that KDADS is looking at keeping some of the exceptions that have been beneficial, but there has not been anything definitive as of yet. Once we learn what KDADS has decided to continue with, in regards to the COVID exceptions, we will let people know.

Legislative Update

This current Legislative Session there are a couple things worth noting for the next fiscal year. There is currently a bill at the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services to add money to the IDD waiver. This bill is requesting that \$58.8 million of State General Funds for the IDD provider go to a rate increase. The request is for a 30% increase which would bring down additional federal funds of roughly \$145 million in new funds for the IDD network beginning in July.

That recommendation is being presented March 4th, 2022 at 10:30 AM when the full Senate Ways and Means Committee will be considering the KDADS budget recommendations of its subcommittee. If the committee approves the full \$58.5 million SGF recommendation, and the House Appropriations Committee also approves their proposed \$27.4 million SGF amount, negotiators for both chambers will haggle between those two figures when a conference committee is assigned to work out differences in budget items.

Speaking of KDADS budget recommendations, there are some proposals that are very interesting. KDADS is trying to find a way that all waivers would be very similar in reimbursement rates. Currently, the FE and IDD for self-direction are the lowest paying waivers. This is, and has been, causing issues with finding workers all across the State of Kansas. Within the KDADS budget there is a request to increase the provider rates for the IDD waiver by 14 % and the FE by 10%.

It is very important that you reach out to your legislators to voice your thoughts on the increases. Urge them to increase these rates so that the Direct Support Workers and other providers are able to pay workers a decent wage.

It's almost tax time!

Don't forget, the deadline to file taxes is on Monday, April 18th. Please check with your employees to see if they have received their W-2s. If they haven't received them, they will need to call our office and get their addresses updated so we can get their W-2 resent.

Office Hours

Life Patterns will be closed on **Friday, April 15th for Good Friday.**
