

# LIFE PATTERNS INC.

## Life Patterns Lowdown

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### Post-COVID Exceptions

Once the State has ended their COVID Exceptions, our policies and procedures will return to normal. A few things to keep in mind, once the exceptions have ended:

- All workers combined will have to stay within 12 hours per day.
- Parents of TA Waiver individuals will no longer be eligible to be workers.
- Anyone living in the same home as a PD or TA Waiver individual will no longer be eligible to be workers.
- Parents of IDD Waiver individuals that are under the age of 18 will no longer be eligible to be workers.
- Siblings under the age of 18, of individuals on the IDD Waiver, will no longer be eligible to be workers.
- Workers will need to clear all background checks prior to being eligible to work.

These are few things to keep in mind, as you may need to hire more workers. We will do our best to keep everyone updated on when the COVID exceptions will end, through our website and our newsletter.

### HCBS IDD Waiver July Rate Increase

As mentioned in May's newsletter, the State of Kansas has granted a rate increase for HCBS IDD waiver services. As the employer, you have the choice to increase your worker's rate of pay. If you would like to increase your employees' pay, you **MUST** complete a new Employment Agreement form. If you did the June increase, you will need to complete *another* agreement for the July increase.

#### July Pay Ranges:

- IDD PCS (no family relationship): **\$7.25-\$10.90**
- IDD PCS (natural or adoptive parents): **\$7.25-\$11.75**
- IDD ECS & Overnight Respite: **\$43.50-\$80.50**

#### **NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE WITHOUT THE NEW FORMS.**

You can get these forms by going to our website at [www.lifepatternsks.org](http://www.lifepatternsks.org), or you can contact our offices to have us send out an Employment Agreement Form. Our offices can be reached at 785.273.7189 (Topeka) or 620.846.2658 (Montezuma).

You can return the forms by:

- **By mail-** 3300 SW 29<sup>th</sup> ST, STE 100, Topeka, KS 66614 or PO Box 418 Montezuma, KS 67867
- **By email-** [kristen@lifepatternsks.org](mailto:kristen@lifepatternsks.org) or [sara@lifepatternsks.org](mailto:sara@lifepatternsks.org)
- **By fax-** Topeka office: 785.273.3816 or Montezuma office: 620.846.2340

**The July rate of pay increases for the HCBS IDD waiver will start on July 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, which will be processed and paid no earlier than on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call!

## ISP CHANGES FOR SCHOOL YEAR!!

With school starting soon, it is likely that the amount of authorized hours may be decreasing. Please review the ISP/Plan of Care from your Managed Care Organization (MCO) to see how many hours are authorized. If you have any questions about the ISP or how many hours are authorized, please call your Life Patterns office and we can help you as well.

**\*\*Reminder: Workers cannot be clocked in while the participant is in school. "Personal Care Services (PCS) cannot be provided in a school setting and cannot be used for education, as a substitute for educationally related services, or for transition services as outline in the participant's ISP."**

We hope everyone has a great 2021-22 school year!!!

## PODCAST RECAP

In August 2020 we introduced our new Life Patterns Podcast! Our first episode featured Patty Gerdel, co-founder of Life Patterns, Inc. and author of an upcoming booklet designed to assist and guide parents and family members of those self-directing on the IDD waiver in Kansas.

Our second podcast, in October, introduced four key members of the Special Olympics Kansas team; Tyler Griswold, John Lair, Taylor Obersteadt, & Jesse Lyle. Listen to find out what you DIDN'T know about this versatile organization!

Our November podcast hosted the founders of The Golden Scoop, an ice cream shop in Overland Park, Kansas that "changes lives, one scoop at a time"- employing folks in the developmental disability community.

In our May podcast, Sarah spoke with Susan Harris, Executive Director of the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging to discover services available to seniors. If you know if anyone that's around the age of retirement, this is a great one to listen to!

In our latest podcast, posted in June, Sarah Laing and Kansas State Treasurer, Lynn Rogers, discuss the Kansas ABLE Savings Program, which allows those receiving disability assistance to save money without it affecting their SSI eligibility.

Go check out our podcasts on our website, under the **PODCAST** tab or find them on our Facebook page. If there is anything you would like to hear about in future podcasts, please call your Life Patterns office or send one of us an email.

## AuthentiCare App Problems

If your workers are having issues with the AuthentiCare app not working on their cell phones, please have them delete the app, and reinstall the newest version of the app. The app will ask for a setup code, which is **Kansasprd**, before taking them to the login screen. This should fix the problem, but if not, please let us know and we will reach out to AuthentiCare.

## Office Hours

Life Patterns will be closed on **Monday, September 6th** for **Labor Day**.