

SKIL Resource Center Inc.

KS AuthentiCare - Update for HCBS Waiver

Update for HCBS Waiver client, The State of Kansas has changed the method that self-directed and agency workers document their time. The method is known as KS AuthentiCare, and it is utilized for the following HCBS Waiver programs: Frail Elderly (agency directed and self-directed services) and self-directed Developmentally Disabled, Physical Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury, Technology Assisted, and Money Follows the Person services that apply to applicable waiver services.

The KS AuthentiCare Process in my home:

Your workers will still need to place a Toll Free call using your home phone or cell phone to "check-in" and "check-out" each time they visit your home and conduct tasks according to your plan of care. This "check-in" and "check-out" process replaced the paper time sheets workers used previously.

Verification of Worker Presence through A Telephone Call:

KS AuthentiCare will, effective April 16, 2012, begin calling workers randomly to verify their presence in providing services to you. The number called will be the number listed for you in KS AuthentiCare. These calls will occur anytime between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM, Monday through Friday. When you answer, someone from Client Support Services, First Data, will identify himself or herself as being with First Data/KS AuthentiCare. When these calls occur, please respond by handing the telephone to your worker so he or she can verify his or her presence in your home. These calls will be very brief.

Do I have to allow the Health Care Workers to use my home phone?

By State policy, you and the agency or self-directed worker, are required to cooperate in the use of the KS AuthentiCare system to get paid for services provided. We want you to allow your worker to successfully participate in KS AuthentiCare in order to provide to you the services that you need.

What if I do not currently have a home phone?

If you do not have a phone in your home or a cell phone, you may be eligible for reduced monthly phone service through the Kansas Lifeline/Link Up Telephone Service. To find out if you are eligible, you may contact your local telephone company or call 1-888-641-8722 for more information. Otherwise, the service provider will establish an alternative method for the time keeping requirement.

Contact SKIL Resource Center via this website or call direct 800-688-5616.



Dennis Atkins coming to you "Live from SKIL"

Dennis Atkins lives in Parsons with his brother. They own their own home and have lived there for several years. Dennis enjoys many things in the community. He is active in his church and loves to sing karaoke.

Patsy Cline is one of Dennis' favorite artists. He recalls two of her most famous hits, "Walking after Midnight" and "Crazy". Dennis loves to sing and when asked why he enjoyed it so much he replied, "It makes me feel like Patsy Cline was right down here, amongst me, right here helping me out."

Dennis lives independently and uses the supports he needs to accomplish the goals he sets for himself. Dennis has a goal of being on the radio.

KLKC/KSEK radio owned and operated by SKIL Resource Center featured Dennis Atkins on the Resource Central show that airs Friday mornings. The weekly show is at 7:35 on the AM station 1540 and at 9:05 on the FM 93.5. It also airs approximately the same time on the KSEK stations 99.1 FM and 1340 AM.

Feel free to tune in or look for Dennis Atkins and his music podcast will that is available online at the SKIL website www.skilonline.com.

Volunteers do make a difference!



National Volunteer Week: April 15 - 21, 2012

Volunteers are a big part of our success at SKIL Resource Center. Our volunteers give of themselves in so many ways from helping at events, assisting in the office and being there for our customers.

We want to give a HUGE THANKS to everyone who has contributed their time and talents out of the goodness of their heart to a cause they truly believe in.

WE LOVE EACH OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!!



Vicki Souter Assistive Technology Specialist explains how simple "technology" can be.

"Assistive Technology will help anyone access their environment in whatever way they need through technology." Vicki Souter Assistive Technology Specialist with the Assistive Technology for Kansans program. Explained how the program covers the entire state of Kansas. "It might be simple technology like special pen. Or it might be complicated technology like access to a computer.

Administered by the University of Kansas, Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) is a program that connects people with disabilities and health conditions of all ages with the assistive technology they need to learn, work, play and participate in the community.

Assistive Technology has four core services. They are fund, request, demonstration, and loan.

There are five AT Access Sites in Kansas. Each has the experienced staff that can assist Kansans see and try a device, borrow a device, get a used device or help locate funding for a new or used device, or teach individuals or groups how to maintain and use technology. The AT Access Sites are located in Oakley, Salina, Wichita, Topeka and Parsons. An affiliate office for obtaining high quality refurbished technology is located in Garden City.

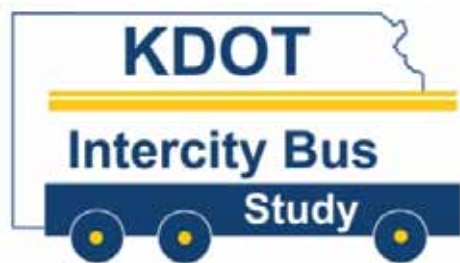
Vicki works with the Southeast Kansas Access site. As an Assistive Technology Specialist she helps people to increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services to promote independence and productivity in the areas of education, employment, and community living. The assistive technology provided through this service covers a wide range of categories, including vision; hear; speech communication; mobility, seating, and position; learning, cognition and developmental; daily living; environmental adaptations; vehicle modifications and transportation; computers; and recreation, sports, and leisure.

As part of this service, SEK Assistive Technology will provide demonstrations of devices with a focus on helping the consumer make an informed decision. They also provide a device loan program, which allows people the opportunity to try a specific device or allows for a brief accommodation or a loaner during repair of another device.

Kansas Equipment Exchange

SEK Assistive Technology program also works with the Kansas Equipment Exchange (KEE), a statewide project guided by individuals with disabilities, family members and Medicaid. Durable medical equipment is purchased with public funds and loaned to Kansans, with the State of Kansas maintaining ownership, while the original consumer has the use of the equipment for as long as it is needed. The equipment is registered and identified with a tracking number, and as part of the exchange network, KEE will work to handle the pick-up, clean-up and relocation when the equipment is no longer needed.

You can contact your regional AT Access Site by calling 800-KAN DO IT (800-526-3648). Management staff can be reached by calling 620-421-8367.



The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is studying ways to improve long-distance travel options in Kansas, specifically what is known as "Intercity Bus" - carriers such as Greyhound, Jefferson Lines, Prestige Bus Lines, etc. We would appreciate it if you could spend a few minutes completing this survey to help us better serve the citizens of Kansas. Link to survey - <http://heartlandmarketresearch.com/surveys/kdothbr.htm>

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Just Married Congratulations !



Stephen and Fredline Rittenhouse:

All SKIL congratulates and celebrates the recent wedding of Stephen and Fredline Rittenhouse. Fredline shared they were married February 29, 2012. Stephen shared God has been good to them.

National Ag Day March 8, 2012 and Steve Hoover with AgrAbility

What Is Ag Day?

It's a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture.

When Is Ag Day?

Ag Day is celebrated on March 8, 2012. National Ag Day falls during National Ag Week, March 4-10, 2012.

Who Hosts Ag Day?

The Agriculture Council of America hosts the campaign on a national level. However, the awareness efforts in communities across America are as influential - if not more - than the broad-scale effort. Again this year, the Ag Day Planning Guide has been created to help communities and organizations more effectively host Ag Day events.

David Engledow calls himself a guinea pig but now is working to teach others about epilepsy.

Dave underwent risky brain surgery that appears to have cured his epilepsy. The procedure was at the University Of Kansas Medical Center. He has not had a seizure since November 8, 2011.

Some people with epilepsy are afraid to mention that they have the neurological disorder, but David Engledow, Pittsburg, is not one of them. Dave was born with epilepsy and suffered a brain injury at the age of two. He was miss-diagnosed for some time when he was placed in an orphanage. "Nobody really took care of it they thought it was retardation." Dave explained.

Instead, he's determined to fight the misconceptions and negative public attitudes that sometimes prevent those with epilepsy from achieving their full rights in society. Dave is offering free orientation training for individuals and organizations. A support group called Southeast Kansas Epilepsy Support Group, which will be meeting at 7 p.m. the first Monday of month. This is a confidential discussion and sharing time that is open to the people of southeast Kansas. The group will meet at the Besse Apartments conference room.

The number one thing people need to understand about epilepsy in Dave's opinion is, "To make sure people know what to do in the time someone is having a seizure." many seizures last less than a minute and by the time an ambulance or emergency personnel arrive the person has recovered. However a person can experience injury if the seizure last for a long time. Learning about the illness and its effects can greatly improve a person's ability to remain independent and in the community.

Epilepsy is the world's most common and serious neurological disorder. It affects more than 3 million Americans, and more than 45,000 Kansans.

Epilepsy can be caused by many things, including birth defects, infections in the brain and traumatic injuries to the brain at any age. Engledow said that his was probably caused by hitting his head in a fall when he was very young.



David Engledow

"My brother says that I fell and hit the concrete sidewalk when I was 6 or 7," he said. "When I was in school I'd hide behind trash cans when I had a seizure because people would laugh at you."

Engledow has been trying to stop that laughter for most of his life. Contact Dave at sekepilepsy@yahoo.com or call 620-719-6547.

Abe Jahansouz is on the Physical Disability Waiver Waiting List since September 2009

More than 3300 people are suffering just like Abe. What's the Governor's office going to do about the ever expanding waiting list for home and community based services for the physically disabled?

Abe Jahansouz is on the Physical Disability Waiver Waiting List. He has been waiting since September 2009. Abe attended Labette County Community College in the early 70's. He received a Biological and Agricultural Engineering Degree from K-State in 1978 went on to continue his education at Pittsburg State University where he got his Master's in Engineering Technology Degree and later his E.D.S. in 1990. Abe was a professor in four Junior Colleges in Southeast Kansas and taught at the Pitt State university as well for several years.

A back injury in 1989 and multiple surgeries later and now Abe is trying to survive on \$962.00 a month. He draws a \$500 cash advance on his credit card each month to cover rent, medical bills and prescription cost. A radical change from the dream home he built, and lived in for thirteen years. His wife divorced him after over thirty years of marriage and a daughter lives in Tennessee. The daughter is the Assistant Dean at a college.

Abe remarked about his family and wife, "She couldn't take it no longer. Family breaks; I hope it never happens to anybody."

Abe is thankful for being number 153 on the section 8 housing list. He was 455 on the list 3 years ago when he submitted his request.

Abe is forced to spend most of his time in bed as a result of being disabled with a deteriorating spine. He is now partially paralyzed and has almost constant back spasms. It is a terminal disease.

He has learned some survival skills such as microwave cooking one time for a whole week. A bowl of cereal in the morning, no lunch and some of what he has prepared for supper. Abe stated, "Not really worried about eating. What worries me is my future."

One of the spasms had Abe's leg raised for eighteen hours. He was afraid to call 911 because he could not afford to have the door repaired after the emergency personnel would have had to break it down. He would not have been able to get up off the floor to open the door.

The twitching is worse than the spasm right now. "It is like a tornado in your spin, something turning in your spine. And pops."

When asked about his thoughts on going to a nursing home Abe replied, "No way in the world. I would die early in a nursing home. I don't care how awful it is. If the school system calls and tells me to come substitute; I'll go."

On any day that weather allows, Abe manages to get outside on his front porch. "No matter how hard it is I'm going to get outside. I want to have my freedom. I'm 62 years old I'm hoping to get better. I only want someone come here to clean bath tub, mop the floors and doing vacuuming. I can wash my own clothes." His doctor has ordered him not to do some actions around the house. A little help two or three times a week would be a significant help.

Accessibility in the apartment would be improved greatly with a decent wheelchair and a shower chair for the bathroom. He has already purchased the grab bar in the bathroom.

Abe has worked all of his life and now he says, "I pray every day to get a job. And go to work."

Kansas Olmstead Update: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has turned the case over to the U.S. Department of Justice

Federal officials have notified advocates for the physically disabled that efforts to get Gov. Sam Brownback's administration to address long-standing waiting lists for services have been unsuccessful.

As a result, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has turned the case over to the U.S. Department of Justice.

"We were told Friday afternoon," said Shannon Jones, executive director at the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas. "I'm not surprised by the decision, but I am disappointed that it's had to go this far. This is about 3,400 people who've been lingering and suffering on waiting lists for one, two and three years."

HHS also sent notification letters to people who had filed complaints about the waiting lists.

Because the Department of Justice has taken over negotiations with the governor's office, it's more likely that the state will be sued in federal court.

"There has been a referral made from the HHS Office of Civil Rights to the Department of Justice, and Department of Justice is now consulting with the U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas to decide the next appropriate step toward the enforcement of Olmstead," said Barry Grissom, U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas.

Grissom said the referral would be the subject of a conference call this afternoon between the two offices. He declined further comment.

Olmstead refers to *Olmstead v. L.C.*, a 1999 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said states have an obligation to provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Subsequent rulings have found that lengthy waiting lists constitute violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Last month, four HHS officials, led by Leon Rodriguez, national director of HHS' Office

for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., met with Brownback and other administration officials to discuss the waiting list issue.

Afterward, administration sources said the federal officials had made clear they were prepared to take action unless significant movement was seen in the waiting lists.

"I think we can say the feds have called in the big guns," said Rep. Bob Bethell, an Alden Republican and chair of the House Aging and Long-term Care Committee.

Since President Obama took office, the U.S. Department of Justice, acting on behalf of HHS, has joined or filed more than 25 lawsuits alleging discrimination against the disabled in 17 states.

About 3,400 Kansans with physical disabilities are waiting for services and about 3,900 people with developmental disabilities are on a separate list.

The services in question are provided under what are called Medicaid "waiver programs." The federal government pays about 60 percent of the costs of the services, which are designed to help people with disabilities live in community settings rather than nursing homes.

In Georgia, the state has had to spend close to \$100 million over the past three years on additional services for the disabled as the result of a settlement with the federal government.

Jones said eliminating the waiting list for physically disabled Kansans would cost about \$33 million in state funds and \$75 million all funds.

Administration officials have argued that Kansas has proportionately more disabled people receiving non-institutional services than all but a few states. That fact, they said, should help neutralize any legal argument federal officials might try to make that the state was violating the Americans with Disabilities Act.

They've also raised doubts about the waiting lists, saying they may include people who might not actually need or qualify for services.

Advocates for the disabled have disputed the allegations.

Family Disaster Planning - Disaster Plan Guide

There are many different kinds of disasters, such as fires, floods, airplane crashes, chemical spills, pipeline leaks and explosions, which seldom give warning and can be equally devastating to their victims. The planning you and your family do will be of benefit for any type of disaster that can strike your community.

This guide is a plan template and is intended to provide you a simple format and possible suggestions about information you might want to include in your family disaster plan. It is not all inclusive and should be modified by the user to suit individual or family needs.

This plan can be filled in electronically or printed and filled in by hand. If filled in by hand, we recommend that you use a pencil for ease of making future corrections to information contained in the document.

At least once a year, have a meeting with your family to discuss and update your disaster plan with current and correct information. Determine what additional training, equipment, and supplies are needed.

Practice! Occasional drills can improve reaction time and help to avoid panic in an actual emergency.

For example consider the following two areas of planning.

Children at school note: In case of emergency, you should know if the school will keep your children until an authorized adult comes to get them. Determine what is required to release your child to your representatives if you cannot get there yourself. Ensure that the school knows your current contact information and those people authorized to collect your children.

Reunion Procedures: Establish two places where you and your family can meet following an emergency. One immediately outside of your home, for example a neighbor's mailbox, for use during a home emergency AND another site away from home in case you can't return. Download your Disaster Plan Guide at the www.skilonline.com website or call 800-688-5616 for more information.