LIFE PATTERNS

Life Patterns Lowdown

COVID EXCEPTIONS TO END

As you may remember, the State of Kansas implemented Covid exceptions during the Public Health Emergency (PHE). This allowed for modifications to the HCBS programs during the shutdown. The PHE ended in May, and the Covid exceptions will officially end on November 11, 2023, for all providers across Kansas. Please review the following exceptions that will be ending:

BACKGROUND CHECKS

With the provisions in place, workers were able to start working prior to clearing the required background checks. This will change starting Nov.11th. Workers will need to have paperwork completed and in the office and Life Patterns Inc. staff will then run the background checks. Once the worker has cleared all the checks, we will inform the member and/or designed representative of when the new worker can start clocking in and out. This will create a longer turn around to get workers hired and started clocking in and out.

DAILY LIMIT

Personal Care Services (PCS) will have limit of 12 hours in a 24 hour period. This daily limit will be implemented Nov. 11th. All shifts that are longer than 12 hours will require a correction to be made, unless there is an exception approved by the MCO.

ELIGIBILITY

Although there was no exception in place for eligibility specifically, the State had softened the time frame in which annual reports and procedures were to be done. They have gone back to the strict time frames they had had before the pandemic. As a reminder to you, all members on HCBS must have all reassessments and reevaluations completed and must be eligible in KMAP before services can be rendered by the provider.

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- * New I9 in Hire Packet
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New I9 Form

All new hire packets will include an updated 19/ Employment Eligibility Verification. This is a federal form required by USCIS to ensure that the person being hired is eligible to work in the United States.

Workers will need to provide ID documents that are unexpired to the employer to verify that they are valid and legit.

Rate Increases for FE, PD, & BI

The state of Kansas updated the rate for the FE, PD, & BI waivers effective July 1st, 2023. Rates for workers can be updated once we have an updated Employment Agreement.

You can find the agreement on our website or call our office to request it.

Topeka: 785-273-7189 Montezuma: 620-846-2658

| | Wavier | Pay Ranges |
|---|-----------|--|
| è | FE Waiver | PCS: \$7.25—\$14.15 |
| | | ECS: \$43.50—\$90.00 minimum of 6 hours |
| | PD Waiver | PCS: \$7.25—\$12.85 (no family relationship) |
| | | PCS: \$7.25—\$13.85 (natural or adoptive parent) |
| | | ECS: \$43.50—\$82.00 minimum of 6 hours |
| | BI Waiver | PCS: \$7.25—\$12.85 (no family relationship) |
| | | PCS: \$7.25—\$13.85 (natural or adoptive parent) |

Save Money While Maintaining Your Disability Benefits!!

The Kansas ABLE Savings Program helps people save money for the future while preserving their SSI and Medicaid benefits. "ABLE" stands for "Achieving a Better Life Experience" and can really change a life. The account is designed as a savings account, but funds can be used for qualifying life expenses, such as education, transportation, groceries, etc. Now, you or a loved one can save money without the worry of losing benefits.

Anyone who already receives SSI or SSDI qualifies to be able to open an ABLE account. For more qualifications, limitations and other information, listen to our podcast at <u>www.lifepatternsks.org</u>, go to <u>www.kansascash.ks.gov</u> or call the State Treasurer's office at 785-296-3171.

Back to School

Many schools have started back up and therefore there may be changes to PCSP or the monthly hours approved on your care plan. Workers should not be clocked in during school hours.

Check to see if there are any changes to the PCSP due to school or IEP that is in place. You may also call our offices to confirm the total hours allowed on your PCSP.

OFFICE CLOSED Sept 4th Labor Day