



## Guardian's Newsletter

Recently I received a concern from a guardian regarding ABLED's supervision of our direct Service Providers. It occurred to me that this may be a question that other parents and guardians may have.

Of first importance is our mission is: Serving Jesus Christ by enabling developmentally disabled individuals to creatively explore and live full meaningful lives in their communities. As you can see, the focus of ABLED is to serve individuals and improve their lives. We primarily care for the well-being of individuals.

We make every effort to treat our staff, parents, guardians, and DHHS staff with kindness, respect, and compassion. It makes us happy to see the difference we have made in the lives of our staff. We strive to make life better for those we come into contact with in our community. However, rest assured, at all times our primary focus is the individuals and making their lives better in this world and in the world to come.

Currently, there are 7 persons on our executive team. Pierre Allen is over most of our staff and acts as the primary contact for DHHS and guardians. With the help of Maddie Little, he oversees all Day Service Providers and Residential Service Providers to make sure they are providing exceptional services.

Maddie Little is charged with conducting monthly home visits of all ABLED Shared Living Provider residences. This is required by DHHS and it serves to ensure the place where the individual is staying is compliant with regulations and ABLED policy. She also trains our staff to ensure services are properly provided.

Coralie Lang monitors all meds, that programs are run and documented, and that TLogs are completed by staff for each day of services. If anyone is neglectful in doing daily documentation, they will hear from her. Staff pay is reduced should there be an ongoing pattern of failure to do this. Staff may be subject to termination for ongoing neglect. Documentation is essential for supervision. Guardians and parents should be able to get into Therap and see how their individual is doing each day.

In addition to the 7-member executive team, we have our own RN and our own LiMHP on staff. Our RN monitors all ABLED med administration and is available for consultation should staff need help. Our LiMHP works with the individual and staff to address mental health concerns and behaviors.

Everyone at ABLED is required to have a background check each year. Staff working with participants are required to be certified in CPR and First Aid. Staff giving meds are required to be Med Aide certified. All staff are trained in Abuse and Neglect and HIPAA. We have many staff currently trained in Mandt Emergency Safety Intervention and de-escalation techniques. By September, all ABLED staff will be Mandt certified.

We take pride in serving individuals one-on-one as much as possible. I would guess that it would be difficult to find an agency that has as high of a staff-to-individual ratio as ABLED. We welcome your comments and will address any concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact us.

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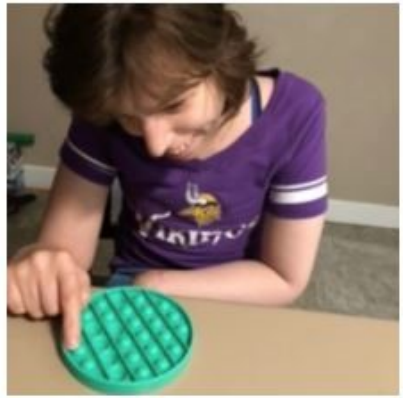
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*Thank You* for joining us in our mission.



## RETURN TO NORMALCY

Employees, Providers, Advocates, and Families;

As we continue to steadily make progress emerging from the year-long pandemic, good news is beginning to appear for a return to normalcy and routines.

DHHS has worked tirelessly to ensure members of the IDD community were prioritized to receive the vaccine. Recently, the Department held several vaccination clinics specifically for individuals with IDD and their caregivers that resulted in over 1,000 vaccinations. In addition, with nearly half of Nebraska fully vaccinated, the environment is becoming safer for individuals to return to in-person services.

After the intense challenges of this past year, I certainly understand there still may be some hesitation to return. I encourage individuals and their families to reach out to their service providers and their service coordinators. Currently the Appendix K flexibilities are only approved through 6/30/21. So it is best to begin planning for a transition now, rather than waiting.

It is extremely important for those who have not yet received the vaccine to register at [vaccinate.ne.gov](http://vaccinate.ne.gov) or call the helpline toll-free at 833-998-2275. Vaccines are now available to all Nebraskans 16 and over with little to no wait time. For more information about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, I encourage you to visit DHHS's informational website at [Finishstrong.NE.Gov](http://Finishstrong.NE.Gov)

Again, I appreciate everyone's efforts and adaptability over this last year.

**Tony Green | Director**  
**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

## COVID VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES



Nebraska residents are able to register for a COVID-19 vaccine through the State of Nebraska. Go to the Vaccination Registration Portal to register.

<https://vaccinate.ne.gov/en-US/>



Walk in or schedule a COVID-19 vaccine today. Appointments available at select CVS stores in Lincoln.

<https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>

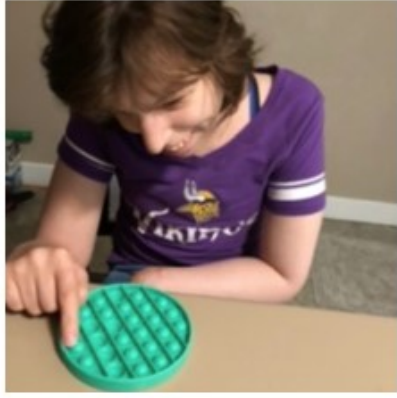
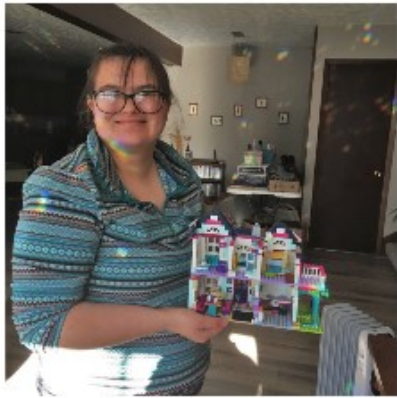


Vaccines are available at all Hy-Vee Pharmacy locations with no appointment necessary. Go to their website to select a location and reserve a time slot.

<https://www.hy-vee.com/my-pharmacy>



Neighborhood pharmacy will offer vaccinations to anyone served by ABLED on the DD or A/D waiver as well as ABLED staff. Please call them at 402-488-1184 to schedule.





**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



## **THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S**

The Battle is the Lord's is a common concept in the Bible. Often God presents us with situations wherein reliance on our own strength and abilities is not the solution. The threats are extreme and the obstacles insurmountable. He puts us in these situations so we can turn to him and let him fight the battle for us.

One example of this is the story of Gideon in Judges Chapter 7. Israel was oppressed by the Midianites and God chose Gideon to lead the army against them. God told Gideon he had too many people in his army. Gideon told everyone who was afraid that they should go home. 22,000 left but 10,000 remained. God said that was still too many.

God instructed Gideon to separate the remaining people based on how they drank water. Gideon had them all go down to the water. Most of the people got down on their knees and drank water, apparently putting their mouths directly into the water. Gideon sent these people home.

300 people, however, cupped the water in their hands and brought the water to their mouths. They passed the intelligence test. They could see what they were putting in their mouths.

Gideon had these 300 people light torches and hide them in jars. They surrounded the Midianite camp. At the same time, all 300 blew trumpets and smashed the jars which would be like turning on spotlights today. They shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon".

The Midianites were so surprised that they started killing each other and running for their lives.

**FEEDBACK**

We want to make ABLED the best agency. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve, please let us know. Your survey comments are anonymous, unless you choose to submit your name. The link is available at the top of this email.

**ABLED's MISSION**

"Serving Jesus Christ by enabling developmentally disabled individuals to creatively explore and live full meaningful lives in their communities."