



MY VOICE, MY CHOICE, MY LIFE

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY TAMMY WAGGONER

FROM THE DESK OF TRAVIS DEMOSS

The Gifted Service Coordinator...

I've had this conversation more than once with a variety of people with many different backgrounds, and it usually goes like this. People are born with a certain set of gifts. These gifts become interests and sometimes leads you down a path in life that equals a successful career and a fulfilling personal life. I think this is generally true and can find examples of this all around me. My friend Barry can fix anything and is good with his hands and

is very successful in the construction business. My friend Matt was good with numbers and is the President of a bank. I have a problem, however, when I try to apply this generalization to the job of Service Coordination. To say that they must be gifted at... and then struggle to finish the sentence because I can't narrow it down to just one. It is even more difficult to make a list of gifts and prioritize. It has always been a difficult thing to do to try and describe what Service Coordination is and what we do. In

this installment I will give it a try and see if I can make it worth your while to read. Ready....

(continued on back page)



Travis DeMoss
Executive Director

MPOWER'S VISION STATEMENT:

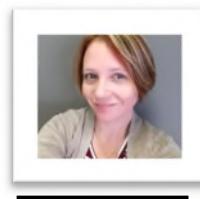
We are committed to the belief that promoting an individual's hopes, wants and dreams is the first step to achieving self-determination.

MEET THE TEAM

- Erica Allcorn, Erica Rennison, Theresa Bahner, Sonia Setzer, Tobie Beyer, Andrea Skelly, Andrea Boone, Adrianna Summers, Christy Coslet, Ashley Stephens, Diana Crouch, Jennifer Trent, Travis DeMoss, Tim VanBebber, Anita Edwards, Lacie Varner, Cheyenne Freeman, Emily Vesser, Hazel Fromm, Tammy Waggoner, Monica Lemoine, Elizabeth Washington, Danielle Medina, Nicole Nelson, Ashlea Withers, Sarah Niederwimmer

MESSAGE FROM HR

- Missouri State Fair dates 8/9/18-8/19/18
Marshall public school starts 8/15/18
Sedalia public school starts back 8/23/18



Cheyenne Freeman
Executive Office Coordinator

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Table with 2 columns: News Category and Page Number. Includes Admin News (1), Marshall News (2), Sedalia News (3), and Related News (4).

FROM THE DESK OF ELIZABETH WASHINGTON



Elizabeth Washington
Saline County
Manager

Project Share: A great event for Back to School: August 2nd 10am-6pm

The Marshall Public School District, Missouri Valley Community Action Agency, and the Powerhouse Community Development Corporation have partnered together to bring back this event to help Saline County families and individuals get connected with the resources they need! There will be numerous booths set up with information, education activities, and sign-ups for resources.

There will also be medical services available on-site, such as vision screenings, dental services, immunizations, blood pressure checks, BMI evaluations, help with signing up for Medicaid/Medicare, getting a copy of birth and/or death certificates, & more.

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE!!

There will be nutrition, health, and other fun activities for the kids, school bus tours from the Marshall Public School Transportation Dept. Free haircuts are available for the whole family! Backpacks and school supplies

will be distributed on site.

Parents will also have the opportunity to sign up for assistance with any needs that will help their child be successful entering the new school year.

Information provided from the Project Share Website. To read more go to the website. <https://www.marshallschools.com/project-s-h-a-r-e>



FROM THE DESK OF ERICA RENNISON

It's Back to School Time!!!

This time of the year can sometimes be a tricky transition for students. Meeting new friends, working with new teachers, using a different schedule, and learning a new environment can be somewhat stressful. Here are some resources that parents may find useful going into the new school year and throughout.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released a parent resource in August 2017. The link is here: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/compliance/parent-information>. In addition, a new edition of The Parent's Guide to Special Education was released in May 2018 and can be found here: <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/>

[files/TheParent'sGuidetoSpecialEducationMay2018.pdf](#).

These two resources were developed to assist parents and professionals to become more informed and effective in the special education process to benefit students with disabilities in Missouri.

For students who are entering their final year of high school, transition planning for what happens after high school is essential. As a parent, you will want your child to continue to progress in building skills that high school has been working on with them and beyond. The Department of Mental Health developed a guide in 2017 and it's located here: <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/progs/docs/transitionguide.pdf>.

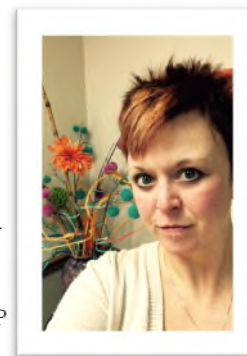
dmh.mo.gov/dd/progs/docs/transitionguide.pdf.

MPACT is another educational resource that families of children with special needs will certainly find useful. Their focus is on education, empowerment, and information. They are well versed in Special Education laws and the IEP process. Their website is here:

<http://www.missouriparentsact.org/>.

They provide training to families across the state and in some scenarios may even attend IEP meetings.

Have a GREAT year!!



Erica Rennison
Pettis County Manager

SELF-DETERMINATION SURVEY



Improving lives THROUGH supports and services THAT FOSTER self-determination.

6/29/18

Self-Determination Survey

Anyone with a disability over the age of 18 may participate in a quick online self-determination survey sponsored by Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD). The goal of the survey is to capture how adults with disabilities perceive their self-determination. Self-determination aligns with promoting full inclusion of people with disabilities into the mainstream of society as productive members.

All participants will receive a \$5.00 gift card when they take the survey.

www.dmh.mo.gov/dd MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
573-751-4054

The survey link will be open until the end of 2018. Please use the link to take the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/a_report

COMMUNITY NEWS

A Service Coordinator must have superb communication skills. When I say this, I mean the ability to communicate across age, gender and economic lines all at the same time. Their audience in any given meeting can be as diverse as a Sunday morning church service and equally as judgmental. They must leave each meeting with collective agreement that will carry through to the following year's planning meeting and must represent this in writing so it can go through the funding process (known as Utilization and Review).

A Service Coordinator must have excellent organizational skills. The amount of information that passes through a Service Coordinator daily is more than the average person handles in a week. There is no single day that was like the day before

and always a caveat to the issues they are working on that make it a challenge. The training and acclimation process can be up to four years and even then, the job changes so quickly that it's still challenging.

A Service Coordinator must be able to plan, predict and have a vision for what will be coming beyond what others in the room are thinking about. Without this gift, the hopes, wants, and dreams of those we serve are likely to be lost in the shuffle of annual planning and endless paperwork. This gift is rare and not easily developed but when achieved is beneficial to those we serve in a meaningful way.

It's not good enough to be a people person to be a Service Coordinator at MPower. We require something more.

We have a hiring process that seeks out and finds individuals that have a healthy cross section of skills, gifts and abilities not usually found in other vocations. I can honestly say that I admire each and every employee within our little organization. Each of them passed special testing and processes in order to find them. They are a hand-picked family when they are here, and we miss them terribly when they leave. Our goal at MPower is to provide you exceptional services, and the first step in that goal is to find "THE" right Service Coordinator.

COME CHECK US OUT ON
THE WEB!!!

WWW.MPOWERTCM.ORG

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MPOWER'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Empowering people to manage the
direction of their life.*



MPOWER

Derived from the word "Empower" and meaning "to promote the self-actualization or influence of one's self".

Welcome to MPower, an agency developed to meet the Targeted Case Management needs of adults with disabilities in Pettis and Saline Counties. At MPower, we have dedicated ourselves to providing the highest quality case management services available in Central Missouri. We believe that the individuals we serve deserve an advocate that is highly trained, well-educated on the latest trends and highly motivated to assist people in navigating the intricate systems of State and Federal funding sources and the growing list of qualified providers.

We believe in you, we believe in your hopes, wants, and dreams. We believe that when you are "MPowered" to make your own choices and have the proper supports, then you have the greatest potential for success.

It is our pleasure to walk beside you.