



June 28, 2013

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through 2013 and that July 4th is just around the corner!

That means we've spent six months working in KanCare, which started as scheduled on January 1st.

It means we've also seen the 2013 KS state legislators do their work in Topeka and make decisions that impact us all over the next few years.

For individuals with disabilities in Kansas, the above two items were probably the most concerning events of the year so far. In the KanCare transition, nearly 12,000 individuals receiving HCBS waiver services had all their waiver services moved to one of three MCOs in the state; met with a new care coordinator; experienced a new assessment process or assessor than in previous years, and possibly received some new, value-added services as part of KanCare.

For providers across Kansas, the transition has been challenging and difficult as we all have had to make changes, learn new systems and work in this new system. Things have improved in some areas, but there are still challenges to keep everyone very busy.

We'd like to know how your first six-month in KanCare have been. [Join us on Facebook](#) and let us know how your experience has been.

### **I/DD Waiver Update**

The legislative session was a busy and emotional one for consumers, guardians and advocates in the I/DD service system. The battle to keep DD services out of KanCare received statewide - and even national - attention as advocacy efforts reached levels of intensity not seen in many years. The message to the state was that I/DD services do not belong in a medical-model system and that no other state in the nation has taking such drastic steps as Kansas by moving all HCBS waiver populations into managed care in such a fast manner.

Ultimately, in what was really an unsettling legislative session overall, the state leaders did not take action on KanCare and DD waiver, which means approximately 8,000 individuals on that waiver will also begin receiving their HCBS services under KanCare on Jan. 1, 2014.

The next six-months will likely race by as consumers, providers, MCO and state leaders work on the implementation of this new population into full KanCare inclusion.

### **Your Chance to Give KanCare Feedback**

Do you have a strong opinion about KanCare? If so, you have two opportunities to weigh in on KanCare issues with the state. Next month, state leaders will hold public meetings in Wichita and Topeka. Check out the article below with more details and join in on the topic of KanCare.

Have a wonderful holiday celebrating our independence!  
Jacque Clifton

### **Upcoming KanCare Public Meetings**

State officials are hosting two public comment sessions in July for those interested in sharing their opinions about KanCare. The deadline for comments to be accepted for consideration is July 29, 2013. [Learn more about the meetings here.](#)

Wichita:  
2 p.m. on Monday, July 15th  
WSU Metroplex

Topeka:  
10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16th  
Downtown Ramada Inn

### **What are you doing for summer "vacation"?**

For those living with a special needs child, summer vacation isn't about breaking out of the usual routine with late nights and lazy days around the pool.

[The Friendship Circle Blog](#) lists a number of great ideas for enjoying the sights and smells of summer while also working towards goals. What's on your summer to-do list? We encourage you to share with us on our Facebook page.

### **Celebrate National Small Business Week**

This past week, the [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) has celebrated National Small Business Week for the 50th year as a way to recognize the contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

As a small business, all of us at ACS are pleased to have taken part in the small business award process with the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce. This started in January and culminated with us chosen as one of the top 5 small businesses in the Wichita metro area. We were able to share our story, information about our services and how we help hundreds of families manage their in-home HCBS services.

We invite you to take a [look at the ACS video](#) that was shown at the awards luncheon.

Congrats to all small businesses and keep up the great work!

### Tips for Staying Cool

There are more ways to stay cool than just hanging out with the air conditioner running while eating popsicles. The Mother Nature Network offers some alternative tips for keeping your cool as the mercury rises.

- 1. Wear "tropical" clothing:** People who live in tropical climates spend their days in loose, lightweight cotton and linen clothing. And don't forget Seersucker, a "hot weather classic" in the south.
- 2. Keep your pulse points cool:** Run cold water over your pulse points on your wrists and splash water on your temples or face. A cold, wet washcloth works well, too.
- 3. Eat small:** Eat smaller, more frequent meals to physically feel cooler. It's better for you, too.

[Find more tips here.](#)

### ACS Summer Hours

We will close our office at noon on Fridays for the remainder of summer so ACS staff can enjoy some extra time with their families during the school break.