

New Beginnings



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For many of us, KanCare has been a daily part of our conversation since Gov. Brownback dropped the concept into our laps back in 2010. Well, the concept has gone from sketches on the backs of napkins to reality. January 1st of this year saw everyone in the state who is Medicaid connected find themselves receiving medical material from one of the 3 for profit insurance companies (MCO's). For some individuals the transition hasn't been that difficult, especially if medical issues aren't a monthly, weekly, or daily part of your lives. For those whose medical issues are, the drama is like chapters in a book that never ends.

The first chapter in the book of KanCare: The Grand Experiment starts with enrollment cards being sent out assigning grown adults to pediatricians and men to OB/GYN specialists. A simple phone call would naturally fix the problem. Not so easy. The second chapter starts with trying to unravel the first mistake which leads to a series of phone calls and lengthy conversations about trying to fix their mistake. Then, once you finally fix their error, you are confronted with the shock in Chapter 3 of finding out that the hospital closest to you decides not to accept the insurance you selected. Oh, and while you were at the pharmacy getting the second book in the KanCare trilogy, the pharmacist spoils the ending by telling you the name brand drug you have had available to your son for years isn't covered on the list of approved medications. But, the plot thickens, here is a generic that will do just the same as that expensive name brand medication that has worked beautifully for years!! (What the pharmacist doesn't know is that you have already tried that generic and it was a disaster!)

The problem with The Grand Experiment is that it doesn't fall under fiction. It is real and so are all the chapters listed above. However, the author of KanCare, Lt. Governor Jeff Coyer, wants us all to be part of the fictional ending where "everyone lives happily ever after" in KanCare. Personally, I don't like what I see and we can actually do something now to prevent long term services for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities from being included in KanCare.



From the desk of:
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On Wednesday, May 8th New Beginnings is heading to Topeka for the annual Interhab sponsored PUSH Day activities at the State Capital. Last year the rally had a very important theme entitled “Don’t Gamble with our Lives”. This year the stakes couldn’t be higher. We will know in less than a month if we will be included in KanCare for long term services. If we are not successful in getting carved out, I cannot predict what type of organization New Beginnings will look like under KanCare. You can change the way Lt. Jeff Coyer writes the ending by doing the following:

1. Go to invisiblekansans.org and click on the Act Now button and send an electronic letter to Lt. Governor Jeff Coyer, Senator Knox, and Representative Larry Hibbard and tell them you are in favor of long term I/DD services being carved out from KanCare.
2. Come to Topeka on Wednesday, May 8th and let your voice be heard. Please contact New Beginnings at



Service Activities 2013
By Martha Heffron
Director of Services

The last newsletter ended just before the magical December holiday. I really love that time of the year. We come together as family and friends to celebrate with parties filled with laughter. Christmas lights are visited in the dark of night and presents exchanged. Staff often request to work as they want to give the individual’s we serve a real family holiday. The local community becomes involved and places like Moline have a complete dinner provided by the Methodist Church for not one, but two houses.

It is a time to reflect and appreciate those who do so much for us. People like Julie Perkins in Howard always willing to answer questions about meds or serve on a committee, the Knights of Columbus who bring their breakfast leftovers of pancakes, eggs, sausage/ bacon every month, and a yearly check from Tootsie Roll sales. Then there is the local bar in Moline who brought bar bucks to the individuals over the holiday to spend on pop and candy. And we have Winkleman’s and Cobalt providing job opportunities, while local communities purchase poinsettias. These are just a few of the supports NBE has that I never want to take for granted. So today take a moment and think about who or what you are thankful for. It’s a great way to start the New Year and much easier than making long forgotten promises to eat right and exercise more!

Speaking of a new year...Wow it’s 2013 and already moving along fast. To date, we have focused primarily on Cobalt. With much time and effort, along with wonderful volunteers like the Twisted Sisters and staff that came in off their shift (some dragging a husband along), the project stayed on track and on time. The individuals who participated went home with nice paychecks and are now feeling the adjustment period of what life was prior to the big C project.

Things are gearing up with the days getting warmer and more outdoor activities will follow. Moline is working on putting in an outdoor cover for their picnic table area to enjoy. Their community has pitched in by bringing used cans to recycle for money.

Neodesha has raised funds by offering luncheons and Super Bowl parties were enjoyed in the spirit of competition. Eureka helped to raise funds for their community by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Giving to the community and receiving from them is a partnership that NBE will continue to build on. Let us know if you have any ideas for your area!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Employees of the Month

Birthdays

Marilou Fry	3-Apr
Patrick Sanderson	11-Apr
Susan Galbraith	11-Apr
Orlo Paget	22-Apr
Joe Espinosa	22-Apr
Bonnie Fitzhugh	24-Apr
Stoney Sherman	25-Apr
Joe O'Rourke	26-Apr
Elizabeth Graham	29-Apr
Jim Hogan	7-May
Angela Allen	11-May
Brody Bunyard	11-May
Leah Arnold	12-May
Jeanette Jenkins	18-May
Mary Mills	19-May
Stephanie Riley	27-May
Terry Perkins	27-May
Barbara Mather	6-Jun
Charles Bredehoft	15-Jun
Elden Ruddle	18-Jun
Dawn Harrington	22-Jun
Leann Wells	23-Jun
Timothy Weller	24-Jun
Sharla Miller	27-Jun

Anniversaries

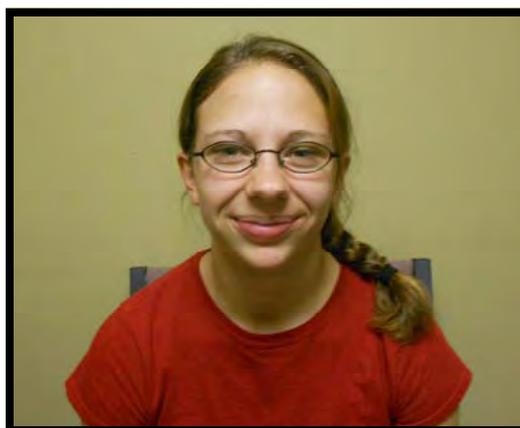
Angela Clark	4-Apr
Susan Porter	3-Apr
Stephanie Riley	13-May
Donna Schnoonover	14-May
Susan Galbraith	18-May
Kimberly Gooch	11-Jun
Michael Edwards	17-Jun
Leah Arnold	23-Jun



January
Tammy Drake—
Eureka



February
Joe Espinosa—
Neodesha



March
Amanda Fitzhugh—
Neodesha



**Only a life lived for others is
a life worthwhile—
Albert Einstein**

ABOVE AND BEYOND



Eureka DayHab filled Easter Eggs for the Eureka Nursing. The individuals took them Thursday and donated the eggs.



March 27th was National Joe Day at Eureka. There was a lot of Joe's in our building. A lot of coffee drinking Joe's is what was going on.



Valentine's Day Silent Auction in Neodesha was a success and generated some funds which benefit the individuals in day services.



Knights of Columbus presented a check to Jim Hogan—Moline.

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Diane Gillespie and Jo Lee Dwight in Moline celebrated 5 years of employment with NBE.



Every year **Eureka** helps the Salvation Army Ring the Bell. A percent of the money stays right here in Eureka to help Greenwood County residents. This is one of many projects that we do to help out our community.



Eureka—Cobalt project.



Neodesha—Cobalt project.



Moline—Cobalt project.

Cobalt of Neodesha has put New Beginnings Individuals to work. The Neodesha, Moline and Eureka crews worked very hard on this project. They all seemed to like doing the cards. Now the project is over and they seem lost. So it's back to shredding the paper again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 29—Listening Tour—1:30 P.M.—Rep. Hibbard/Sen. Knox at New Beginnings Enterprises —Neodesha

May 2—Cinco De Mayo in Moline

May 8—Push Day in Topeka



Personal Shredding Program

Our easy, no hassle program allows you to drop off personal and confidential items as needed at our locations in Eureka, Moline, and Neodesha. Small donation of \$25.00 for a one-year contract. Call 620-325-3333 for more details.

By: Lena Quellet

Area Program Manager—Moline & Neodesha

The only thing slowing us down this winter has been the flu...Despite the large amount of hand sanitizer and Lysol, we managed to get that bug. It was a non bi-partisan flu, both staff and individuals alike were blessed. Still we have managed to have fun and celebrated some worthwhile activities.

Cobalt Boats in Neodesha asked us to work a short term job for them. It was a big challenge. We stepped up with the help of several volunteers and completed the contract on time. We thank Cobalt for the opportunity and hope they challenge us again in the future.

All work and no play makes us all a little grumpy, so we threw in a bunch of celebrations to go along with the hard work. If you find yourself in Moline on any Monday stop in and chat for a spell. We have coffee hour at one each Monday afternoon. In January we celebrated both President Obama's inauguration and the birthday of Martin Luther King's birthday. We discussed Dr. Kings dream for us and what promises President Obama has made.

January 3rd found Neodesha celebrating "National Drink Thru a Straw Day". Staff shopped and found some "funky" straws and made drinks for everyone. What a way to start the month and it continued with National Popcorn Day on the 18th. Moline had popcorn donated by June Book and Paul and Eva Jacot. These generous people remember us often and we are blessed to call them friends. The 23rd of January was National Pie Day. Both sites enjoyed pies of all flavors. We did cheat a bit and bought the small pies. They were just as good and everyone agreed it would be a good idea to celebrate it each year. Last but not least was chocolate cake day,yum yum.

February rolled in with the Super Bowl. On the Friday before the game, Neodesha made and served some awesome chili, played games about the Super Bowl and on the Wii. Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day came in right after with wearing of green, gold, and purple beads and of course both celebrations require sweet goodies and cards for Valentine's Day.

Weren't we all surprised with the snows of March, but the fun never stops. National Peanut Butter Day on the 1st brought us all kinds of peanut butter treats. We also held our annual Wii bowling tournament. What a day!!!!Neodesha WAC hosted the tournament and Saint Patrick's celebration in one fun filled day. All three sights were present for the the celebrations, complete with a fried chicken dinner and desserts. Eureka walked away with the traveling trophy. Congratulations to them. Joe, our CEO, walked into the party holding a large box, unknown to our individuals, all received a Colbalt t-shirt for the hard work, and for completing the contract on time.

Winkleman's Greenhouse has kicked it up for the spring planting season and so have the crews from both Neodesha and Moline. What better way to get out of a winter funk than to see all kinds of bright flowers and smell the scents of spring. We have worked for them in the past and always enjoy the work. Of course they also provide us with the beautiful poinsettias each fall.

Moline had a great lunch to honor the volunteers who so kindly gave us their time and helped with the Cobalt contract. Turkey, mashed potatoes, and lots of gravy. New Beginnings President/CEO, Joe O'Rourke presented t-shirts for these wonderful people. It is true, you can never have too many friends.

As this is being written a trend has appeared. Yes, we like to eat. So with warm weather comes Walk Kansas. A program sponsored by our local extension offices. This program encourages us to eat healthy and get out and walk. Walking also gives us the opportunity to look for aluminum cans. Walk across "Kansas".

Our can fund is just one more way that we can purchase items that maybe are not absolutely necessary but that will make our days a little more comfortable. And it comes with the knowledge we earned it. So remember us when you empty that aluminum can. Either call one of our sights for pick up or drop them off.

April showers bring May flowers, we are starting seedlings to plant outside the New Beginnings building in Neodesha. We have several raised beds and would like to see green veggies and pretty flowers growing from them. If you have some extra seeds, we would welcome them.

***It takes only a single idea, a
single action, to move the
world—Anonymous***

Residential and staff from Moline traveled on Easter Sunday, meeting up with friends from Eureka for a day long picnic and memory making. The weather was windy but perfect for our first spring outing.

We also plan a day in Topeka for the annual Push Day. This year it is being held on May 8th. This is a long but much needed day, to allow the law makers in Topeka to visually see us and to know that we are not just a silent vote for them. We deserve to be seen and heard.

In Moline we plan to purchase a glider rocker for sitting under the shade tree, in Neodesha we are making plans to purchase a picnic table to place in our backyard to bird or train watch.

Hope your summer is full and active as ours will be. As you can see our WAC/Residential never stops, we are geared for work and fun. Please feel free to stop by and see what we have planned.



Neodesha has been starting seedlings to plant outside the day services. Pan and Emmet are doing their part.

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If you know of anyone else that would like to receive the newsletter or if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter you may also e-mail Donna at the address listed above.



Ronnie, Pat, Emmet, Misty, and Ramona in **Neodesha** shared in the celebration of "Elvis" Birthday. They had cake and ice cream, and listened to Elvis music during the day.

