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The Voice of Merici



Coaches' Corner

- Fort Harrison State Park-park pass is available on the table outside the coaches' office.
- Summer Vacation Dates: for coaches and for persons you support--email Kristy asap.

From Colleen Renie: *(this is the last question related to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) clarification and guidance to states on Community Based Settings final rule)*

Question: What are some promising practices to remediate settings that have been identified as being isolating to ensure compliance with the home and community-based settings criteria?

Answer: CMS is collaborating with federal partners in the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to develop a comprehensive set of promising practices. In the meantime, CMS offers the following for state and provider consideration:

1. Increasing engagement with the broader community by:

- Developing partnerships and alliances with generic, community-based entities that result in inclusion of HCBS beneficiaries in the broader community available to all community members; **the Village of Merici continues to work with community based entities to make people we support aware of community activities and to provide opportunities for participation in community activities.**
- Establishing a community-based advisory group to help identify and design new models and strategies for the setting to expand its individualized service offerings and increase greater access to activities in the broader community. **The Village of Merici will be looking to identify and participate in a community based advisory group comprised of the people we support.**

2. Implementing a broad range of services and supports, programming, and multiple daily activities to facilitate access to the broader community that allows for each individual to be able to select from an array of individual and/or group options and control his or her own schedule. Such activities should:

- Promote skills development and facilitate training and educational opportunities among HCBS beneficiaries designed to attain and expand opportunities for community-based integration (including volunteering, social and recreational activities, and competitive, integrated employment); **This is an ongoing focus of all of our staff.**
- Expose beneficiaries to community activities and situations comparable to those in which individuals not receiving HCBS routinely engage;
- Encourage families and friends to participate regularly in activities with the beneficiary onsite as well as in the broader community; and/or

3. Implementing organizational changes that:

- Assure the required level of support, including appropriate staffing, and adequate transportation options to offer both group and individualized options that facilitate optimal community engagement based on individual preferences (as articulated in beneficiary person-centered service plans); and/or

- Decentralize staff structures to promote greater flexibility and encourage staffing focused on individuals' access to and participation in the broader community rather than centralized insular staff models focused around a specific facility/site.

4. Expanding strategies for increasing beneficiary access to transportation, including through existing public transportation, friends/family, and volunteer organizations, to activities in the broader community. This could include providing transportation in a way that promotes ease of access and optimizes individuals' ability to select their own options and make decisions about their services and supports. **The Village of Merici has begun exploring the development of an application that would match volunteer drivers with people we support to have greater access to transportation when needed. Watch for more information on this in the coming months.**



Wednesday Jabbers

Quite a few weeks ago, the persons we support who regularly attend Wednesday Jabbers offered suggestions on topics we might cover during Jabbers. They came up with the following:

- Why vote
- The Environment

Why vote: Democrat Jamar Cobb-Dennard is running for Lawrence mayor in the May 7 primary. He visited with us on April 16 and stressed with those present the importance of voting. Mayor Steve Collier is visiting on Monday, April 29; he will also discuss voting and its importance.

The environment: For the past two Wednesdays, we have been watching the 2019 Netflix documentary, "Our Planet," featuring the natural world and the effects of climate change. On Wednesday, May 8, we will have a refresher discussion on all facets of recycling. On Friday, July 26 we plan a visit to Michaela Farm in Oldenburg, Indiana.

In addition to the above topics for Wednesday Jabbers, we are continuing the Kiva project which provides loans to underserved communities all over the world. We are thankful to John Heiligenstein who has contributed to this endeavor. The people we support who attend Jabbers not only decide to whom the loans should go, but also learn about the countries of those participating.

We are excited that Colleen Renie has agreed to facilitate this discussion using the Kiva project to highlight the needs of people in other countries. She will begin at the Jabbers session on Wednesday, May 1. We will have subsequent Kiva discussions on the first Wednesday of each month. To learn more about Kiva, [click here](#).

April 2019

April is Autism Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			3:30 p.m. Coupon Club 5 p.m. Jabbers/Arts for Lawrence (new Cultural Campus)	2:30 p.m. Job Club 5 p.m. Meditation 6 – 8 p.m. EMBRACE event Porter Books & Bread	3:30 p.m. Body Groove	
28	29	30				
5 p.m. Cooking w/ Nicole & Bill	6 p.m. Mayor Steven Collier on voting in the May 7 Primary	3:30 p.m. Lady Bug Garden Club 5:30 p.m. Relaxation				

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May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 p.m. Coupon Club 5 p.m. Jabbers (Kiva)	2 2:30 p.m. Super Tips for Super Cleaning 5 p.m. Meditation 6 p.m. Walking Club	3 3:30 p.m. Body Groove	4
5	6 5 p.m. Relationships	7 3:30 p.m. Lady Bug Garden Club 5:00 p.m. Nutrition	8 3:30 p.m. Coupon Club 5 p.m. Jabbers Recycling presentation	9 2:30 p.m. Job Club 3:30 p.m. Games w/Krystyna 5 p.m. Meditation 6 p.m. Walking Club 6:30 p.m. Aktion Club	10 3:30 p.m. Body Groove	11 7 – 9 p.m. Game Night
12 Mother's Day	13 4 p.m. Finish craft project with clay pots	14 3:30 p.m. Lady Bug Garden Club 5:30 p.m. Relaxation	15 3:30 p.m. Coupon Club 5 p.m. Jabbers	16 2:30 p.m. Super Tips for Super Cleaning 5 p.m. Meditation 6 p.m. Walking Club	17 3:30 p.m. Body Groove	18
19	20 5 p.m. Relationships	21 3:30 p.m. Lady Bug Garden Club 5:30 p.m. Relaxation	22 3:30 p.m. Coupon Club 5 p.m. Jabbers 6 p.m. Relationships w/Dr. Ciccarelli	23 2:30 p.m. Job Club 3:30 p.m. Games w/Jane 5 p.m. Meditation 6 p.m. Walking Club	24 3:30 p.m. Body Groove	25
26	27 Memorial Day (office closed)	28 3:30 p.m. Lady Bug Garden Club 5:30 p.m. Relaxation	29	30	31	

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**Spring Open House
May 14
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Outside the Box is hosting a Spring Open House. Families, friends, support staff and members of the community are invited to this free event. Learn more about Outside the Box programs, tour the space, enjoy refreshments and play a game or two. Outside the Box is located at 3940 E. 56th St., Indianapolis.

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