



DIRECT CONNECTION

Current news from the Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities to keep you informed

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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Partnership for Hope Waiver

The Partnership for Hope Waiver continues to expand with 360 persons currently enrolled as of this date. An amendment to add more capacity to this waiver and to add other Missouri Counties was submitted to CMS recently. See map at the end of this newsletter to view existing PFH waiver counties and the counties that will be added when the latest amendment is approved by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

IN FULL SWING

FamiliesUSA Presents Arguments Against Cutting HCBS

Health advocacy organization FamiliesUSA has released a fact sheet presenting five arguments against state cuts to Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The fact sheet acknowledges that "States are facing tough economic times," and points out that "As they confront budget shortfalls, many states are looking to cut Medicaid benefits, including home- and community-based services (HCBS)." The five arguments discussed in the fact sheet are:

- Cutting home- and community-based services can cost the state more in the long run;
- Cutting home- and community-based services can be bad for state economies;
- Cutting home- and community-based services increases the burden on informal caregivers, which has implications for U.S. businesses and state economies;
- Cutting home- and community-based services runs counter to consumer preferences; and
- Cutting home- and community-based services may violate the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.

FMI: The fact sheet is available at

<http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/long-term-care/Five-Good-Reasons.pdf>.

House Passes Section 811 Reform

On December 21, 2010, by unanimous consent, the House passed the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2010 (S. 1481) and sent the bill to the President for his signature. The bill modernizes the Section 811 supportive housing for persons with disabilities program, increases the supply of affordable, accessible housing and authorizes \$300 million for each of fiscal years 2011

through 2015. It simplifies the process for non-profit organizations to provide housing and is expected to ensure more integrated housing for people with disabilities. President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law shortly.

The bill is designed to provide new tools for state and local housing agencies to create supportive housing units for people with the most significant disabilities and is intended to revive and reinvigorate a the Section 811 program, which is now producing less than 1,000 units each year. Advocates estimate that 3,000 or more new units can be created each year with the financing mechanisms in the new program. The legislation also includes a strong emphasis on the development of integrated supportive housing units.

IN DEVELOPMENT

Monthly Health Summary – Community RN's

A work group comprised of both state and community RN's has developed a revised Monthly Health Summary for testing by Community RN's. Enhancements to the current form were made in hopes of achieving more efficient and thorough documentation resulting in time savings. The tool has been piloted on a small scale and is now ready to be piloted around the state. Each Region is being asked to participate. Look for correspondence soon from your Regional Office.

Missouri College of Direct Support Continues Training Direct Support Professionals

Now in its sixth year, the MoCDS program currently has 3,041 staff enrolled as trainees working with the comprehensive curriculum and on the job training tools to support the growing need for competency based best-practices training to direct support professionals across the state. Currently, 21 agencies are participating in the program as "training sites". Bob Tyree has joined the Central Office MoCDS team to help coordinate and support training site administrators. The map at the end of the newsletter indicates the location of approved MoCDS training sites. To become a MoCDS training site, please contact Bob Tyree (573-751-8540 bob.tyree@dmh.mo.gov) or Nancy Schetzler (573-751-8667 nancy.schetzler@dmh.mo.gov).

BRIGHT IDEAS

"Fill a Ford"

Rolla Regional Office's Employment Relations Committee organized a competition to assist with their local food drive – Fill a Ford. It was a local event where a local car dealership set a goal to fill so many Fords with food and then they gave the food to nearby food pantries.

The regional office made their own goals. They had a team competition to see which team could bring in the highest percentage amount per team. The Intake Team took this goal. Then they had an overall goal to raise one more can than was brought in last year. This was due to the decrease in the overall staff they had. Well, not only did they bring in one more can than last year, they brought in 688 cans over that amount with a grand total of 1,788 cans! They did indeed fill a Ford for the holidays!

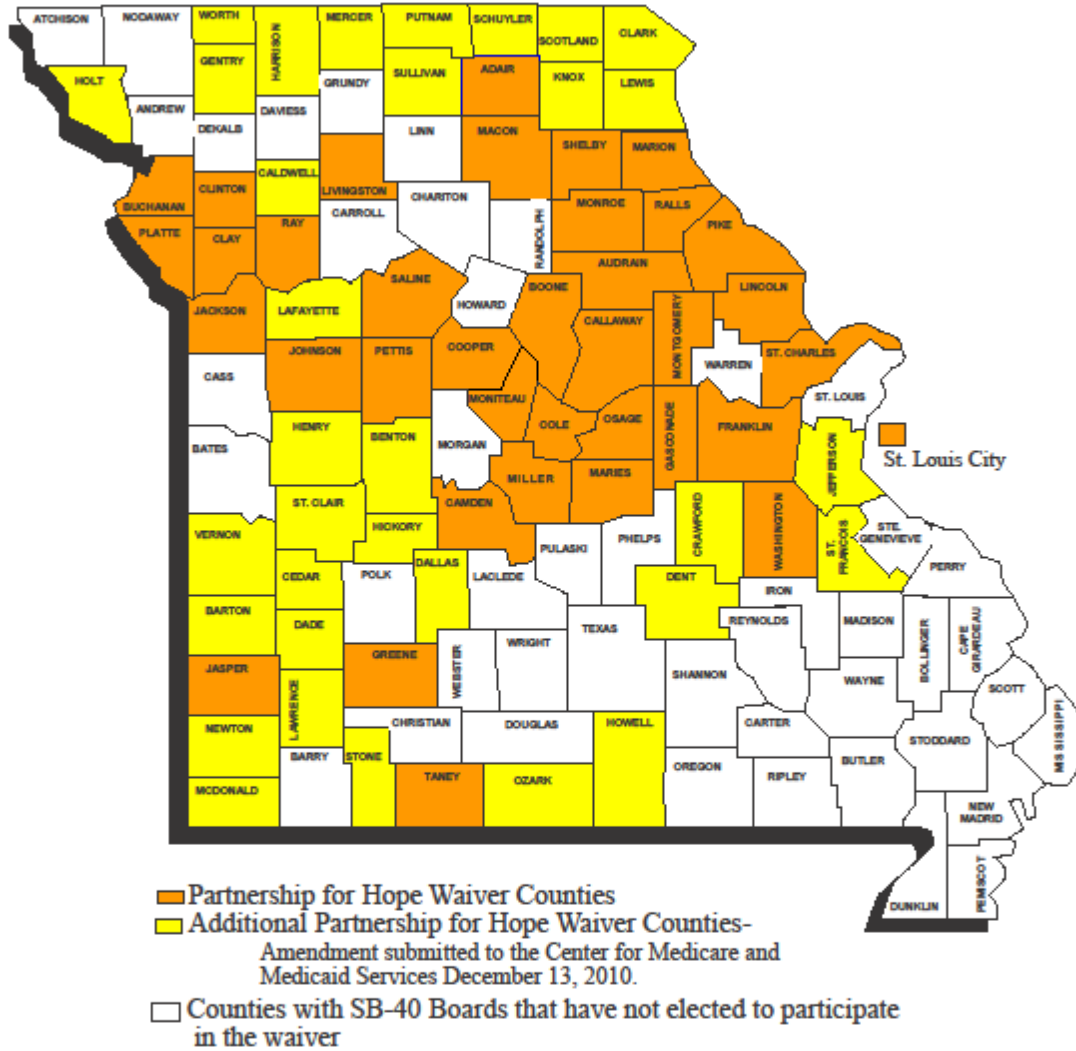
RESOURCES

Disability Employment Survey Assesses Employers' Attitudes

The Kessler Foundation, through funding from the National Organization on Disability (NOD), has released the 2010 Survey of Employment of Americans with Disabilities, the third effort conducted by Harris Interactive since 1986 to determine "the current attitudes of corporate employers toward employees with disabilities." The survey provides "insight into the employment environment for people with disabilities from the employer's perspective" and seeks to answer "questions about why such a large gap still exists." Overall, the findings indicate that "corporations recognize that hiring employees with disabilities is important and ... do not perceive the costs of hiring people with disabilities to be prohibitive." However, most are "not hiring many people with disabilities and few are proactively making efforts to improve the employment environment for them." The survey was conducted by telephone and online in April 2010 among 411 human resource managers and senior executives at companies with over 50 employees. **FMI:** The survey is available at <http://www.2010disabilitysurveys.org/octsurvey/pdfs/surveyresults.pdf>.

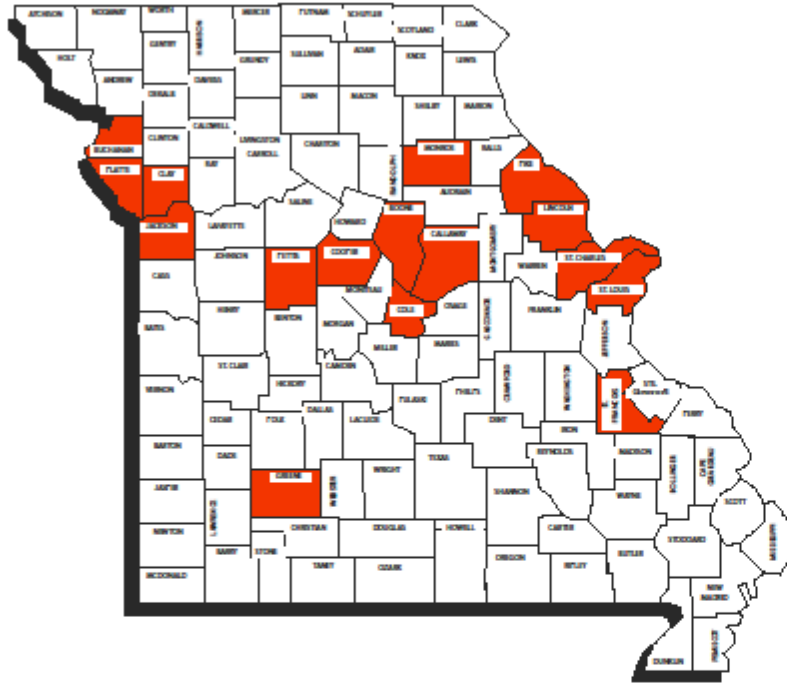
Senate Bill 40 Counties

Status of the Partnership for Hope Waiver by County



1/2011

Missouri College of Direct Support (MoCDS)



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Participating Agencies

Boone County

- Alternative Community Training
- Boone County Family Resources
- Woodhaven

Buchanan County

- Progressive Community Services

Callaway County

- Callaway County SB40

Clay County

(Northland Training Coalition)

- Concerned Care
- Creative Supports
- Immacolata Manor
- Triality
- VSI (Vocational Services, Inc.)

Cole County

- Cole County Residential Services

Cooper County

- Unlimited Opportunities

Greene County

(Nova Center)

- The Arc of the Ozarks
- Developmental Center of the Ozarks

Jackson County

- Austen Dooley
- Community of the Good Shepherd
- Special Neighbors
- United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Kansas City

Lincoln County

- Community Opportunities

Monroe County

(Community Opportunities)

- Learning Opportunities Quality Works

Pettis County

- Center for Human Services

Pike County

(Community Opportunities)

- Pike County Agency for DD

Platte County

(Northland Training Coalition)

- Platte County Board of Services

St. Charles County

- Willows Way

St. Francois County

- St. Francois County Board for DD

St. Louis County

- Community Alternatives

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