October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is to provide education about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

This year’s theme is America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion. Employers and community agencies of all sizes and in all industries are encouraged to participate in NDEAM.

For specific ideas and resources about supporting NDEAM, visit the Department of Labor-Office of Disability Employment Policy at www.dol.gov/NDEAM.

Read the Presidential Proclamation proclaiming October as NDEAM.

Explore the Division’s employment webpage to find a variety of resources and information including policies, tip sheets, planning guides, and how to access employment services available through the Division.

November is National Family Caregivers Month

November is designated as National Family Caregivers Month (NFC), which is a time to highlight, recognize, and honor family caregivers across the country in all capacities.

Celebrating family caregivers helps raise awareness about family caregiver issues, celebrate the efforts of family caregivers, educate family caregivers about self-identification, and help increase support for family caregivers and the critically important work they do.

Caregivers are encouraged to seek out needed information and resources to assist them with their caregiving needs as well as their own needs.

Resources:
- Caregiver Action Network: https://www.caregiveraction.org/
- National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC): https://www.caregiving.org/
The Division is working on closing out requirements and moving into configuration and testing work with FEI Systems. Detailed requirement sessions have been held on the Individualized Support Plan and Monitoring, Quality Assurance, Consumer Referral, Service Definitions, Service Packet, and Billing and Claims. Additional sessions will continue to refine requirements for the new case management system through 2021.

In addition, the Division is working with FEI on an updated detailed project schedule with additional tasks and revised start and end dates. The Division anticipates unveiling those in November 2021. The proposed re-baselined project schedule has a go-live date of October 2022 for a pilot, November 2022 for full go-live, and project end date of September 2023 (to be inclusive of stabilization and CMS certification of the system post go-live). This project is now expected to last a total of 38 months from initiation to close-out.

Check out the ConneXion webpage, as it was recently updated to provide more relevant and updated information on the project.

**Administration for Community Living / RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council**

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) was created around the fundamental principle that older adults and people of all ages with disabilities should be able to live where they choose, with the people they choose, and with the ability to participate fully in their communities.

The ACL is leading the implementation of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Act and facilitates the work of the RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council.

RAISE recently delivered its initial report to Congress. This report provides an overview of many of the issues faced by family caregivers nationwide and provides recommendations for addressing them.

Download the full RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council initial report to Congress. Watch a series of video interviews with caregivers about their experiences.

**Missouri Alliance for Dual Diagnosis (MOADD) Summit**

November 2, 2021, 10:30—2:00

Join the Missouri Department of Mental Health and the Missouri Behavioral Health Council for the 2021 Missouri Alliance for Dual Diagnosis (MOADD) Summit. This virtual event will provide an overview and application of guidelines to promote best practices with individuals who have dual intellectual/developmental disabilities and behavioral health disorders in Missouri.