



RESOURCE CENTER
for independent living

Summer, 2008



Serving Kansans with disabilities

Message from the Executive Director
By Chad A. Wilkins

You'll notice that Consumer Choice and Self-determination are re-occurring topics in this newsletter. We are proud that the programs and services available at RCIL are built around what people with disabilities tell us they want and need in order to live independently.

RCIL recently underwent a week long QUILS (Quality Indicators for Independent Living Services) review. Staff members from five other Centers for Independent Living reviewed everything from our policies to consumer files to newsletters. They also interviewed consumers and RCIL staff members.

We are excited to use the review team's feedback to improve our services. We would also like to take this opportunity to get more suggestions from you.

Inside this newsletter you will find a copy of the survey we use to get feedback from our consumers. We are asking you complete it and return it in the enclosed envelope to: RCIL, PO Box 257, Osage City, KS 66523 or fax it to (785) 528-3665. To support your open and honest answers we are encouraging you not to write your name on the survey form. Your opinions are very important to us. The information we gather from the surveys is used to help us evaluate what we do and make changes to our programs and services to better fit what our consumers want and need to live independently.

To receive the survey in an alternative format, please call Deone Wilson at (800) 580-7245.

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Save the Date!
Fishing Has No Boundaries
September 27-28, 2008
El Dorado State Lake

A great weekend of camping and fishing! Every angler with a disability gets a guide, fishing buddies, bait, adaptive fishing equipment and all meals. Boats will be available. All for only \$20! For more information call 316.322.7853 or toll free 1.800.960.7853.

Want a Job? You don't have to do it alone.

Kansas Rehabilitation Services Vocational Rehabilitation recognizes that being *prepared for employment* is important for getting and keeping a job. Being employed is a key to self-sufficiency. On July 1, 2008, several new or enhanced programs were made available to support your efforts to make your employment goals and dreams reality. Currently there is not a waiting list to receive the services.

RCIL is now accepting referrals from Vocational Rehabilitation for the following employment services:

- *Independent Living, Assistive Technology and Community Based Work Assessment*
- *Job Preparation* including specialized assistance with the following to further promote self-sufficiency:
 - Prescription Drug Program
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - PASS planning
 - Budgeting
 - Assistive Technology
- *Guided & Customized Job Placement* including:
 - Accommodations
 - ADA surveys
 - Benefits Counseling
 - Disability Etiquette Training
- Short-term *Job Coaching*
- Assistive Technology Specialist services including assessment, evaluation, and training are also available in select areas.

For more information contact the Independent Living Specialist in your local RCIL office or the Vocational Rehabilitation office nearest you.

Let's Play Game of Your Life!



Are State and federal legislators playing a game with your life?

Social Security raise in January- move forward 2 spaces

Food Stamp decrease in March- move back 1 space

Increase rent in April - move back 2 spaces

Increase Protected Income Level in July- move forward 1 space

End of game: stuck in the same place!

Come to the August RCIL Friends meeting in your area and choose where you would like to see your life improve. This year all state legislators are up for re-election! Some federal legislators are too! Be in control of your own game. In September, we will invite the candidates to the RCIL Friends meetings. You will be able to find out where they stand on your issues and choose who you want to vote for. Before you can control your game, you have to play! See you in August!

You are invited! Please Come!

RCIL "Friends" groups, formerly known as Consumer Advocacy Council (CAC) meetings, are held once a month at several RCIL offices. The purpose of these meetings is for RCIL consumers to share ideas, resources, and experiences, to learn about new services and programs, and to **have some fun!**

Come to your next local "Friends" meeting!

RCIL Friends MEETING SCHEDULE

July

7/22	Iola Friends- 1pm @ Town House
7/24	Ark City Friends- 1pm
7/28	Emporia Friends- 2pm @ Emporia Library
7/30	El Dorado Friends- 1pm

August

8/12	Ft. Scott Friends- 1pm @Highrise
	Topeka Friends- 1pm
8/13	Osage City Friends- 1pm
8/20	Overland Park Friends- 1pm
8/25	Emporia Friends- 2pm @ Emporia Library
8/26	Iola Friends- 1pm @ Town House
8/27	El Dorado Friends- 1pm @ Eureka Library
8/28	Ark City Friends- 1pm

Meeting locations vary.
Contact your local RCIL office for details.

We Have Issues!



Important Information for Voters with Disabilities

You have 5 ways to place your vote:

- 1) Use the accessible voting machine at your polling place.
- 2) Curbside voting within your car - 2 poll workers from different parties should be present.
- 3) Use the assistance of a poll worker or other individual
- 4) Advanced Voting by mail
- 5) Permanent Advanced Voting by mail

Important Dates to Remember:

July 21, 2008	Deadline to register for the August Primary
August 1, 2008	Deadline to apply for Advance Voting Ballot
August 5, 2008	Primary Election
October 20, 2008	Deadline to register for the General Election
October 31, 2008	Deadline to apply for Advance Voting Ballot
November 4, 2008	General Election

If you provide voting assistance to someone else, here are things to consider:

You must:

- If you assist someone with an Advanced Voting Ballot, you must fill out an Affidavit of

Assistance and file it at the County election office. (Form available at your County courthouse or online at <http://www.kssos.org/forms/forms.html> then click on "Elections & Legislative")

You may:

- Ask the voter what choice they want to make. The assistance provider may never make assumptions regarding how a person wants to vote.
- Respect the voter's privacy at all times during the voting process.
- Be familiar with the instructions on how to cast a ballot and be prepared to explain them to the voter and/or demonstrate the voting process.
- Be prepared to read or explain all ballot choices or questions.
- You may mark a ballot for an individual only if the voter has directed him or her to do so.
- After the ballot has been completed, the assistance provider should make sure that the ballot accurately reflects the voter's choices. The assistance provider should offer to correct any mistakes and to check the ballot for additional election contests that may have been missed.

You may not:

- Pressure the voter to vote for a particular candidate or in a certain way.
- Withhold information or give false information to a voter.
- Pressure the voter to cast a vote on every measure or candidate. Everyone has the right to choose whether or not to vote on each contest.
- Reveal to others how the individual voted.
- Make decisions for the voter-for example, marking or changing a ballot to reflect a choice other than a choice expressed by the voter.
- Communicate with the voter in a way that makes the voter feel forced to make certain choices.
- Read candidate materials to a voter within 250' of their polling place.

Have trouble voting? Contact the Disability Rights Center - 877-776-1541 or 877-335-3725 TDD



RCIL Overland Park Office Staff

In front: Alexis Guernsey, Robin Hennigh, and Margie Springfield

In Back: Judy Henson, Heather Humphrey, Bonnie Goben, Aleece Johnson and Kate Daniels

The RCIL Overland Park office hosted an Open House on June 18, 2008. Staff provided tours of our offices in the newly remodeled building. Community partners and RCIL consumers and staff came together to learn about programs and services and enjoy a light lunch. Visit our Overland Park office at 10200 W. 75th, Suite 100.



Special Feature: Ain't No Water High Enough

By Linda Morris, ILS, and
Deanna Wright, Peer Specialist



The RCIL Friends group in Fort Scott was scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, but our chosen location, Gunn Park, had been flooded from the recent rains. It took the whole team to work together but with everyone's help we were able to find a new location, call all of the consumers, run all of the errands to get ready and locate and direct the lost karaoke people. It was a busy morning to say the least!

We had a great picnic. Everyone begged to do karaoke again. Even the shyest consumers joined in the singing fun! Later we received a card of thanks from a lady that attended. That made all of the extra effort worth while.

So, we would like to send a big "shout out" to everyone and thank you for your extra patience and help that day. It is awesome what mother-nature can do in a matter of hours and how everyone came to together to make everything work out.



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620-342-1648

Iola
726 W. Patterson Ave.
620-365-8144

Overland Park
10200 W. 75th, Suite 100
913-362-6618

Burlington
410 Cumberland
620-364-2263

El Dorado
615 ½ N. Main
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Fort Scott
710 W. 8th, Suite 201
620-223-5670

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Topeka
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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.rcilinc.org
