

THE LIFE PATTERN

A publication of Life Patterns, Inc. *lifepatternsks.org* JULY 2011

Just when you thought everything was going to change it changes even more. I wish I could tell you what is going to happen in the next few months, however all I can say is that it is going to change. Some changes may be for the better and some not for the better, we will just have to wait and see.

Here are some things you need to know:

1. Financial Management Services (FMS) was to begin July 1, 2011. That will not happen. SRS is now telling us it WILL begin September 1, 2011. Remember FMS will not impact your son or daughters services, however as it looks now the pay rate set by the state is going to be \$11.31 for Personal Service Attendants. A slight increase for your workers.

You will be contacted by your Case Manager sometime in July or August to tell them who you want your FMS provider to be. We hope you will continue with Life Patterns. If you know of other families or individuals who will be looking for an FMS provider we would appreciate you suggesting Life Patterns to them. Things will stay pretty much the same except for the way Life Patterns does business with the state.

2. Electronic Visit Verification System. This is a new way to track Attendant hours and is scheduled to begin October 1, 2011. We will no longer use paper time sheets, as an attendant will call a phone number and log in and out when they are working. The system will automatically keep track of their hours and at the end of the pay period a file will be sent to the FMS (Life Patterns) and we will process the check for the attendant. I really don't have more information on electronic verification so we will keep you informed as we learn more.

3. We are in the process of setting up electronic deposit for anyone who would like their check automatically deposited in their account. There is a sign up form attached to every paycheck on the July 15th pay check. If you or any of your attendants want direct deposit fill out the information and return it to us with a voided check as quickly as possible. A copy of your check stub will be available to you on line. We will get details to you as we get it set up

4. Last and most upsetting is there have been massive changes in SRS. Gov. Brownback has appointed Robert Sidlecki as Secretary of SRS and he has brought in a whole new team. They have eliminated people who have been a driving force for people with disabilities for years. I do not know what this will mean for people and their services but there will be changes. It is a fact that Gov.

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Brownback is looking into eliminating some Medicaid services. We only hope this doesn't mean more cuts in services.

I believe the time has come for all of us to get to know who our state senators and representatives are and tell them we must preserve the services so many of us have worked to develop and implement over the last 23 years. In the next 2 or 3 months while your legislators are home contact them and remind them to keep in home supports for our families. Whether they are Democrats or Republicans they can not let the current administration dismantle a system that has been at the forefront in the entire country for providing services to people with disabilities.

This is a very serious situation! We will keep you informed.