

News from the South Dakota Department of Human Services

December 2018 - Volume 1, Issue 4

[News from DHS Archive](#)

In this issue:

- Challenging Behavior Unit
- Training Opportunity for Nursing Facilities on PCT
- Integrated Supports: Spotlight on Technology
- Business Specialist Column



Challenging Behavior Unit

The Division of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS), in partnership with the Department of Health, Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC) are engaging partners and stakeholders over the next several months to promote the success of the Challenging Behavior Unit (CBU) at Irene Sunset Manor. The goal is to provide statewide education and awareness to nursing facilities on how to successfully admit and retain individuals with challenging behaviors. LTSS and OLC will present information at South Dakota Healthcare Association (SDHCA) and South Dakota Association for Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO) conferences to educate nursing facilities on:

- The Irene CBU program,
- How the CBU program remains compliant with nursing facility regulations,
- Share success stories of individuals transitioning from the Human Services Center (HSC) to the CBU, to general nursing facility populations or assisted living centers.

If your facility is interested in learning more about how to successfully care for individuals with challenging behaviors, please contact Beth Dokken with LTSS at 605-773-3656 or Diana Weiland with DOH at 605-995-8057.

Training Opportunity for Nursing Facilities on Person Centered Thinking

Training on Person Centered Thinking (PCT) is available as another tool for nursing facilities to successfully admit and retain individuals with challenging behaviors. PCT tools and practices can be easily incorporated into an individual's plan of care and service delivery. This PCT training initiative is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Department of Human Services, Division of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and the Department of Health, Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC). OLC and LTSS are also seeking input on other trainings that would be beneficial for nursing facilities in the provision of care to individuals with challenging behaviors. For more information on PCT training or to request a PCT training at your facility, please contact Donna Fischer, State Long Term Care Ombudsman at 605-773-3656.

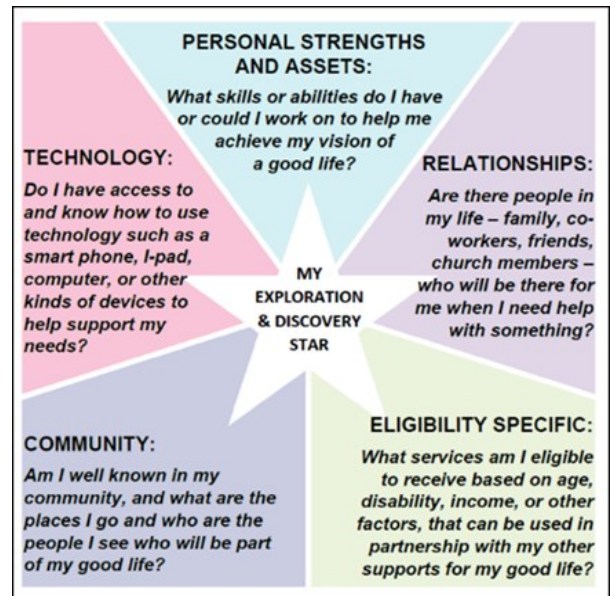
Integrated Supports: Spotlight on Technology

"Natural supports" (relationships that occur in everyday life) are referenced as a necessity to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities move toward an increased quality of life that is more inclusive. Although people who are not impacted by a disability often consider themselves to be independent, the fact is ALL people use supports to make life easier. The use of integrated supports help individuals and families plot a trajectory toward the goal of achieving a good life, and the Integrated Supports Star promotes creative thinking about the resources we use every day but don't think of as "support". Technology impacts the way people around the world function every day; it permeates many aspects of our lives: how we communicate, navigate to destinations, manage appointments, enjoy entertainment, or get news and information.

➡ Continued

➔ Continued

Many different types of low and high-tech tools are available; using technology to help support people with an intellectual or developmental disability should not be disregarded. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) encourages providers to consider a creative, person centered use of technology to enhance the lives of those they serve. DDD has funded start-up costs, equipment and installations for numerous South Dakota waiver participants. Many people use technologies that reduce their reliance on the need for someone close by while they go about their daily routine. Cell phones, tablets, medication dispensers, motion sensors, applications like Facetime, even two-way camera systems in common living areas are some good examples of common tech supports. DDD encourages the use technology and other areas of the Integrated Supports Star as one way to alleviate workforce shortages impacting individuals, families and providers.



Business Specialist Column

Since the summer of 2016, the Divisions of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) have offered funding opportunities during the summertime for training relevant to Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities. These services align with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For this initiative, DRS and SBVI provides funding that focuses on three areas:

- Workplace readiness training to develop social and independent living skills.
- Instruction in self-advocacy.
- Information about Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services and other programs available to assist individuals with disabilities.

Participants in this initiative are students with disabilities who are still enrolled with a secondary school. Students are not required to be clients of VR programs but may potentially be eligible for VR services. Trainings are typically two to four weeks in length and conducted at accessible locations in a community environment. Providers in prior years have used curriculums such as:

- ME! Curriculum.
- Skills to Pay the Bills.
- 411 Self-Disclosure Workbook for Youth with Disabilities

There are a variety of entities that have been awarded contracts under this initiative, including school districts, community support providers and individual providers for example. This opportunity is open to any interested parties; the request for proposals (RFP) will be released in early December and those interested in applying can do so through February 15, 2019. To learn more about this opportunity or how to submit a proposal, please contact Kimberly Ludwig at 1.833.668.9598 or by email at kimberly.ludwig@state.sd.us.

Subscribe/Unsubscribe

DHS hopes you find the information contained within our monthly newsletter publication engaging. We encourage you to share it as a way to augment community knowledge of South Dakota's resources and partnerships. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please use the link provided and click on subscribe. <http://dhs.sd.gov/news.aspx>.