

Spring 2013



CONSUMER DIRECT Missouri News

1-877-532-8565

www.MOConsumerDirect.com

MO Consumer Direct (MOCD) recently celebrated its first anniversary in the State of Missouri!

Our contract with the Division of Developmental Disabilities went into effect on January 1, 2012 and we hit the ground running. We officially began services on February 16, 2012 serving 650 individuals.

Some of the highlights from our first year:

- Many Consumer Direct staff from all over the country were given the chance to travel around our beautiful state, meeting Individuals, family members and employees, while assisting in getting everyone's new paperwork into the system. They're still talking about the nice folks and top notch hospitality they received.
- In March 2012, we opened our office in Columbia. If you're ever in the area, please come by and say hi!
- We gathered and collected vast amounts of paperwork; most of you have probably heard from us over the past several months as we have attempted to collect missing items, particularly training and education documents. We've made enormous progress in this area.
- MO Consumer Direct started with a staff of three, employing two Program Coordinators and one Program Manager. Today we have five Program Coordinators, one each in St. Louis, Kansas City, Macon, Springfield and Salem and three Administrative staff who run the Columbia office plus the program manager.
- We now serve approximately 950 Individuals – a large increase in a very short time!
- The MOCD staff held quarterly meetings in every region of the state and have had the opportunity to meet a lot of folks along the way. These meetings have proven to be invaluable, and we really hope to see many more of you at these meetings throughout 2013.

It has been a sincere honor to have the opportunity to serve Missourians receiving Self-Directed Services, and we look forward to a long, fruitful relationship. On behalf of all the MO Consumer Direct staff, thank you for the privilege to serve you and for your trust in us. Please call or email if we can be of any assistance.

- Angie Peterson and Team Missouri



Freezin' for a reason!

The MOCD team, complete with spouses and Zorro the Dalmatian, participated in the 2013 Polar Plunge at Stephen's Lake Park in Columbia on February 16. The team raised almost \$1,200 for Special Olympics Missouri thanks to our friends, families and associates. Everyone had so much fun even the non-jumpers have committed to participate next year!

Employers Must Use Revised Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification

USCIS will no longer accept previous versions of Form I-9

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reminds employers that beginning today they must use the revised Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification (Revision 03/08/13)N for all new hires and reverifications. All employers are required to complete and retain a Form I-9 for each employee hired to work in the United States.

The revision date of the new Form I-9 is printed on the lower left corner of the form. Employers should **NOT** complete a new Form I-9 for existing employees, however, if a properly completed Form I-9 is already on file.

A Spanish version of Form I-9 (revision 03/08/13)N is available on the USCIS website for use in Puerto Rico only. Spanish-speaking employers and employees in the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and other U.S. territories may use the Spanish version for reference, but must complete and retain the English version of the form.

The revised forms are available online at www.uscis.gov/I-9. For more information, please call 888-464-4218. Representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. USCIS maintains a website, I-9 Central, to support Form I-9 users. USCIS has also scheduled free webinars to help employers learn about the new form.



As a courtesy to you we have included in this newsletter some information for you and your employees on Bloodborne Pathogens.

*As you may be aware, 2014 brings changes to our health care system with the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)**. Additional information about the ACA can be found at healthcare.gov.*



Great Resources!

General Resources for Individuals Receiving Services and Your Employees

Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities

<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd>

Missouri Department of Social Services

<http://dss.mo.gov>

Missouri General Assembly

<http://www.moga.mo.gov>

Missouri Department of Mental Health

<http://dmh.mo.gov>

Protecting Yourself From Bloodborne Pathogens

WHAT ARE BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS?

Pathogens are disease-causing microorganisms. Bloodborne pathogens are viruses or bacteria present in human blood and body fluids which can infect and cause disease in humans. The two most notable of these are Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS, and the Hepatitis B virus (HBV).

HOW DO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS SPREAD IN THE WORKPLACE?

The most common ways bloodborne pathogens spread are through sexual transmission or IV drug use. However, any contact with infected blood or body fluids carries the risk of potential infection.

With the correct information, irrational fears about workplace exposure to HIV and HBV can be prevented. On the other hand, treating HIV too lightly may lead you to ignore appropriate protective measures.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

It is important to understand what the hazards of bloodborne pathogens are, and what preventative measures you can take to protect yourself from exposure. The three main areas of protection include Attitude, Personal Protective Equipment and Housekeeping.

ATTITUDE

Your attitude is a vital part of protecting yourself. The right attitude means taking Universal Precautions. This means that you treat all human blood and body fluids as infectious.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal Protective Equipment includes clothing and equipment worn by an individual during activities, which may result in exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Personal protective equipment always starts with gloves, but may also include gowns, face shields, eye protection and pocket masks.

- **Latex gloves and gowns**-these protect your skin and hands from coming into contact with blood.
- **Face Shield and eye protection**-these items prevent blood from entering the mucous membranes through the eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Pocket Mask**-this refers to any one of many types of devices used while performing CPR or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.



HOUSEKEEPING

Housekeeping refers to methods for cleaning and decontaminating infected surfaces and the disposal of blood and body fluids. All decontamination must include the use of an appropriate disinfecting solution, such as one part bleach to ten parts water.

WORK PRACTICES TO PREVENT INFECTION

If your assignments require you to perform CPR, give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, administer first aid, or clean up after an accident, protective measures need to be taken to prevent an exposure to infectious materials. Protect Yourself First. Treat Victim Second.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE EXPOSED

Despite your best efforts, there is a possibility you may be exposed to blood or body fluids during an emergency response. An exposure incident is defined as a specific eye, mouth, nose or skin contact with potentially infectious materials.

IF YOU HAVE AN EXPOSURE, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- Flush the area on your body that was exposed with warm water, then wash with soap and water. Vigorously scrub all areas. It is the abrasive action of scrubbing that removes contaminants from the skin.
- If you have an open wound, squeeze gently to make it bleed, then wash with soap and water.
- Notify the Injury Hotline 1-888-541-1701.
- Seek emergency medical treatment following an exposure incident.
- You will be counseled by a physician regarding the risk of HIV or HBV infection and any other follow-up treatment needed.