

# BE THE SPARK

APRIL 2024 | EDITION



**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
BOARD OF SERVICES



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## April is Autism Acceptance Month!

Autism Acceptance Month celebrated in April, evolved from Autism Awareness Month, which was first observed by the Autism Society of America in the 1970s. The shift from awareness to acceptance reflects a growing understanding of autism as a natural variation of the human experience rather than a disorder to be cured. Autism Acceptance Month aims to promote acceptance, understanding, and inclusion of individuals on the autism spectrum. It's important because it challenges stereotypes and promotes a more inclusive society where individuals with autism are valued for their unique perspectives and abilities.



**Supporting People with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness!**

01/04



## Letter from the Director

On Tuesday, April 2nd from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., we're hosting a listening session at the Warrensburg Community Center called, "JCBS Listens" and offering refreshments! The purpose of this session is to not just talk at you, but instead to listen. Your experiences, your insights, they matter more than anything to us.

## Bright Sox is BACK!



Bright Sox Softball's 5th official season is set to kick off in early May and wrap up near the end of June, offering a 6-week league for all to enjoy! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and registration information.

If you are interested in sponsoring, or coaching, or volunteering please contact Liz Hargrave via email at [ehargrave@jcmbbs.com](mailto:ehargrave@jcmbbs.com) or by phone at (660) 240-3343 ext. 708.



We want to understand your journey. What challenges have you faced? What solutions do you envision? Your feedback guides us in creating and recruiting services that truly meet your needs. Every story, every suggestion, helps shape our path forward. It's about building a community where everyone feels heard and supported.

And hopefully we've made it easy for you to share your thoughts. Whether it's through one-on-one discussions or group-facilitated discussions – your input is welcomed and valued. Together, we're not just talking – we're creating meaningful change. So let your voice be heard, because together, I know we can make a difference.

We hope you'll come and be a part of "JCBS Listens." Your feedback won't end there – it's the beginning of a journey toward a brighter, more inclusive future, one that SPARKS! – Supporting People with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness.





# Thank you!



## Brunch & Bubbly

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and attendees for making our Brunch & Bubbly event a huge success! We raised more money than we've ever raised before!

Your support and generosity are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for the amazing community that surrounds us.

### Get To Know Nick Wilson, our new Targeted Case Manager!

Introducing Nick Wilson, our new Targeted Case Manager at JCBS! Nick brings a unique background to our team, holding a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Central Missouri. Married with two wonderful children, Nick enjoys spending his free time cultivating various plants. He joined JCBS because of our welcoming culture and stellar reputation, and we're thrilled to have him onboard!



# >Welcome!

# Resources

## Contact us

[www.jcmbs.com/our-team/](http://www.jcmbs.com/our-team/)

## Missouri Family to Family – A Statewide Resource Center

[www.mofamilytofamily.org](http://www.mofamilytofamily.org)

## Charting the LifeCourse Tools

Charting the LifeCourse is a framework designed to help you organize your ideas, vision, and goals, as well as problem-solve, navigate, and advocate for supports.

[www.lifecoursetools.com](http://www.lifecoursetools.com)

## Public Meeting Notice

Quarterly Board Meetings are held via Zoom or in person at the Johnson County Board of Services office located at 200 N Devasher, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of that month. Meeting dates are subject to change with notice. Please see our website for meeting information:

[JCMBS.COM/PUBLIC-NOTICE/](http://JCMBS.COM/PUBLIC-NOTICE/)


May 21st, 2024

August 20th, 2024

November 26th, 2024



## Targeted Case Manager Satisfaction Survey!

 **Targeted Case Management  
Satisfaction Survey**

**Identification of Researchers:**  
This survey is being done by the Johnson County Board of Services.

**Purpose of the Survey:**  
The purpose of this survey will help JCBS improve our services to the individuals we serve and their families.

**Request for Participation:**  
We are inviting you to participate in a survey on the Johnson County Board of Services. It is up to you whether you would like to participate. If you decide not to participate, you will not be penalized in any way. You can also decide to stop at any time without penalty. If you do not wish to answer any of the questions, you may simply skip them. If you wish to withdraw, please close the browser before submitting, at the end of the survey. Once you submit the survey, we will keep the information you provided confidentially.

**Privacy:**  
All of the information we collect will be kept confidential. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Specifically, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

**Explanation of Risks:**  
Completing this survey will NOT negatively affect your services.

**Explanation of Benefits:**  
Completing this survey will help provide feedback for JCBS.

**Questions**  
If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Melissa Frey at [mfrey@jcmbs.com](mailto:mfrey@jcmbs.com).

This survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete

**Don't forget to us how we are doing! Complete  
our now online TCM Satisfaction Survey!**  
<https://forms.office.com/r/CF1xBgu2nk>