

BE THE SPARK

DECEMBER 2025 | EDITION



JOHNSON COUNTY
BOARD OF SERVICES



FESTIVAL OF TREES

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Festival of Trees a success! Because of our generous tree, wreath, and stocking donors; eager bidders; dessert bakers; volunteers; and community partners, we raised funds that will go right back to support individuals with developmental disabilities in Johnson County. This year's event was the best one yet and we're already thinking about next year!

Your holiday spirit truly helps our neighbors learn, work, play, and thrive all year long.

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



Funding through the JCBS Waiver will be available beginning January 2026, and Case Managers can start submitting requests on December 1, 2025.

If you're interested in respite reimbursement, camp funding, or transportation reimbursement, please contact your Targeted Case Manager—funding is first come, first served.

Respite reimbursement helps families cover short-term care so caregivers can rest or attend to other responsibilities. Camp funding supports inclusive summer or specialty camps that promote skill-building and fun. Transportation reimbursement can help cover travel costs for work, community activities, or appointments.



Letter from the Director

I want to give you a quick overview of our 2026 Strategic Plan and why it matters to the individuals, families, and partners we serve.

This plan was developed over several months with input from our staff, board of directors, and community partners. We listened closely to feedback from events like JCBS Listens, reviewed our unmet needs assessment, and gathered insight from the people doing the work every day, our incredible team.

Our 2026 plan focuses on four key priorities:

1. Developing Staff

We know that when we support our team, they're better equipped to support others. This priority focuses on training, professional growth, and connection—including regular “Pulse Meetings” to listen, learn, and celebrate together.

2. Optimizing Case Management

We're updating our tools, documentation, and billing practices so case managers can spend more time where it matters most: with the individuals and families they serve.

3. Expanding Access

This means helping families better understand and navigate Medicaid and waiver services. We're creating clearer guides, videos, and tools and we're actively engaging in advocacy efforts to reduce access barriers.

4. Enhancing Value and Efficiency

We're looking at every task across the agency and asking: Does this add value? If not, we're rethinking it. This helps us be good stewards of time, resources, and public funding.

This plan isn't just about goals on paper, it's about building something better, together. Whether you're a staff member, family, provider, or community partner, your voice helped shape this plan, and your involvement will help bring it to life.

We'll be sharing more about each of these priorities in upcoming Tuesday Talks. But today, I just want to say thank you for trusting us, for speaking up, and for being part of this work.



Staff Spotlight: Noah Stites

Our Marketing & Outreach Specialist, Noah Stites, brings stories to life on screen for JCBS. Noah graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a degree in Digital Media Production and first connected with us through his own videography business, Diamond Ruby Studios—which he still runs on the side. He now calls Warrensburg home, where he lives with his girlfriend and their cats (including one ornery orange troublemaker who keeps them on their toes). We're grateful to have Noah's creativity and talent capturing the heart of the work we do.

Medicaid is the foundation that allows individuals with developmental disabilities to live, work, and thrive in their communities. It funds critical supports such as therapies, personal care, medical services, employment assistance, and Targeted Case Management—all of which help people remain healthy, independent, and included.

However, applying for Medicaid can be incredibly difficult. The system is complex, and the process can feel nearly impossible for families who don't work within it every day. Forms, verifications, and ongoing eligibility requirements can be confusing and overwhelming, often leaving families frustrated and uncertain. It shouldn't be that hard for people to access the supports they need to live meaningful lives.

The choices our government makes about Medicaid directly impact whether individuals can live and work in their communities. When funding, rules, or eligibility change, it can determine if someone is able to stay in their home, keep a job, or continue receiving vital care. Protecting—and improving—Medicaid means protecting the right for people with developmental disabilities to live, work, and belong in their communities with the supports they deserve.

Learn More: Why is Medicaid so important?



Resources

Contact us

www.jcmbs.com/our-team/

Missouri Family to Family – A Statewide Resource Center

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



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.

This survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete

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/

November 18th, 2025

February 17th, 2026 (tentative)

May 19th, 2026 (tentative)

**Don't forget to tell us how we are doing!
Complete our now online TCM Satisfaction
Survey!**

[Click Here for Survey](#)