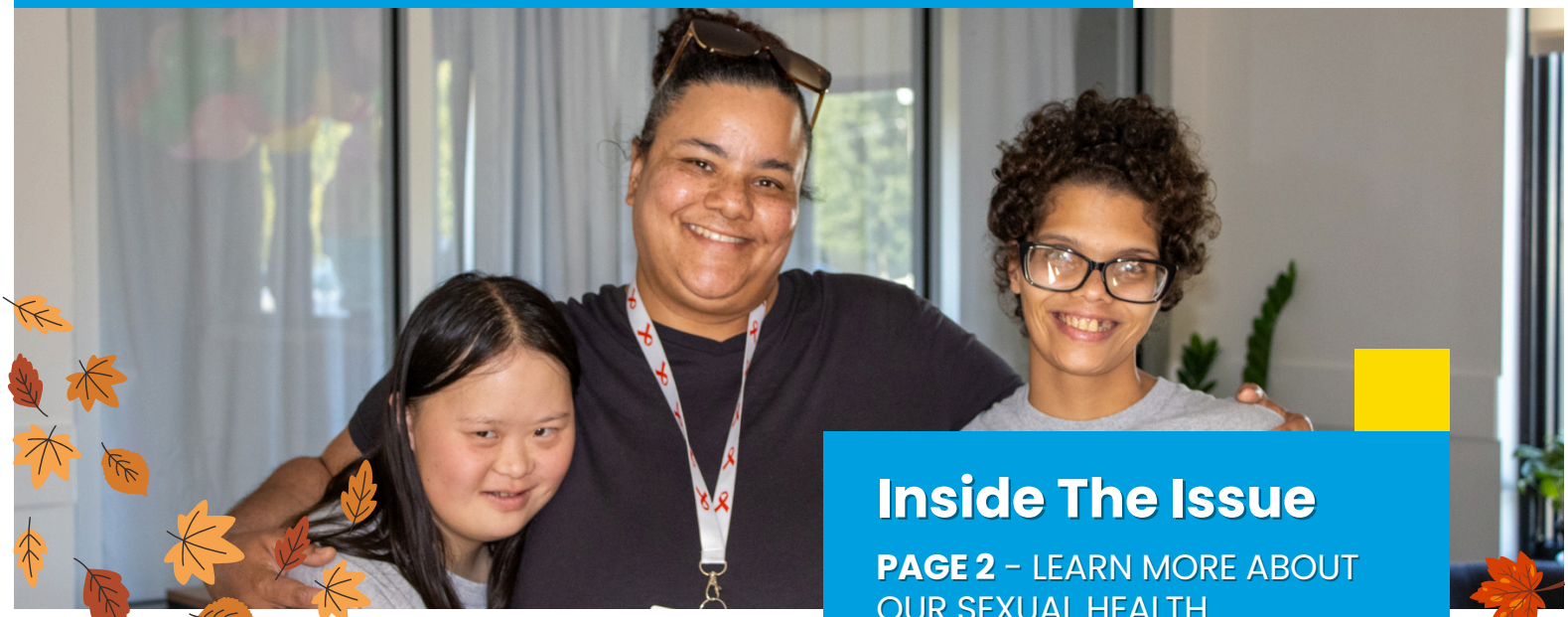
BE THE SPARK

OCTOBER 2026 | EDITION

JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SERVICES



Welcome to Fall!

Fall is here, bringing cooler weather, changing leaves, and plenty of community fun! October is full of trunk or treats and Halloween festivities throughout Johnson County. Be sure to stop by and see JCBS at Survival House's Ghouls Night Out on October 23 from 5:30–8:30 PM. We can't wait to see you!



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

Sexual Self-Advocacy

Thursday, October 8th | 4:00 PM (90 minute presentation) | JCBS Office

SESSION 1 OF OUR SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION SERIES

Join us for a supportive and educational session about your rights, choices ,and voice!

We will focus on:



Limited Seating | RSVP Required

We're kicking off a new Sexual Health Education Series at JCBS!

Our first session, Sexual Self-Advocacy, will be led by JCBS Case Manager Molly Glover. During this 90-minute session, we'll talk about myths vs. stereotypes, what sexual self-advocacy means, barriers to self-advocacy, and ways we can overcome those barriers.

Click Here to Register



Letter from the Director

One of the things we hear pretty often from families is how hard it can be to find the right person to provide respite or Self Directed Services (SDS) support. And I understand that on a very personal level. When my family was trying to find people to help support my sister, Tammy, I remember how difficult that process was — and how vulnerable it could feel. Because you aren't just trying to fill a few hours on a schedule. You're inviting someone into your home and trusting them with someone you love. You want someone who is dependable, capable, kind, and someone your loved one feels comfortable with.

I know a lot of the families we serve are dealing with that same challenge today. We hear things like, "We have respite hours, but we can't find anyone to work them," or "We have SDS available, but we can't find the right person." At the same time, we know there are great DSPs and other people in our community who already have experience supporting people with developmental disabilities and may be interested in picking up some additional hours. The problem is that those two groups don't always know how to find each other. So, JCBS is working on something new. We're creating a Facebook group that will give families and potential support staff a place to connect. Families will be able to share general information about what they are looking for — things like the hours they need, the type of support they're looking for, and whether it is respite, SDS, or another arrangement.

People interested in providing support will be able to share their experience, general availability, and the types of support they feel comfortable providing.

JCBS won't be choosing someone for a family, hiring the worker, or saying, "This is the person you should use."

Our role is simply to create the space where people can find one another and start the conversation. Families will still need to do their own interviewing, reference checks, required screenings, and make sure anyone they choose meets the requirements of their particular service. But I really believe this could help



Registration is now open for Special Olympics Bowling! Hosted by UCM, this five-week, non-competitive program is a great opportunity for athletes to have fun, stay active, and enjoy time with friends. Bowling will take place every Sunday from October 18 through November 15, with a one-time $5 participation fee. There will be a time change for one session in October, and additional details will be shared with registered participants. Sign up today to join us for another great season of bowling!

Ticket Link

Kick off spooky season with us at our Outdoor Movie Night! We'll be watching Beetlejuice and enjoying free concessions throughout the evening. This event is open to all JCBS individuals, families, and providers. Bring your own chairs or blankets, get comfortable, and enjoy a fun fall night under the stars! Please arrive by **7:00 PM** so you have plenty of time to grab concessions and find a spot. The movie will begin as soon as it's dark enough for the screen.





2026 Sponsors!

We are deeply grateful to all of our sponsors whose generosity makes the work of the Johnson County Board of Services Foundation possible. Your support helps us bridge gaps in funding, respond to urgent needs, and expand inclusive opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Johnson County. Because of you, people can access therapies, adaptive equipment, community programs, and vital resources that improve quality of life and promote independence.

Our sponsors are more than partners—they are champions for inclusion and advocates for a stronger, more connected community. We are honored to work alongside businesses, organizations, and individuals who believe in investing in people and creating lasting impact. Thank you for standing with us and helping our mission move forward.

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Equity Bank
Paul D. Polychronis,
Board Certified Psychologist

Interested in becoming a sponsor?
Check out our Sponsorship Opportunities for more information!

CLICK HERE

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

Public Meeting Notice

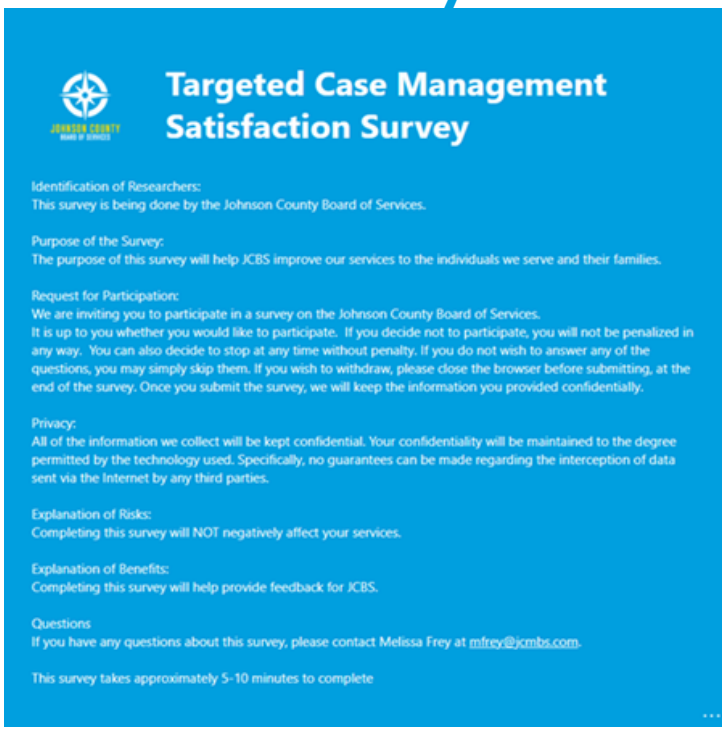
Quarterly Board Meetings are held via Zoom or in person at the Johnson County Board of Services office located at 200 N Devasher, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of that month. Meeting dates are subject to change with notice. Please see our website for meeting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

JCMBS.COM/PUBLIC-NOTICE/

November 17th, 2026
February 16th, 2027
May 18th, 2027



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

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