BE THE SPARK

NOVEMBER 2026 | EDITION

JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SERVICES



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Hello November!

November is a time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for! At JCBS, we're especially grateful for the individuals and families we serve, our dedicated staff, and our supportive community.

As the holiday season begins, we're excited to spread kindness, celebrate together, and kick off the festivities with our Festival of Trees! Wishing everyone a wonderful November and a Happy Thanksgiving!





01/05

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

4th Annual Festival of Trees

NOVEMBER 9TH THROUGH THE 12TH

A 4 DAY EVENT!

The holiday magic is returning! Join us for our 4th Annual Festival of Trees, now expanded to four days of festive fun! Enjoy beautifully decorated trees, wreaths, and stockings, along with exciting activities for the whole family. Every dollar raised supports the Johnson County Board of Services Foundation and its mission to help individuals with developmental disabilities in Johnson County. Come celebrate the season while supporting a great cause!

Facebook Event





Letter from the Director

Sometimes families call us and start the conversation by saying, "I don't even know if I'm calling the right place." And my answer is always: that's okay.

You don't have to understand the developmental disability system before you call JCBS.

You don't need to know whether what you need is called respite, Targeted Case Management, Family Navigation, SDS or something else. You can just tell us what is happening. Maybe your child is getting ready to graduate and you have no idea what comes next.

Maybe your adult son or daughter wants a job.

Maybe you're exhausted and need a break from caregiving. Maybe your loved one wants more friends or more opportunities to be involved in the community.

Maybe something has changed in your family and the supports that used to work just aren't working anymore.

Start there. Our job is to listen, ask questions, help you understand your options, and connect you with resources whenever we can.

Sometimes JCBS will provide the service directly, like Family Navigation and sometimes we'll help connect you with another organization. Sometimes we'll simply help you navigate a system that can be really confusing.

And sometimes the most important thing we can do is simply help you figure out what the next step should be.

So if you're thinking, "I need help, but I don't even know what to ask for," call us anyway.

You don't have to know the name of the service.

Just tell us what you need your life to look like, and we'll start there.

Important Medicaid Changes Coming in 2027!

Beginning January 1, 2027, new Medicaid Community Engagement Requirements will take effect in Missouri. These changes primarily affect adults ages 19–64 receiving Medicaid through the Adult Expansion Group (AEG).

Individuals who are not exempt may need to complete 80 hours of qualifying activities, such as working, volunteering, job training, or education. Missouri will also begin reviewing AEG eligibility every six months instead of annually.

Who is exempt? Certain individuals, including those with qualifying disabilities or serious medical conditions, pregnant individuals, caregivers of children ages 13 and younger or people with disabilities, and Medicare recipients, may be exempt.

Individuals receiving Medicaid through other eligibility categories, such as children's Medicaid or Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid, are not subject to these new work requirements.

Not everyone receiving Medicaid will be affected! We encourage families to review their Medicaid coverage category, keep their contact information updated, and watch for notices from the Family Support Division.

Learn more about these changes and possible exemptions through the **Missouri Department of Social Services.**



Wondering whether Medicaid Community Engagement requirements may apply to you?

Try out the new Community Engagement Screening Tool. This tool can help you better understand whether you may need to meet the upcoming Community Engagement requirements or if you may qualify for an exception or exclusion.

Screening tool: dss.mo.gov/hr1/community-engagement-screener

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.

Presenting Sponsors & Community Sponsors

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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

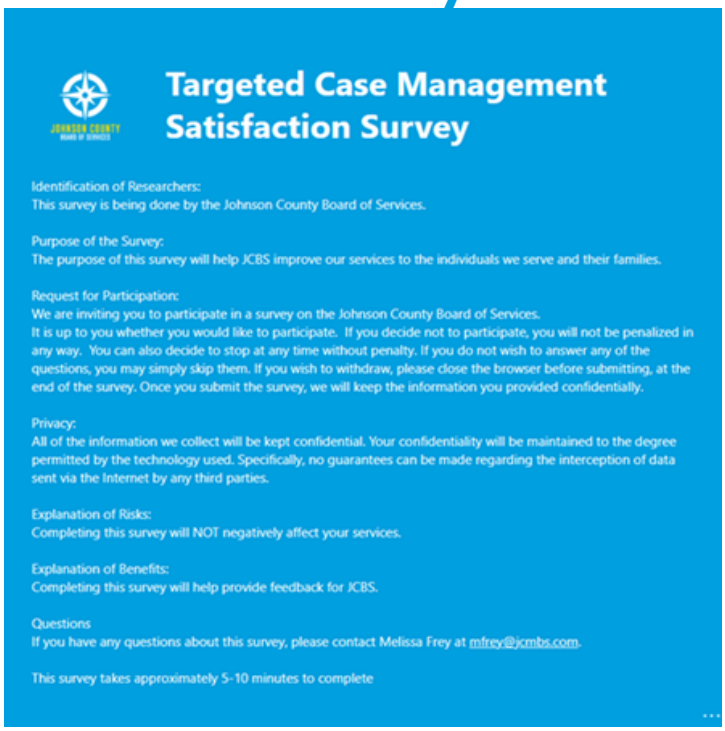
Quarterly Board Meetings are held via Zoom or in person at the Johnson County Board of Services office located at 200 N Devasher, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of that month. Meeting dates are subject to change with notice. Please see our website for meeting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