

Hi Everyone,

PICNIC!

After a one year hiatus the CCS picnic is back this week! We are at Airport Parkway with burgers, hot dogs and other not-necessarily-healthy-but-what-the-heck-it's-a-picnic treats! We know that some people aren't quite ready for in-person gatherings; please do what feels best for you. We'll be serving the food, and wearing masks. And, everyone is of course welcome to wear masks/not wear masks as they're comfortable. Picnic starts at 11:30 😊

SIS info attached (attached above)

A plain language letter with information about the SIS (supports Intensity Scale) is attached. Remember, this is the ***NEW*** Needs Assessment. A few CCS folks have tried using it and soon we'll have some more folks piloting the project, too. Eventually the assessment will need to align with funding so it's very important that we get the assessment process right. Please lean in, look over the information, share your feedback and ask questions.

MASKS? VARIANTS? Oh my

I'm sure you're seeing some of the same news that I am – that Covid variants are on the rise. I was asked this week if I see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel – and, ***IDO***. But, we still have a few new tunnels to duck through. None of us know what will happen with the variants, etc... but I do feel very good about where we are and where we're headed. Is it possible that we could end up needing to re-mask up and recede back to our Covid work dens? Yeah, I suppose it is, but we know how to do it (heck, the CCS Covid task Force wrote a manual on it here at CCS!) and if needed we'll do it. But – right now things still look really good. For now, hang in there and enjoy the beautiful summer, and while you do – make sure you carry a mask with you in case you end up in a situation where you wish you had one. Each one of us is emerging from this with our own tolerance for closed spaces (sometimes this changes day-to-day). If you keep a mask with you you'll always feel prepared.

U.S. House Human Services Testimony this Thursday (attached above)

VERY IMPORTANT (from our friends at DD Council – but a lot of others are sharing this info, too)

“We wanted to share this with you because it affects all the funding for work support, respite, home services, shared living services, community services for all of our disabled adult children through all the agencies in the state.

The HCBS Medicaid waiver is the funding for services for our adult children with disabilities. In addition to the public hearing, families can send input in writing. The DDC put together a good toolkit (attached) to help families and individuals express their thoughts. Please forward to families who are affected.”

The bottom line is, there are federal dollars being considered to significantly LIFT UP the rates for the services we deliver. AS you know – we NEED THIS to secure a stable workforce. If you're not going to the picnic on Thursday please listen int to the testimony and consider submitting yours, too. **You know how I've been talking a lot about our workforce issues? THIS IS HOW WE ALL HELP FIX THEM!**

Thanks for all you're doing – keep in touch

Beth

Elizabeth M. Sightler
Executive Director
802.655.0511 x 120