



Spotlight

Regional Bike Sharing Coming June 2019

Kancycle, a program of OCCK, provides North Central Kansas with convenient, affordable access to bicycles as an easy, fun, healthy and eco-friendly means of transportation and recreation. OCCK through a collaborative funding partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas,

brings you KANcycle powered by Zagster.

The Kancycle program is coming to Salina, Minneapolis, Concordia, Belleville, Mankato, Beloit, and Lincoln, and Ellsworth.

Questions, call (855) KSRIDES



KAN  **cycle**

Bike Sharing for Rural Kansas

Bicycle Racks Now Available On All CityGo Buses

OCCK Transportation has announced that bicycle racks will be available on all five local bus routes for CityGo.

Beginning on Monday, April 15, bicycle racks have been available on every bus on both Peak and Regular routes, for free customer use. The permanent installation of the racks is part of OCCK's plan to improve transit in Salina, which seeks, among other goals, to improve bus service and increase ridership by focusing

on customer service and needs.

"The addition of bike racks is another step in our plan to improve bus service and attract new ridership," said Michelle Griffin, Transportation Director for OCCK, Inc. "Bike racks are a great amenity for customers who want to increase their

mobility and take advantage of the city's growing network of bike lanes and trails. The racks help customers transport bikes over a long distance and our buses provide a vital connection for people who need or want to use public transit."

Continued on page 2

OCCK Had A Great Showing At Interhab's Advocacy Day

OCCK had almost 100 people join the 700 people attending the Advocacy Day in Topeka on March 26. Advocacy Day is an annual event in Topeka for people with IDD, their families, friends, providers, and disability advocates to come together and educate their legislators by sharing stories and experiences with their legislators.

The day was filled with speakers expressing the need to increase funding for providers, money for wait list,

and visits with our legislators. One of the highlights was Governor Laura Kelly who addressed the crowd. Many of OCCK attendees also spoke before the group.

Interhab represents business and individuals who provide community based services for Kansans who received benefits through Medicaid.

It was a fun event, and we appreciate all who made this day possible.



Governor Laura Kelly addresses crowd

Bicycle Racks... *Continued from page 1*

The bicycle racks will be mounted to the front of the buses, providing space for two bicycles on each bus.

The racks are free to use and



available on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers who wish to transport their bicycles must wait for a bus with an available rack. There is no age restriction on usage but the customer must be able to load and unload the bicycle safely and securely, and parents or guardians are asked to use caution when allowing minors to use the racks. Any customer who cannot safely operate the bicycle rack may be restricted from using the service.

A video instructing customers on the safe and proper use of the bicycle racks, as well as additional information, is posted at www.salinacitygo.com under Passenger Information/Bike & Go.

For more information about OCCK, Inc., visit www.occk.com. For more information about CityGo and OCCK Transportation, visit www.salinacitygo.com. Or, contact the OCCK Transportation Center at 785-826-1583.

Shelia Nelson-Stout, *President/CEO*
Jan Pfannenstiel, *Editor*

A community partner
strengthening the quality of life
and independence of persons
with disabilities since 1970.

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A
Working Healthy
Benefits Specialist
will be there
to answer
questions!



Working Healthy
Making health care work



Are you receiving Social Security benefits and want to work?

If so, plan to attend a
FREE 2-hour seminar to
learn everything you need
to know about working and
how that can affect your
Social Security benefits.

Are you age 18 through 64 and receiving disability benefits?

If so, learn more about
Ticket to Work to achieve a
good job, good career, and a
better self-supporting future!



When: July 9, 2019

**Where: OCKK Transportation
Facility
340 N. Santa Fe Ave.
Salina, KS 67401**

Two sessions to choose from:

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OR

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Contact Shanna Sowers at
785-827-9383 ext. 176
to register for this event.**

Celebrating Staff's Dedication to Serving People with Disabilities

OCCK, Inc. recognizes that hardworking, dedicated staff are a key to the high quality of services provided to customers throughout North Central Kansas. The Annual Employee Service Banquet was held at the Salina Country Club on April 11. This year 30 employees with 3 to 30 years of service received awards. The employees who were recognized were:



Back Row: Cameron Krager, Jessica Gonzales, Lannia Piper, Tawnie Heard, Travis Cramer. **Next row** Traci Patrick, Terry Peterson, Trudy Morton, and Taya Smith

3 Years

Mary Bader, Living Services, Beloit*
 Travis Cramer, Maintenance, Salina
 Tammy Demel, InMyHome, Salina *
 Gretchen Eades, Transportation, Salina *
 Jessica Gonzales, Living Services, Salina
 John Greenwood, Transportation, Salina*
 Courtney Hayes, InMyHome, Salina*
 Tawnie Heard, Transportation, Salina

Jane Kearn, Living Services, Salina*
 Cameron Krager, Living Services, Concordia
 Trudy Morton, Transportation, Salina
 Traci Patrick, InMyHome, Salina
 Terry Peterson, Living Services, Beloit
 Lannia Piper, Living Services, Salina
 Jayne Sibley, Living Services, Beloit*
 Taya Smith, Living Services, Salina



Paula Downie, Debra Beals, Lexi Gilbert, Nancy Martin, and Cynthia Ortman



Tim Dickinson, Lee Montgomery, and Mark Gruenthal

10 Years

Tim Dickinson, Transportation, Salina
 Mark Gruenthal, Transportation, Salina
 Lee Montgomery, Maintenance, Salina
 Paula Stark, Transportation, Salina *



Irene Sell

15 Years

Irene Sell, Living Services, Salina

30 Years

Melanie Brown-Hansen, Licensed Master Social Worker, Concordia*



Lisa Bader

25 Years

Lisa Bader, Living Services, Beloit

***Not pictured**

5 Years

Debra Beals, Living Services, Beloit
 Paula Downie, Transportation, Salina
 Lexie Gilbert, Living Services, Concordia
 Staci Lackey, Living Services, Abilene *
 Shayla Liby, InMyHome, Salina *
 Nancy Martin Living Services, Beloit
 Cynthia Ortman, Living Services, Beloit

Retirements celebrated this quarter

Jodi Agin

Jodi worked as a Peer/Custodial Worker for twelve years and retired in April. She worked on multiple QCS contracts during that time including the Sears contract, OCK, the Transportation Building and the army building. People who worked with her said she is a “people person” and worked well with her team. She could be counted on to know all the details for each contract. She enjoyed her job and performed it well every day!



Diane Bliss

After over 25 years with OCK, Diane retired in March. She was originally hired in June 1993 as a Residential Trainer. In April 1995, she transferred to a trainer in Employment Services working at Great Plains with OCK employment customers. From September 2008 to March 2009, she had a break in employment with OCK. She returned in March 2009 to work as Residential Trainer where she continued until her retirement. She wanted to spend more time with her family.



Myrna Martinez

Farewell wishes to Myrna Martinez !!!

Myrna retired from OCK April 30th. Myrna wore many hats during her 18 year tenure at OCK but the one she wore the best was as an advocate and champion of the people she worked with. Myrna is well-known as the person who would take that extra step, make that personal phone call and give that extra push to help others achieve their goals, obtain services or special equipment.



Myrna started as a Brain Injury trainer, where she worked one on one with people to teach daily living skills, which promoted independent living.

As a Case Manager for people on the Frail Elderly, Brain Injury and Physical Disability Waiver, she set up in home services and meal delivery as well as arranging for ramps, shower chairs, hospital beds and other equipment to aid people with independent living.

Myrna most recently worked as a Self-Direction Specialist where she would meet one on one with people to set up Financial Management Services and provide training on how to self-direct their services.

Myrna will be missed by all.

Kay Thompson

In September 2007, Kay was hired as a Residential Trainer in Salina. As a direct service employee, she did a great job of getting people into the community and engaging them in new experiences based on their interests. She is a caring person who will miss working with the customers every day, however, she felt it was time to retire. Her last day was at the end of April. She is excited to be able to attend her grandchildren’s ball games this summer and spend more time with them. She has also worked part-time for DVACK for 20 years. She said they are having some exciting changes and she will continue working there.



Success Stories



Harold Strait

Harold has had extensive health issues that have prevented him from gaining employment and being as independent as he would like. After working with Workforce Solutions and through his own determination and perseverance, Harold was able to obtain employment with two employers working as a janitor. Harold is now able to afford the cost of his much needed medication, health care regimen, and maintain his much loved farm. Harold has made tremendous strides in his life and has gained the independence he longed for. It was a pleasure to work with Harold and to help him reach more of his life goals. We look forward to hearing about your success in the future Harold!

Employee of the Quarter



Jimmy Newman

Jimmy Newman has successfully been employed with Sav-a-Lot in Salina. Jimmy has a long work history with OCCK, having worked as a janitor for Quality Custodial Services for 15 years. Jimmy's duties in his current position include several cleaning tasks, as well as running the floor cleaner. Workforce Solutions assisted Jimmy with interview preparation, application assistance, learning work tasks, and job coaching. Jimmy is doing an amazing job in his new role. Jimmy is looking to purchase a new bike with his paychecks!

OCCK to hold Job Fairs in Dickinson & Ellsworth Counties

OCCK will be joining forces with area agencies to provide Job Fairs in both Dickinson & Ellsworth counties.

June 13th

Abilene Civic Center
10:00 AM until 2:00 PM

June 20th

Ellsworth Golf Course
Meeting Room
10:00 AM until 2:00 PM

For more information, please contact
Workforce Solutions at
(785) 827-9383 ext 176.

Employers of the Quarter

IHOP
USD #305
USD #475
OCCK, Inc.
3 J's Carpet Cleaning
Durham Bus Services
Shop Quick Junction city

Super 8 Junction City
Sodexo KSU
TFM Cleaning Services, Wichita
Panther Pause, Scandia
Mankato Livestock, Inc.
Arby's Concordia
Subway Concordia

Port Library, Beloit
Kansas Erosion
Great Clips
Bushton Manufacturing
Saint Francis Ministries
Comfort Inn & Suites
Lowe's Home Improvement

Youth Summer Bus Pass Program to Start

OCCK Transportation, through Salina CityGo, is continuing the successful Get On & Go program for Salina area youth ages 7-18.

Youth ages 7-18 will be able to purchase a Get On & Go Summer Youth Bus Pass for \$10. The pass will be good for unlimited rides on Salina CityGo from June 1 to August 31.

Youth must show the drivers their "Get On & Go" pass when they board the buses. Riding the bus gives kids the freedom to get around in the summer. The Get On & Go Summer Youth Bus Pass is a great way for kids to get to Kenwood Cove, community centers, parks, the library, shopping and more.

The Summer Youth Bus Pass is

available for purchase at OCCK Transportation, 340 N. Santa Fe; OCCK Corporate Office, 1710 W. Schilling; Bennington State Bank, 200 S. 9th St., and 2130 S. Ohio; Salina Regional Health Center Human Resources, 400 S. Santa Fe.

"We are excited to continue the Get On & Go program for the third year," said Michelle Griffin, Transportation Director for OCCK, Inc. "The program has continued to grow in popularity. We are helping kids navigate around Salina, participate in summer activities and community events, while using public transit, a win-win situation for all."

For more information call OCCK Transportation at 826-1583 or go to www.salinacitygo.com.

Contributors

OCCK continues to receive gifts of service, products, consultations, and funds from individuals, businesses, and groups. We are grateful for your confidence and support.

UPS Employees, Salina
Knights of Columbus,
Minneapolis

Knights of Columbus,
Mankato

North Central Kansas Casa,
Inc., Concordia

Denny & Connie Helvey,
Salina

Teresa Martin, Dorrance

Brain Injury Services Available at OCCK

Individuals who have sustained a traumatic brain injury (a blow to the head from an outside force) and are between the ages of 16 and 65 may qualify for KS HCBS TBI waiver services. They must be able to meet financial and functional eligibility requirements and provide medical documentation of their injury. Through the TBI waiver, individuals who would otherwise require care in a rehabilitation facility are able to benefit from receiving services in their homes and communities. Participants set their own goals for achieving increased independence and quality of life. TBI waiver services are considered "short-term"; however, participants may receive services for a few years as long as they continue to make progress towards their rehabilitation goals and require services to maintain their independent living skills.

Rehabilitative services covered by the TBI waiver include: Personal Care Service (PCS), TLS Transitional Living Skills (TLS), Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, Cognitive Therapy, and Behavioral Therapy services.

Later in 2019, the name of the waiver will change to the BI (Brain Injury) Waiver to reflect an expanded definition for participant eligibility. Two exciting changes for this waiver program are coming:

- Individuals with acquired brain injuries, including anoxia and stroke, will be eligible for BI Waiver services!
- Children under the age of 16 with brain injuries will also be eligible for BI Waiver services!

(When a BI is sustained prior to the age of 21, it may also be considered a developmental disability. After a person has met their rehabilitation goals with TBI/BI Waiver services, qualifying individuals may transition from the TBI/BI Waiver to the I/DD or PD (Physical Disability) Waiver if they continue to need formal supports.)

Angela Needham started with OCCK in June 2018 as the TBI Specialist. She has 16 years of experience working for individuals with brain injuries and has provided direct support and rehabilitative services, assessment, employment support, service coordination and staff supervision. Angela enjoys collaborating with teams to identify strengths, modify the environment and develop unique systems and compensatory strategies for individual success.

If you would like more information about brain injury or know an individual who may benefit from services, please contact Angela Needham (785) 829-7796. She would be glad to get involved and help you determine the next step!



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Please contact Jan Pfannenstiel 827-9383 at ext. 148 if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events

June

June 3 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

July

July 1 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

August

Aug. 5 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

Alternate Formats

Spotlight and all other printed material produced by OCCK, Inc. are available in large type, electronically, or alternative languages. Please let us know if you'd like to receive this newsletter or any other document in one of these alternate formats. Call us at 785/827-9383 or 1-800-526-9731.
