



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

January 2012

Patty Black Moore, Editor

SEKRS Starts 21st Year of Service to Southeast Kansas

Despite economic pressures, Southeast Kansas Respite Services, Inc. (SEKRS) begins Year 21 with a renewed commitment to respite services as an effective and cost efficient means of helping area families support their loved ones at home.

Diane Salyers, SEKRS Coordinator, says, "So many families are touched by the challenges that come with intellectual or developmental disabilities or other health conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and respite services can be a critical support that provides a needed break for the caregiver." For twenty years SEKRS has hired, trained and managed care providers performing respite services in the family home, sometimes for only a few hours but overnight respite is an option too.

Salyers noted that families sometimes need more supports and SEKRS has broadened its commitment in two ways, establishing the Payee Program and Homemaker Services. In fact, the SEKRS, Inc. Payee Program was recognized as the 2011 Business of the Year by an area community developmental disabilities organization at its annual awards ceremony.

The Payee Program works like this. SEKRS receives the Social Security and/or SSI payments for a person who cannot manage his or her own money or cannot direct another person to manage their money. Each person's funds are used to pay for their own expenses as they occur. As a fee for service program, SEKRS is permitted to charge a



minimal fee for the services they provide. Diane Salyers credits Laura Doyle-Colvin, Accounting Specialist, "for her expertise and attention to the people who count on us getting it right."

In the picture from left: Diane Salyers, SEKRS Coordinator; Teri Pearce (seated), Payroll Clerk; and Laura Doyle-Colvin, Account Specialist, review current data. Not pictured, Martha Morgan.

...continued on page 6

In this issue...

- 1.....SEKRS Starts 21st Year of Service
- 2.....[Program Spotlight: ATK in DC](#)
- 4.....[Presentation & Publications](#)
- 4.....[Staff News: Supports Christmas Family](#)
- 4.....[Hayashi Appointed to MJBA Editorial Board](#)
- 5.....[Staff Profile: Misty Goosen](#)
- 5.....[Community Service: Relay for Life Team](#)
- 6.....[Parsons Community Garden Update](#)
- 6.....[SEKRS continued from page 1](#)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



ATK talks benefits of AT in D.C.

Sara Sack, ATK Director
Sheila Simmons, ATK Coordinator



Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK), the Kansas Assistive Technology Program, coordinated by the University of Kansas at Parsons was one of four programs nationwide to be invited to present on the benefits of assistive technology at the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Lauren Herren, twenty-one and a college student from Wichita, accompanied by her parents, Mitchell and Lisa Herren and Director of ATK, Sara Sack, attended the Department of Education presentation in Washington, D.C. Lauren, Mitchell, and Lisa, as well as assistive technology users from North Carolina, Wyoming, Washington, and Illinois told Department of Education staff members about their experiences accessing, acquiring, and learning to use assistive technology. Lauren and her family told the audience that they first came to ATK when Lauren was quite young, continued to work with program staff throughout her high school years, and now the focus has shifted to using assistive technology to help Lauren transition from student to employee.

When Lauren's disability began to show itself in the early months of her life, her mother was told, "Lauren was born at a good time because of all the technology being developed." This statement was prophetic.

In the early years, Lauren and her family accessed the ATK Device Loan System to borrow positioning equipment, switches, and Intellikeys to help with activities of daily living, and to learn by exploring her world. These experiences resulted in purchasing equipment that really did work. Not only did ATK staff help the Herrens

find equipment and technology for Lauren but also helped to customize and show Lauren how to utilize it.

Lisa, Lauren's mom, attended the AT Expo each time it was held. Meeting others who lived the philosophy of empowering people with disabilities was critical as Lauren and her family grew up with complex needs for support.

ATK staff provided assistance in the acquisition of her communication device. They assisted Lauren's speech language pathologist (SLP) in writing the evaluation report to get funding for Lauren's device. Her communication system allows her to talk with co-workers, provide direction to her personal attendant, share her thoughts as she plans for the future, and keep up with friends and family.

Lauren has worked at a large, local grocery store as part of a non-paid work experience through the school. She used her wheelchair and her communication device as she did product returns and customer service.

Currently, Lauren is in the post-high school transition period. She has volunteered at the zoo in the education department, and currently is doing a community job trial at an elementary school. Lauren's communication device, her

....continued on page 3

Continued from page 2...

power chair, and her ability to access her e-mail, the Internet, and her phone all play significant roles in her path to independence and ultimately, employment.

Lauren uses her communication device to access the Internet for social reasons as well. She can get on social media outlets such as Facebook. She can use her texting ability via her Bluetooth phone to make plans with friends or set up a hair appointment, or to ask her volunteer coordinator what next week's lesson is so she can prepare her part of the presentation.

Lisa Herren was the wrap up presenter at the DOE meeting and closed by saying, "The theme I kept hearing throughout all the presentations is that the AT program gives our family members access to critical communication, to education, to family and communication, and to opportunities for employment, but it also gives US ACCESS TO THEM and their gifts and contributions as with each representative's story there was an element of how they have enriched their communities. I think of Domineaux and how she does event planning, and the sisters of the young girl who started a group which then reached out to other teens with communication disorders."

Sara Sack, ATK Director said, "The Assistive Technology Act programs support

About ATK

ATK connects people with disabilities and health conditions of all ages with the assistive technology they need to learn, work, play and participate in community life safely and independently.

Each of the five AT Access Sites have experienced staff who can assist Kansans to see and try a device, borrow a device, get a used device or help locate funding for a new or used device, or teach individuals or groups how to maintain and use technology. The AT Access Sites are located in Oakley, Salina, Wichita, Topeka and Parsons. An affiliate office for obtaining high quality refurbished technology is located in Garden City.

You can contact your regional AT Access Site by calling 800-KAN DO IT (800-526-3648). Management staff can be reached by calling 620-421-8367.

individuals with disabilities throughout their lives—as they identify technology, as they learn how to use their technology to the fullest extent, when teachers and therapists change, when new needs are identified, and as their needs and technology change."

In addition to talking with DOE staff, Mitchell, Lisa and Lauren met with staff of members of the Kansas delegation. As Mitch Herren so eloquently stated: "Our daughter will continue to need support throughout her life, but because of the services that have been provided



since she was small and the access to assistive technology, she will be a much more independent and productive member of society. The returns seem large compared to the relatively small funding price of the program, especially when you consider that it helps minimize or avoid other costs that would be necessary if Kansans like

our daughter did not have access to the technology."

In the picture from left: Mitchell, Lisa and Lauren Herren with Eric Foss, Legislative Assistant at Kansas Representative Kevin Yoder's Washington, D.C. office.

For more information contact Sara Sack, ATK Director, ssack@ku.edu.

PRESENTATION

Nelson, C. (2011, December). *Haysville ECO: Using the child outcome summary form (COSF) to report progress*. Inservice for Haysville Public Schools: Haysville, KS.

PUBLICATIONS

Hayashi, Y., & Wirth, O. (in press). Disruptive effects of prefeeding and haloperidol administration on multiple measures of food-maintained behavior in rats. *Behavioural Processes*.

Nelson, C., Lindeman, D.P., & Stroup-Rentier, V.L. (2011). Supporting early childhood special education personnel for itinerant service delivery through a state level technical assistance project. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, 32: 367-380.



STAFF NEWS

A Christmas Luncheon was hosted by LSI at Parsons' Project Directors on December 14. More than twenty current and retired staff

enjoyed delicious food catered by Shredders barbecue restaurant. *In the picture, Cynthia Huebner, web master, samples the entrée.*

Dave Lindeman, Director, LSI at Parsons, announced that contributions to our Christmas family totaled more than \$700. Amy Steig, adopted mom of three children, two with special needs, who is battling cancer, sent thanks to everyone from the "bottom of her heart." She said that she was able to fill her propane tank and that our thoughtfulness and generosity will warm her all winter.

Hayashi Appointed to the Editorial Board for the Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis

Yusuke Hayashi, Ph.D., has accepted an appointment as a member of the editorial board for the Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis.

The MJBA publishes original basic or applied research reports relevant to the behavior of animals or humans. Review or theoretical articles

are also considered for publication. While both the June and December issues include diverse papers submitted for publication, the September, special issue, focuses on a single topic. The MJBA publishes papers in either Spanish or English and include abstracts in both languages. English abstracts of papers published in MJBA appear in the indexes of the American Psychological Association, Psychological Abstracts, PsycINFO and PsycLIT.

STAFF PROFILE



MISTY GOOSEN

KITS Project Coordinator

Misty Goosen joined the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) as the Project Coordinator nearly 18 years ago

after working as a school psychologist and early childhood services coordinator for the Turner School district in Kansas City, Kansas. She earned both her undergraduate (B.S., Elementary Education) and graduate degrees (Ed. S. School Psychology) at the University of Kansas. Before graduate school Misty worked as a preschool teacher and director in a facility serving approximately 90 children ages birth through 9 years.

In her role as project coordinator, Misty has worked with numerous school districts and organizations serving young children with disabilities on topics such as challenging behavior, conflict resolution, leadership, curriculum development, and meaningful family engagement. She has played fundamental roles in the creation of many state documents (i.e. Kansas Early Learning Document, KSDE Process Handbook, Training & Technical Assistance Packets). More recently, Misty has been involved in the application of Results to Intervention (RTI) to the preschool population, in her collaborative work with the Kansas Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Core Team. The MTSS Core Team and KITS are both part of the Technical Assistance Support Network (TASN) supported by the Kansas State Department of Education.

Misty is a current member and Past President of the Kansas Division of Early Childhood (2003-2004), and was awarded the KDEC 2008 Award of Excellence for making significant contributions to the field. In her role with KDEC and KITS, Misty has chaired and/or organized

numerous conferences (e.g. KDEC, Transitioning into Developmentally Appropriate Practice, KITS Annual Summer Institute), and participated in activities such as Head Start/Early Head Start monitoring, and NAEYC-Validation. On January 12th Misty accepted an executive board position as secretary for the Division of Early Childhood (a subdivision of the Council for Exceptional Children).

Misty lives in Olathe with her husband Jerry, a veterinarian and graduate of Kansas State University (at times a source of great debate in the Goosen household). Misty and Jerry have three grown daughters, and one granddaughter, and four grand-dogs.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Rock Chalk Jaywalkers Team Update

The Rock Chalk Jaywalkers continue toward their goal of raising \$3,500 for the 2012 Labette County Relay For Life. To date, the team has raised just under 58% of its goal, a total of \$2,043.07. Upcoming events include a Soup Lunch on Wednesday, February 22; and a "Luck o' the Irish" Lunch on Wednesday, March 14.

Everyone on our team has a different reason for wanting to participate. Many of our team members worked with Robin Bayless, who lost her battle with cancer in February 2011. Some of us have loved ones who are currently fighting cancer; and a few of us have lost close friends or relatives. All of us hate cancer and want to see it cured.

Please support our team's efforts by attending one of our fund raising lunches, joining our team, or making a contribution. Our team's webpage is:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=39636&team_id=1005637

If you would like more information please contact the team's co-captains: Karen Lawson at klawson@ku.edu / Ext. 1618 or Debbie Moody at dmoody@ku.edu / Ext. 1959.

PARSONS COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

The Parsons Community Garden, funded in 2010 and 2011, as part of a federally funded effort to increase health, fitness and employment begins its third growing season. Even though funding for all recreational and employment grants was discontinued prematurely due to the national debt, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University Extension Services, and the City of Parsons have indicated a willingness to continue to participate in the community garden effort. Recently, in collaboration with Southeast Kansas Living (SKIL), Assistive Technology for Kansans

(ATK) was awarded a monetary grant from the American Community Gardens Association and their corporate partner, Gardener's Supply Company. **The 2012 membership meeting is Thursday, February 2, 12 Noon – 1 PM, at the Municipal Building Basement Meeting Room.** The educational topic is: Getting Ready to Garden: What we've learned and plans for the future. Participants are encouraged to bring their extra seeds to trade. Everyone is invited. For more information call 620-421-8367. The next meeting will be March 1st.

SEKRS, continued from page 1

A second program, Homemaker Services, SEKRS' newest service, is offered primarily to older people and people with special needs or disabilities who, in order to be as independent as possible and stay in their own homes, need some assistance with housework and errands. This service makes sense when you consider that according to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population category of people 65 and older is on the rise. Again, the service provides qualified providers capable of a variety of light housekeeping duties including meal preparation, laundry, help with managing money, shopping for personal items and other activities of daily living. Customers provide the cleaning supplies, review and sign the provider's time sheet, then invoices are mailed to the customer for payment. Provider recruitment, training and bookkeeping tasks are provided by SEKRS.

Collaboration among the founding entities formed the bedrock on which SEKRS's reputation stands. Southeast Kansas Respite Services began in 1990. SEKRS was incorporated with the assistance of the Board of Directors in 1991 for individuals across the life span and their families to have access to quality respite services and a variety of other services and supports within communities of Southeast Kansas.

Recognized as a critical component of comprehensive programs serving persons with disabilities and their families, SEKRS enjoys the continued support of leaders from the Kansas University Life Span Institute at Parsons, Parsons State Hospital & Training Center, CLASS LTD, Tri-Valley Developmental Services, Labette Mental Health and Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

Celebrating her 21st year with SEKRS, Salyers is taking the SEKRS's story "on the road." Already busy talking to potential customers, training providers, seeking support and coordinating activities, she's set to expand her full schedule with additional visits to senior citizen groups, civic and faith-based organizations, community developmental disability organizations, mental health centers, and regional medical centers among others across the nine-county catchment area.

For more information contact Diane Salyers, SEKRS Coordinator, The University of Kansas, Life Span Institute at Parsons, 620-421-6550 ext. 1642 or dsalyers@ku.edu.

Visit the Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at <http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>