

Health Homes Herald

December, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 3

Helping people live healthier lives by integrating and coordinating services and supports to treat the “whole-person” across the lifespan.

Health Homes: Helping Members One Step at a Time

Neoma Felps of Valeo writes: In the short time I have been a Health Home Comprehensive Care Coordinator, I have had the opportunity to make an impact in many people’s lives.

One big success involves a woman who had not had an eye appointment in several years. She had broken her eye glass frames and had tried to replace the lenses of an over the counter pair with her own prescription lenses. When she discovered they would not fit the correct way, she turned them upside down to get them in.

Her guardian was unsure of how long she had been wearing them this way. Additionally, the consumer reported that she had been

having blackouts over the last month.

Given the situation, one of our first goals was to get her into an eye doctor. After this appointment, I learned that the doctor had found a suspicious spot on the consumer’s eye and had referred her to an eye specialist.

The eye doctor was concerned because the spot could be an indication of a tumor. The consumer has an MRI scheduled to look more closely at this “spot.”

The consumer and her guardian were so very appreciative for my help in setting up the eye appointment. The consumer now has glasses, and is awaiting her MRI.

This story reminds me of why I am here: to continue to help consumers strive as individuals and to make differences in their lives. One step at a time!

Congratulations Neoma on a job well done! We all hope that the MRI results are good and commend you on helping this consumer get the much needed and long overdue care she deserves.

If you have a success story that you’d like us to feature in the Health Homes Herald, please contact:

Samantha Ferencik
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Phone: (785) 296-8001

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Upcoming News and Events

- Learning Collaborative Webinar — Jan. 6, 2015
- Live Learning Collaborative Meeting — Feb. 27, 2015
- Weekly SMI Implementation Calls — Thursdays at 10:00 am

Questions?

Email: healthhomes@kdh.eks.gov

Phone: 1-785-296-3981



Consumers' Frequently Asked Questions

How do I find out about the availability of different Health Homes?

Each county in Kansas is served by at least two different Health Homes. This means that you always have a choice of Health Home Partners. You can see the lists of Health Home Partners on the Health Homes website at:

http://www.kancare.ks.gov/health_home/consumers_hh_partners.htm

Remember, to look at the list for your specific MCO when you look at these lists.

If you have other questions or would like to learn more about Health Homes or available Health Home Partners in your area please contact Samantha Ferencik:

Email: sferencik@kdheks.gov

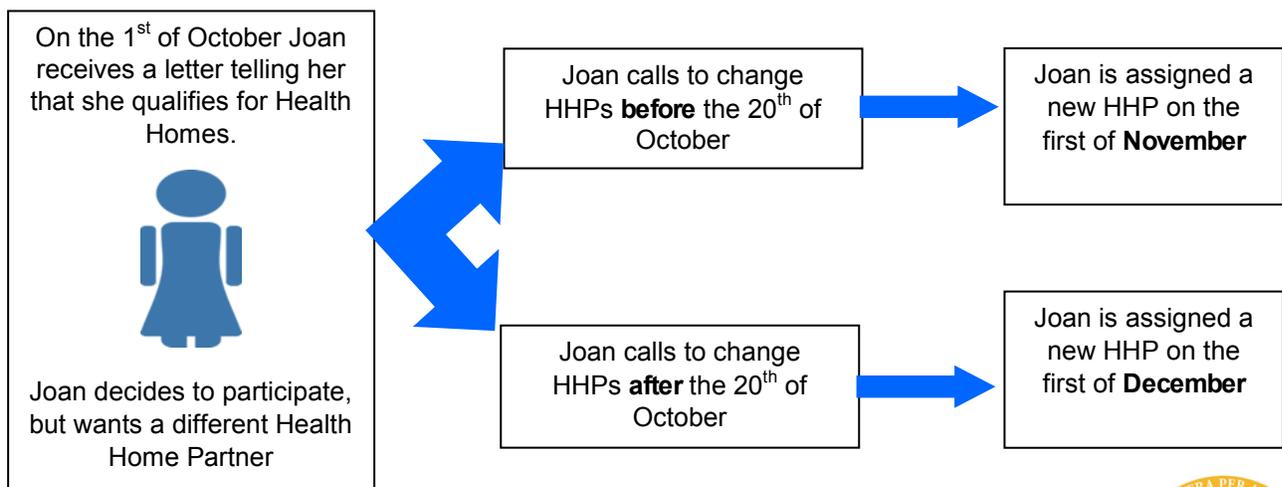
Phone: (785) 296-8001

Movement Through the Health Homes Program

The Health Homes program is a big program serving about 34,000 Kansans across our state. For a program of this size, there are specific administrative tasks that must be accomplished whenever a member decides to Opt-in, Opt-out or change to a different Health Home Partner. Though members can choose to Opt-in, Opt-out or change their Health Home Partner at any time, these requests all take time to complete. To help members and providers better understand this process and timeline, we have created a series of examples located on the Health Homes website:

http://www.kancare.ks.gov/health_home/download/Diagram_Opt_in_out_timeline1.pdf

The following shows how a member might move through the process. Please pay careful attention to the importance that timing plays. There are important cut off dates each month that determine when any changes will take effect.



Update from Wichita State University Center for Community Support & Research

The WSU Center for Community Support & Research provides learning opportunities for staff within contracted Health Home providers. If you are not yet a contracted Health Home Partner, or if you are still learning about the program, that's great! We have a wealth of information on the Health Homes website that will help bring you up to speed: http://www.kancare.ks.gov/health_home.htm. Once you've established a contract with one or more MCOs, we will be happy to add you to the invite list so that you too can participate in the learning activities below. Here is what's happening:

The **Health Homes Learning Collaborative** is an opportunity for administrators and managers within contracted Health Home Partner organizations to join with professional associations, Lead Entities and State Program leaders to celebrate successes, conquer challenges and build a quality Health Homes system that improves the lives of the individuals and families it serves.

- Learning Collaborative webcasts this quarter covered Quality Measures for Health Homes and success stories from Health Home Partners who are making a BIG difference across the state!
- Join us for the next Learning Collaborative Webcast on January 6 at 3:00 p.m. where we will discuss information related to Certified Peer Specialists.
- The next live Learning Collaborative Meeting will be on Friday, February 27 at the Rolling Hill Zoo Conference Center in Salina. Watch your inbox in January for registration details!

The **Health Action Plan Learning Series** is an opportunity for Care Coordinators and Social Workers within contracted Health Home Partners to gain tools and resources for writing quality Health Action Plans with their members. The third installment of the four-part webinar series was an overview of the 5 "A"s Model of Tobacco Cessation and the many free resources available through the Kansas Tobacco Quitline. Thanks to KDHE's Matthew Schrock for all the great information! Our final webinar in the series will be on December 16 at 10:00. Dr. Amy Chesser from the WSU Department of Public Health Sciences and Health Literacy Kansas will share the basics of Health Literacy as well as tools for assessment and intervention with members who may have low Health Literacy skills. Only a few slots remain, so register soon!

The **Health Action Plan Community of Practice** allows Care Coordinators and Social Workers within contracted Health Home Partners a place to discuss with their peers challenges they face when writing Health Action Plans and strategies to be more effective. Please join us for the next event on Tuesday, January 20 at 11:00 a.m. for inspiring conversations and practical ideas!

Watch your inbox for the calendar of events for early 2015! **Pre-registration for all events is required and is limited to staff from Health Home Partners who are directly contracted with one or more MCO.**

For more information or to add your name to an invitation list, please contact Vanessa Lohf at vanessa.lohf@wichita.edu.



Lead Hazards in Some Holiday Toys

The holiday season is here, and that means many children will be given toys as gifts. While new toys are a holiday tradition, you should be aware of potential lead hazards associated with some toys, including toy jewelry. Review these important facts to keep your children safe this holiday season.

Lead is invisible to the naked eye and has no smell. Children may be exposed to it from consumer products by simply handling the product normally. Because children often put toys and their fingers in their mouths, they can be exposed when they do this as well.

Toys manufactured in other countries and then imported into the United States, or antique toys or collectibles passed down through generations, often contain lead that puts children at risk for lead exposure. To reduce these risks, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issues recalls of toys that could potentially expose children to lead.

Questions?

If you have questions, or would like more information about Health Homes in Kansas, please contact us. Our page on the KanCare website also contains information about the Health Homes project and documents are being updated regularly.

Lead may be used in two aspects of toy manufacturing:

- Paint:** Lead may be in the paint on toys. In 1978, the United States banned the use of lead in house paint, in products marketed to children, and in dishes and cookware. However, lead paint is still widely used in other countries and therefore can be found on imported toys. Lead may also be found on toys made in the United States before the ban.
- Plastic:** While regulated, the use of lead in plastics has not been banned in the United States. It softens and stabilizes the plastic; however, when the plastic is exposed to sunlight, air, and detergents, the plastic breaks down and may form a lead dust

Remove the toy immediately if you suspect that your child has been exposed to a toy containing lead. The only way to tell if your child has been exposed to lead is to have the child's blood tested.

Your health care provider can advise whether such a test is needed and also can recommend treatment if your child has been exposed to lead.

Recall Information:

CPSC asks you to search for possible recalls of toys your children have and immediately take the toys away if they have been recalled. You should search your children's toys for metal jewelry and throw it away. Photos and descriptions of recalled toys and toy jewelry are available on the CPSC website.:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

CPSC can also be contacted by telephone at:
(800) 638-2772.

Additional information about lead hazards can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/LeadInToys/>

Phone: (785) 296-3981

Email: healthhomes@kdheks.gov

Website:
http://www.kancare.ks.gov/health_home.htm

