

About Life Patterns

Life Patterns is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Kansas assisting individuals with a disability and their parent or guardian who have chosen Medicaid Recipient Directed Care* as their service delivery system.

The purpose of Life Patterns is to promote quality life styles for persons with a disability through the provision of service administration and individualized planning. The overall philosophy of Life Patterns is to emphasize opportunities of choice, person-centered planning, independence, integration, and inclusion into the community for persons with a disability.

Life Patterns Management

Life Patterns is managed by family members of individuals with a disability. This provides firsthand experience in educating the person with a disability and his/her guardian about the concept of self-direction and hiring and supervising Direct Support Staff. Through individual counselling, a quarterly newsletter, and workshops, the staff of Life Patterns work to promote plans of care where individual choices are honored.

Life Patterns also provides Financial Management Services** for the Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Waiver, the Technology Assisted Waiver, and Limited Licenses. Life Patterns withholds all applicable Federal, State, and Social Security taxes for the individual worker as well as providing worker's compensation insurance, liability, and unemployment insurance as required by law.

*Recipient Direct Care (also known as Self Directed Care) is the Medicaid option chosen to make decisions about who to hire as an attendant, what duties the attendant will have, what hours the attendant will work, and the training needed. The individual and/or the parent or guardian have control over the services received with the Medicaid dollars.

**Financial Management Services include: arrangement of human resource paperwork, maintaining official records including Medicaid documentation requirements, assistance in the provision of qualified support service worker orientation and training, preparation and disbursement of payroll and payroll requirements, and assurance that Waiver requirements are met.



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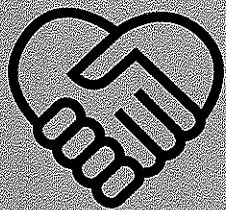
Life Patterns...

*Pioneers of In-Home
Self-Directed Support Services*

It can be very confusing trying to figure out the funding systems for a person with a disability. Add that to the day-to-day responsibility of providing support for a son or daughter with a disability, and it can be overwhelming.

You can find help at Life Patterns. Formed in 1993 by Doug and Patty Gerdel and two other families, Life Patterns was the first billing/payroll agent in Kansas for Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) services. From that 3-family beginning in Topeka, the services of Life Patterns have increased to assist families across Kansas.

The staff members of Life Patterns are ready to assist you. Douglas Gerdel, President/CEO, previously worked assisting families in developing transition school-to-adult plans. Jonathan Gerdel, Executive Director, brings experience as a para-professional and family experience as his brother, Keith, has a disability. Patty Gerdel, Finance Manager, was the first Executive Director of Families Together, the statewide parent training center for Kansas. Teri Goodrich, Program Manager, previously worked as Workshop Coordinator at Families Together. This highly qualified administrative staff brings in excess of 50 years of experience in the disability field.



We place high importance on the Direct Support people hire. Most of our employees work part time and juggle daily lives that may include going to school, raising children, multiple jobs, and other interests. At Life Patterns we strive to provide the support needed to create a long-term relationship of trust and mutual respect between Direct Support Staff and the individual with a disability.

Here's why you should choose Life Patterns...

LOOKING FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR MR/DD & PAS SERVICES?

Life Patterns is your answer. We offer:

- Assistance with child & adult services
- Knowledgeable staff with experiences similar to yours as the parent or guardian of a person with a disability
- Efficient Medicaid Documentation
- Well-maintained Employee Records
- Worker's Compensation and Liability Insurance for all employees
- Newsletter to keep you up-to-date on developmental disability issues in Kansas
- Two pay-days/month on the 1st & 15th
- Assistance with hiring, paperwork, and general employment questions



LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE WITH A LIMITED LICENSE FOR RESIDENTIAL & DAY SERVICES?

Life Patterns is your answer. We offer:

- Assistance with applying for & managing your license
- Technical Assistance & consultation when needed (even if you just need to talk)
- Assurance that employees will be paid and that your Medicaid billing will be done right



LOOKING FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTED WAIVER?

Life Patterns is your answer. We offer:

- Assistance with daily record keeping plus all of the benefits listed above

On a personal note...

Let us tell you about our sons!

Keith Gerdel and Joel Goodrich are friends. They both grew up with their brothers and sisters and parents, Doug & Patty Gerdel and Dreher & Teri Goodrich. They each had a circle of support that helped them decide where they would live in adulthood. They didn't move to a group home because they didn't want to live with several people that they didn't know and weren't related to. They also wanted to hire their own direct support people instead of having someone else hire the "staff" for their home. With the right supports, Keith was able to get a real job and Joel is a community volunteer. Swimming at the local YMCA and going to other community activities seemed much more fun than the adult "day care" programs. So, with the help of their families and friends, Keith and Joel moved into their own place.



Although they need 24/hour support, Keith and Joel and their families took risks and faced challenges but always knew they could attain their desired lifestyle. Good "person-centered" planning and the value of friendships were very important in making dreams become reality.

It would have been much easier to "go with the trends" and have Keith and Joel move into a group home and go to an adult day care program. However, segregated programs were totally unacceptable to Keith and Joel and to the people who care about them. Keith and Joel are both non-verbal. They found ways to let everyone know that they like the freedom of adult life and want the dream of having their own place and experiencing life "outside the programs".