



ODC OUTLOOK

OPEN DOOR CENTER

November/December 2021

THE DILEMMA: TO VACCINATE OR NOT TO VACCINATE

The Open Door Center and other companies and health care facilities are faced with the dilemma of vaccination mandates issued in recent emergency regulations effective November 5, 2021. OSHA and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, commonly referred to as CMS, have issued joint emergency standards regarding covid vaccination requirements. CMS is stating that any agency participating in Medicaid or Medicare programs must require their staff to be fully vaccinated or in the process of becoming fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022. OSHA is instructing all companies employing over 100 staff must require them to become vaccinated by January 4, 2022. These two federal agencies impact the Open Door Center because most of the Center's funding comes from CMS and because the Center employs more than one hundred people. CMS can withhold funding while OSHA can fine the agency up to \$14,000 per person for noncompliance of this emergency regulation that is effective November 5, 2021. Non-compliance is not only expensive but prohibitive due to the expense of ignoring the mandates.

There is language in both mandates that allows for "hardship" exclusions. These hardships fall into two categories: religious or medical. Religious hardships are defined by EOEC's Compliance Manual on Religious Discrimination or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, the agencies require that employees who qualify for either hardship test weekly and have additional infection prevention measures such as masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, etc. Religious hardships are not granted as a means to avoid vaccination.

CMS requires facilities to allow for exemptions to staff who have a recognized medical condition for which the vaccines are contraindicated but are accommodated through the Americans with Disabilities Act. CMS states that exemptions could be appropriate in limited circumstances, but staff must legally meet the definition under the ADA or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The agency must have documentation of clinical contraindications to the COVID-19 vaccinations for staff with a medical hardship that is signed and dated by a licensed practitioner, preferably their primary care physician. The documentation must also name the vaccinations that are problematic and the basis for the contraindication. Both agencies note that research states that vaccination is the best prevention for Covid 19 and its variants.

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**Open Door Center is a
non-profit corporation
serving
people with disabilities.**

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REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE



Excellence in serving people with disabilities by:

***Respecting dignity and rights**

***Providing opportunities for growth**

***Fostering independence**

*Open Door Center is an equal opportunity
provider, and employer.*

Mary Simonson, Executive Director

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ICF/MR

Tana Plecity

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ISLA

Elaine Almberg

Heather Muscha

Ben Simonson

Program Directors

Matt Jensen, Children's Program

Marshall Hopp, Prairie Inn & MSLA

Cindy Schopper, Work Activity

WE WANT YOUR CANS

Open Door Center is looking for donations of *pop cans* for our individuals to crush. Once crushed they are turned in to be recycled.

Our folks get paid to crush cans and look forward to the paychecks they receive.

Cans can be dropped off at the Day Activity Center (north of Pizza Corner).

OR

If you live in the Fargo area, you can take your cans to the MinnKota Recycling center and tell them you want to donate them to Open Door Center in Valley City. They send us a check quarterly.

Please help us,
won't you?



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CMS will work directly with the surveying agency to conduct onsite reviews to assess vaccination status of staff and compliance by all facilities. Open Door Center is surveyed annually by the referenced “surveying agency”. OSHA will require documentation or complete onsite evaluations of the agency.

The dilemma arises when that agency becomes involved with assessing the status of the unvaccinated staff in meeting the requirement of both or either CMS and OSHA. The agency must have evidence of documentation of timely testing by an approved testing agency. The testing results must be accessible for the agency for proof and to provide appropriate staffing level. According to the mandates the cost of the testing is not the responsibility of the agency. It is almost impossible for the agency to assure even a small number of unvaccinated staff are meeting the requirements established by these two federal agencies. The cost of staff time for verification of each staff’s testing is almost prohibitive. It is also difficult to prove that the staff is not trying to evade the requirements without researching the various documents pertaining to hardships. This is fortified by the scientific proven fact that vaccination is the best protection against Covid-19 and its variants. The Covid-19 vaccines can keep you from getting and spreading the virus and help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get it. Getting vaccinated protects people around you and it protects the people you serve.

*Mary Simonson, Executive Director
Open Door Center is an equal opportunity
provider and employer
(Mary’s columns are written monthly for the
VC Times Record)*



MEMORIALS DONATED:

***In Memory of Jeanne Rindy
Jim & Josephine Prescott
Irene Johnson***

***In Memory of
Bert & Shirley Holman
Bonnie Johnson***

***The Open Door Center would
like to sincerely THANK YOU
for your donations.***



Set your clocks back one hour

November Birthdays

1-Susan Daniel
 1-Richard Clark
 4-Staci King
 5-Kim Bjerke
 6-Tina Nilsen
 8-Sandy Ley
 9-James Kramer
 10-Richard Roorda
 10-Natasha Esch
 12-York Grebel
 12-Josh Kracht
 15-Melissa Dobitz
 17-Jennifer Hatcher
 18-Mary Simonson
 18-Jody Smedshammer
 18-John Dyrness
 19-Analise Hanson
 19-Tina Kmecik
 20-Melonie Lee
 23-Diana Gehlhoff
 26-Nancy Tougas
 30-Miranda Reister
 30-Anthony Anderson



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

30 Years
Sally Hatcher-ISLA

21 Years
Linda Johnson-WAC

18 Years
Susan Daniel-Ranch

17 Years
Ina Thomsen-Activities/Prairie Inn

12 Years
Randy Eggermont-Ranch

11 Years
Cassie Colwell-ISLA

10 Years
Brittney Torbenson-Prairie Inn

9 Years
Megan Banderet-Prairie Inn
Cheila Ihry-Prairie Inn

6 Years
Lynn Priebe-Thunderbird/Amberland

5 Years
Brittiany Gronhovd-ISLA

4 Years
Pamela Walsh-Group Home 4

3 Years
Michelyn Boateng-Group Home 5/DAC
Amber Webb-Group Home 5
Jesse Brown-Group Home 1

2 Years
Caylyn Makoff-Group Home 1
Carolyn Zaun-YAP
Melissa Huffstutler-Ranch

1 Year
Kiana Bakalar-Social Worker



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Matt Thorson
2-Heather Cunningham
2-Jeremy Heinze
4-Cheila Ihry
4-Shane Hoffman
4-Dana Cihak
5-Jason Blasczyk
5-Sydney Schwartz
6-Demi Olstad
7-Kris Kopp
7-Samantha Storhoff
8-Bonnie Schumacher
9-Starlene Abbot
10-Amanda Schuldheisz
12-Kassandra Yokom
13-Darnelle Bakke
13-Lynn Kensok
14-Stephanie Sauter
14-Jocelyn Goulet
15-Jacee Lunde
16-Adam Maresh
16-Sam Ihry
18-Catherine Keppeh
18-Michelle Grebel
19-Robin Miedema
20-Dale Wangrud
21-Colette Jenson
21-Amanda Bjork
21-Hadlee Mathias
22-Janie Johnson
23-Julie Opdahl
24-Jesse Juelfs
27-Wanda Schwab
27-Jasmine Kennedy
28-Randy Reiser
30-Brenda Olson



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

30 Years
Veronica Miller-ISLA Supervisor

24 Years
Kevin Esch-Group Home 2

23 Years
Terry Lee-ISLA

20 Years
Dan Johnson-ISLA

16 Years
Brett Volk-WAC

13 Years
Willy Korinta-Ranch

11 Years
Ben Simonson-Program Director

5 Years
Maureen Rueckert-Prairie Inn

4 Years
Sarah Parkman-Nursing
Patsy Hanson-Nursing
Jane Diemert-Nursing

3 Years
John Andrus-Prairie Inn
Jamie Schuldheisz-Group Home 3/WAC

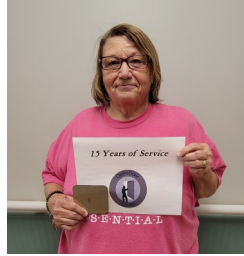
2 Years
Robin Miedema-AR/AP Accountant
Brandon Carlisle-Group Home 5/WAC
Alaina Hanson-Group Home 4
Analise Hanson-Prairie Inn

1 Year
Kenneth Stopczynski-Prairie Inn
Bradley Kumlin-WAC
Allyssa Dreyer-Group Home 1



20 Years of Service:
Rebecca Torkelson,
Matt Jensen and
Dan Johnson

15 Years of Service:
Annette Reece, Renee
Larocque, Roslyn Johnson
and Denise Stanley



10 Years of Service:
John Dyrness, Rachelle
Lindeman, Jessa Hafele
and Brittney Torbenson



5 Years of Service:
Brittiany Gronhovd, Brittney Stenvik, Megan Perdue, Maureen Rueckert, Victoria Stearns,
Samantha Storhoff, Dale Wangrud, Sherry Anderson and Larissa Musgrave
Not pictured: Taylor Puno and Roxanne Gabel

Years of Service

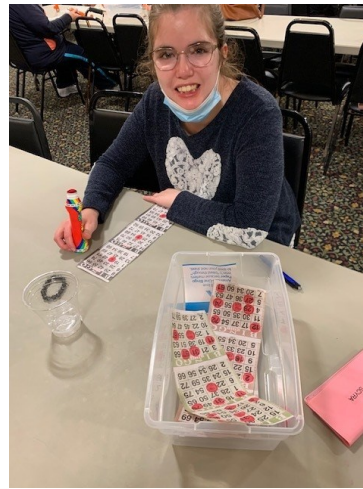
September was Director Support Professionals month and we celebrated all employees, especially those who achieved years of service awards. We were able to capture most everyone's picture and wanted to share all of this with all of you.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO OPEN DOOR CENTER.
WE APPRECIATE YOU!!



James River Speedway

Kelly and Kris are big race fans and headed over to Jamestown one Saturday evening to enjoy their show. They had a great time cheering Kelly's favorite race car driver "Aunt LeeAnn" who placed in the top ten in the Championship heat.



New Face at Eagles Bingo

Scyra decided to try her luck at Bingo. Tho she didn't win this night, she is ready to try again and hopefully be able to shout "BINGO"!



Frontier Village

It was a beautiful afternoon and these 5 ladies headed over to Jamestown to visit the World's Largest Buffalo. They visited all the shops, offices and even the Jail. Marie and Jocey took a Stagecoach ride which they truly enjoyed!



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Here are just a couple of pictures of birthday celebrations the past couple months. It sure is nice for everyone to share some birthday cake with everyone at work.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



NDSU BISON

Sam, Lee, Richard, Adam, Linda, Jeremy, Kris, Mike, Cheila and Roxanne all got to witness great victories for the Bison this fall. Each visit for these fans was a great experience to be part of the Bison Fan Club!!



Bison vs Valparaiso

Kelly, Alex and Cullen headed to the Dome on 9-11-21 to witness the 64-0 victory for the Bison. They loved cheering on their team!



Megan, Layne, Cullen and staff headed down to Fort Ransom State Park one beautiful afternoon to do some hiking and have a delicious meal at The Lunch Box. It was a great afternoon!

SVACA 2021—Ladies Day

Kelly, Scyra, Holly and Cassie headed down to Fort Ransom for a day of browsing and shopping. It was a fun filled day with friends.



Corner

Katie's



*As I see it from
where I sit!*

By Katie Sand

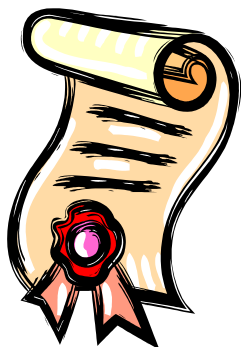
Hello Everyone

It's starting to get colder out. Are you ready for this cold weather? I'm sure not ready for it! I wish we could have summer back. I'm also not ready for the snow that we all know is coming!

Thanksgiving is this month. Are you excited for Thanksgiving? What are you thankful for this year? I'm ready for all that delicious food. I'm thankful we got to come back to work this year and see all our friends.

Can you believe we are only about 2 months away from Christmas? I am sooo ready for Christmas! I can't wait to spend time with my family! I don't get to see them very often. I don't like it and I miss them very much. What are you excited for during Christmas time? Is it spending time with family, the presents or both?

Until next time.KATIE



CONGRATULATIONS

Direct Support Professionals for
completing their modules!

Full Time:

*Melissa Meyer, Mitch Bessette
Tanaya Leifson, Izabella Grenz
Kiana Bakalar, Taylyn Storbeck*



Carol has been waiting to share this picture with everyone as she wanted to do it in November so she could wish you all a HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

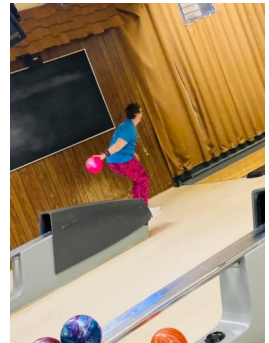
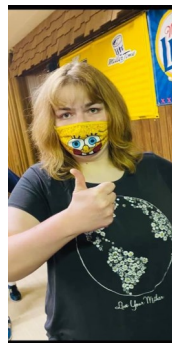
WAC KEEPING BUSY

Another couple busy months for WAC. Between work and jobs they did manage to do a few arts and crafts and a lot of people even joined in on all the fun events that the Valley City/Barnes County Library has put on. They went to a movie day at the Library and even made some no-sew Football pillows. Great time had by all.



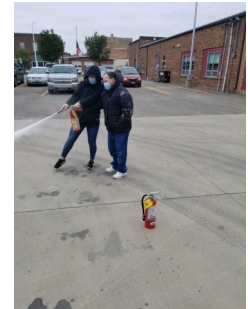
SPECIAL OLYMPICS BOWLING

Special Olympic Bowling was back in swing this Fall. There were a few adjustments that needed to be made, like send some of the bowlers down to Enderlin Bowling alley for a few weeks while some stayed in Valley City. Everyone got their Bowling scores done and submitted to State Special Olympics. Everyone was glad to be back swinging!



Fire Safety Week and All Staff

During October's All Staff Meeting, everyone who wanted to go headed over to the Fire Hall to get some hands on training with the Fire Extinguisher. After learning some fire safety information everybody got to head outside to feel the weight of a fire extinguisher and use it for an actual fire. Colleen and Bekah even won the door prizes for the morning's meeting. Everyone had a great visit at the Valley City Fire Department!!



AUTUMN FUN

This Fall, these ladies have been busy practicing their Bocce and making Apple Pie. Janna had some fun mixing and rolling out the crust for this Pie. Great ways to spend the last of the October days!

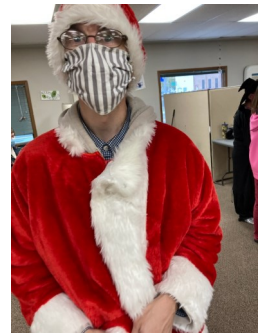


HALLOWEEN PARTY 2021

This year VCSU - Individuals Taking Action hosted a Halloween Party for all who wanted to participate. They had several craft tables set up. One to color their very own pumpkin and one to create a spider! There were games like Pin the Nose on The Witch or Pumpkin and also had Karaoke set up.

The winners in the costume contest were Willy, Layne, Kelly, Wyatt and Cassie.

As you can see, we had visits from witches, superman, pirates, superstars and even Santa Claus . Everyone had a great time and we all want to thank VCSU - Individuals Taking Action for hosting this great event!



COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

7 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
11 - Veteran's Day
25 - Thanksgiving Day - **CENTER CLOSED**
26 - **CENTER CLOSED**

DECEMBER

21 - First Day of Winter
24 - Christmas Eve - **CENTER CLOSED**
25 - Christmas Day
31 - New Year's Eve - **CENTER CLOSED**

JANUARY

1 - New Year's Day
17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **CENTER CLOSED**

Have news???
Let Nancy know.
Your news is our
news!

All Staff
Door Prize Winners:

SEPTEMBER:
Stephanie Hornbacher
& Deb Hegdahl

OCTOBER:
Colleen Hehr, Bekah Cook
Terri Stevens and Lindsey
Jacobson

CONGRATULATIONS!!



A BIG



TO NEW STAFF WHO HAVE JOINED:

**Mitchell Bessette, Dorion Caron, Sandra Chapin
Heather Dillard, Isabell Grajeda, Aubrie Hanson
Jordan Knox, Amanda Schuldheisz
Jesse Schuldt, Kelsey Schulz
and Zachery Wilkie**

OPEN DOOR CENTER
129 3rd Ave. NE
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-1124

Address Label Here

Celebrating 61 Years

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
ODCVC.COM

Charitable Donation

Please consider us when making your charitable donation. Open Door Center is a non-profit organization which receives support from the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Although it is our main funding source, it is not enough to cover all the costs of our corporation. The money received will help provide continued support and assistance to those supported by Open Door Center. We are very appreciative for the support we do already receive. If you would please consider a financial contribution to help meet the extra needs of our children and adults with disabilities, please fill out this form and return it to Open Door Center, 129 3rd Ave. NE, Valley City, ND 58072.

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:

I would like my contribution:

☐ \$ 50 ☐ \$250
☐ \$100 ☐ \$500
☐ \$150 ☐ \$Other

In memory of: _____
In honor of: _____
Other: _____

May we publish your name? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Your thoughtful gift will be acknowledged to the family indicated:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DONATE

You may also donate on our
webpage: www.odcvc.com
Hit the red **DONATE** button
on the home page and choose
the amount you wish to
donate, hit the **NEXT** button
and follow instructions. The
Open Door Center would
really appreciate this donation.