

Tri-Valley to merge with New Beginnings

Change
11/22/19

Joining to enable more services

On January 1, 2020, Tri-Valley Developmental Services (TVDS) will be merging with New Beginnings Enterprises, a Neodesha-based organization that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood and Wilson counties.

Discussions on the merger began in late 2018 after both organizations realized that the current disability system would continue to be in a state of constant change, and that funding would remain stagnant or be reduced through managed care, said Tim Cunningham, executive director at Tri-Valley. This has created a problem for rural areas that rely on the waiting list for new people to serve. Rural programs are shrinking, while urban agencies continue to grow. In order to remain relevant, there was a need to ensure long-term financial stability, increase numbers and be able to cope with managed care and the CMS Final Rule, he said.

Workgroups, made up of employees from both agencies, were established in 2018 to explore the merger and its feasibility, and it was determined that a merger would bring about positive changes for everyone.

"It would certainly make the organization stronger and more competi-

tive in southeast Kansas", said Cunningham. "The increased resources will ensure that we are capable of providing the quality services that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have come to expect from us." The joining of two extraordinary programs, similar in size and culture, with practical strengths that are highly complementary will enable them to provide a new and broader set of services to the people they serve.

"We are very excited about this opportunity," Cunningham said. "We are planning on a smooth transition and our intent is to ensure that the people we serve see as little change as possible."

The board of directors from both organizations agreed that this was a best course of action after doing their due diligence. The merged organizations will retain the Tri-Valley name, employ over one-hundred and seventy people with over two hundred clients. The New Beginnings CDDO will remain an independent entity, separate from the new merged organization.

Both agencies are very proud of their accomplishments over the years but believe that the time has come to expand their horizons.

Developmental services to merge

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Both agencies are very proud of their accomplishments over the years but believe that the time has come to expand their horizons, because their future is now.

For further information, please contact Tim Cunningham at (620)431-7401 Ext. 209

Humboldt Union 11/28/19