

Tri-Valley to merge with New Beginnings

Chauke
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

Wednesday, January 1, 2020, Tri-Valley Developmental Services (TVDS) will be merging with New Beginnings Enterprises, a Neodesha, KS 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. 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.

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 competitive in southeast Kansas", said Tim Cunningham, Executive Director of Tri-Valley. "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.

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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

Tri-Valley Developmental Services will merge with New Beginnings on Jan. 1

On Jan. 1, 2020, Tri-Valley Developmental Services 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.

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"We are very excited about this opportunity," stated Cunningham. "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 more than 170 people with more than 200 clients. The New Beginnings CDDO will remain an independent entity, separate from the new merged organization.



Charter
Tribune
12/13/19

DONATION TO TRI-VALLEY

Courtesy photo
Tim Cunningham, left, executive director of Tri-Valley, accepts a \$1,000 donation to Tri-Valley Developmental Services from Johnathon Johnson, president/CEO of Home Savings Bank. Annually, Home Savings donates 10 percent to various non-profits in the area and Tri-Valley was one of those chosen this year.



Next Safari Travelogue — England 2018: A trip through time

The December Osa and Martin Johnson Safari Museum travelogue features Tim Cunningham and his visit early last year to England with his two nephews, after they lost their father to brain cancer. The title “A trip through Time” was chosen because of the various historical sites visited as they spent 10 days crisscrossing England in one of the country's worst snowstorms in over 10 years.

Sites visited included Winchester, Salisbury, Bath, Wells, Tintagel, Liverpool, the Lake District, Hadrian's Wall, Durham and York, to name a few.

Cunningham is very familiar with the country, having been there at least six times, including two semesters of undergraduate work at King Alfred's College in Winchester and he received his Master's degree from the University of Durham in 1991.

“The trip was a fantastic opportunity to spend some time with my nephews after the loss of their father. They also reminded me that I am not as young as I once was, as

they went flying up Glastonbury Tor in the snow and climbed through Cheddar Gorge as I sat along the road watching them.”

Other highlights of the trip included a UEFA Champions League Football match between Liverpool and Oporto at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool. “This was a pilgrimage for one of my nephews and myself as we are both huge Liverpool fans. To actually see a game inside Anfield and hear the cheers of the crowd was spectacular. Even though the game ended in a draw, we still moved forward in the cup because we won the previous leg 5-0.”

Cunningham also has a chance to catch up with a high school and college friend who is now living in Grantham and have lunch with a former professor in Winchester. If interested in British history, particularly that of Arthur, the Romans, and Anglo-Saxons, then don't miss this travelogue. Doors open Thursday at 6:45 pm on the 2nd floor Johnson Gallery of the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum and the program starts at 7 pm.



Tim Cunningham at the Chalice Well, Glastonbury.

Thank you

Chamber appreciates festive lighting up of Chanute

For the second year in a row, the Chanute Area Chamber of Commerce & Office of Tourism sponsored a Christmas Lights Tour to help share the magic of this time of year. What a fantastic job Chanute citizens did in decorating their homes!

The tour would have needed to go long into the night to be able to view all the creativity shown through the many decorations. Of course, the tour began and ended with trips to Christmas in the Park. This volunteer-driven gift to our community gets more amazing every year. Plus the addition of the decoration of the Main Street pavilion by Main Street Chanute has made our downtown even more festive.

We just wanted to say thank you to all the homeowners, businesses and volunteers who made our hometown sparkle this holiday season. Thank you also to Tri-Valley Developmental Services and The Chanute Art Gallery for supporting the evening tours. Merry Christmas!

Jane Brophy

Executive Director

**Chanute Area Chamber of Commerce
& Office of Tourism**

Chamk Tribune
12/19/17

Tri-Valley to Merge with New Beginnings Enterprises

By Tim Cunningham

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County hears details on New Beginnings, Tri-Valley merger

In their next-to-last meeting of the decade, Wilson County commissioners heard from Joe O'Rourke, Chief Executive Officer, and Tara Cunningham, director, of New Beginnings, who discussed the Jan. 1 merger with Tri-Valley Development Services.

They assured commissioners that the same services will continue to be provided after the merger.

Kary Tutum, Road and Bridge Supervisor, reported that the salt and sand mix delivery from Central Salt was delayed.

He proposed the purchase of a used Bergkamp asphalt maintenance truck in the amount of \$40,000 in 2020. He also gave an update on bridge repairs and the commission agreed by consensus to sell surplus equipment on Purple Wave.

Rural Wilson County resident Bob Smith requested that a tube be cleaned out at 700 and Barber Road.

Destany Wheeler, Health Department Administrator, reported that she had been re-elected as chairman of the Regional Health Care Coalition. She also discussed staffing and sanitation matters.

Kris Marple, County Coordinator, submitted a 50-cent per hour pay increase request for Andrew Hunt due to completing his introductory

period, which was approved.

In other business, Sheriff Pete Figgins and Undersheriff Dana Moodie, further discussed

their pay proposal for Deputies and office personnel. The commission approved payroll in the amount of \$103,624 and

warrants in the amount of \$50,830.

The meeting will reconvene at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30.

