

## Compliance Corner

### 2025 HCBS Provider Averifi Audit Updates

Averifi, the vendor for provider qualification audits and audit processes, shares monthly updates with all MCOs on the 2025 audit status. **As of June 30, 2025, 64% of all HCBS providers successfully passed the 2025 audit, reflecting strong compliance across the majority of the network. Opportunities for improvement have been identified for the remaining 36%, guiding targeted support and quality enhancement efforts moving forward.**

Additional information on audits and audit requirements for each HCBS service is available on the [Averifi](#) website.

#### Resources:

- The most recent guidance related to the HCBS Background Check Policy was released in April 2025 in [KMAP Bulletin 25091](#).
- The KDADS [Nurse Aid Registry Check](#) must be completed for all employees providing HCBS services, even if the individual holds an RN/LPN license.
- [KMAP General Bulletin 24271](#) has additional guidance on background checks and to prevent audit failures.
- KDADS requires all background checks to be completed PRIOR to providing services to HCBS participants.
- Background checks must be completed within two years from the date of the last result.

**FIND DETAILS FOR ANNUAL AUDIT TRAINING  
AUGUST 13, 2025, AND SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

## Billing Changes for Wellness Monitoring in Congregate Settings

Retroactive to March 1, 2025, Frail Elderly (FE) and Intellectual/Developmentally Disabled (I/DD) waiver recipients who receive Wellness Monitoring services provided in a congregate setting will be exempt from the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirement. These services will be identified by billing with HCPCS code S5190 UA for both FE and I/DD waivers. [KMAP Bulletin 25089](#) contains additional licensing, scope of practice, and setting requirements to ensure your claims qualify for reimbursement with the added UA modifier.

### KanCare and WSU Partnership continues for Fall 2025 Satisfaction Surveys

Early fall, participating providers will be contacted to gather feedback through the KanCare MCO Provider Survey about experiences and the support received throughout the year by MCOs. The survey will be administered by Wichita State University's Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (WSU CARE), to ensure consistent insights from providers across all MCOs. The survey will be exclusively online, taking approximately 15 minutes to complete. Based on a random sampling process the survey may include questions about one, two or all three MCOs. Individual responses will not be shared with the MCO's, but an aggregate report will be shared that includes all collected provider responses.

### Ongoing State and MCO Workforce Survey Collaboration to Highlight Unique Staffing Challenges

Sunflower, along with Healthy Blue and UnitedHealthcare, have been collaborating on a monthly survey to HCBS providers since the beginning of the year and will continue throughout the end of 2025. Data collected will be used to track shortages in the workforce, identify where to best put efforts to build and maintain the workforce with providers across all Kansas counties.

Kansas Direct Support Workforce (DSW) Development, in partnership with KU, KDADS & WSU have created a **free** platform for providers looking to fill open DSW positions. This resource can be found at [KSDSW.ORG/Careers](#).

**Requests for Survey Responses are sent by email the first week of each month from**

**[Joshua.Vargo@sunflowerhealthplan.com](mailto:Joshua.Vargo@sunflowerhealthplan.com).**

**PROVIDER RESPONSES HELP THE MCOs MEET A NEW STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

**Check out this link for the [Sunflower Power Hour Quarter 3 Provider Training Events Schedule](#)**

## Resources & Links

General outreach to Provider Relations: [providerrelations@sunflowerhealthplan.com](mailto:providerrelations@sunflowerhealthplan.com)  
Get the latest Sunflower News: [Sunflower Health Plan Provider Newsletter](#)

General outreach to Authorizations Team: [hcbsauthorizations@sunflowerhealthplan.com](mailto:hcbsauthorizations@sunflowerhealthplan.com)  
Provider Resources & Territory Maps: [Sunflower Health Plan Provider Resources](#)

<p><b>Electronic Visit Verification Changes and Updates</b></p> <p>Implemented effective May 22, 2025, <a href="#">KMAP Bulletin 25094</a> provides guidance to standardize requirements across all HCBS that require EVV. Included in the bulletin is a waiver specific list, for both required and optional codes.</p> <p>On June 18, 2025, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) held an EVV town Hall related to the new protocol for logging in to the EVV system. Office administrators and staff were encouraged to attend to prevent interruptions after changes are applied on July 23, 2025. More information can be found in <a href="#">KMAP Bulletin 25142</a>. If you have any questions regarding this change, connect with <a href="mailto:KDHE.EVV@ks.gov">KDHE.EVV@ks.gov</a></p>	<p><b>HCBS Services See Rate Increases for FY 2026</b></p> <p>Effective July 1, 2025, certain codes for HCBS and Managed Care Floor rates received an increase. <a href="#">KMAP Bulletin 25122</a> outlines which waivers and service codes have reimbursement changes. Providers that serve members on the Brain Injury (BI), Technology Assisted (TA), and Intellectual/Development Disabilities (I/DD) waivers should review for the new fee schedule.</p> <p><b>KDADS Requests Public Comment on Kansas Policy Changes</b></p> <p>Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has an open “Request for Public Comment” open until August 7, 2025, related to the <i>HCBS-I/DD Program Functional Eligibility Assessments and Waitlist Management Policy</i>. This is an opportunity for stakeholders to offer feedback and contribute to shaping the long-term services and supports policies in the state. Visit the KDADS <a href="#">Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Programs</a> website and look for the “+Policies” section to share feedback in the online form. For more ways to share your feedback about proposed policy changes that affect HCBS services, as well as the schedule for HCBS Stakeholder meetings, visit long-term services &amp; supports section of the KDADS website.</p> <p><b>I/DD Waiver Expansion Partnership Employment Services Announced</b></p> <p>On Friday July 11, 2025, KDADS announced an expanded partnership with Kansas University Center on Disabilities (KUCD) to strengthen Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) across the state. KUCD and a national collaboration with WISE and The Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston will include coordinated, high-quality training and technical assistance to HCBS IDD waiver providers working to build or expand their employment services. Visit <a href="#">KDADS Funding Opportunities</a> for additional details related to this and other available grants across Kansas or by emailing <a href="mailto:KDADSGRANTS@PCGUS.COM">KDADSGRANTS@PCGUS.COM</a>.</p>
<p><b>HCBS Community Events</b></p> <p>August 6, 2025 – 10:00 AM ..... Sedgwick Co. DCF Together Career Fair ..... Boys &amp; Girls Club, 2400 N Opportunity Dr, Wichita, KS</p> <p>August 20-21, 2025 – 10:00 AM..... Kansas Adult Care Executive Convention ..... Wichita Marriott, 9100 Corporate Hills Dr, Wichita, KS</p> <p>September 11, 2025 – 7:30 AM ..... LeadingAge Kansas Fall Conference ..... Hilton Garden Inn, 3320 S. 9th St, Salina, KS</p> <p>September 24, 2025 – 11:00 AM ..... Community Care Network of KS Annual Conference..... Marriott Kansas City, 10800 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS</p> <p><b>Sign up for <a href="#">Sunflower Provider News Alerts</a> for more information on events, news and bulletins.</b></p> <p><b>To coordinate an event contact: <a href="mailto:SM_CommunityRelationsSunflowerHealthPlancom@sunflowerhealthplan.com">SM_CommunityRelationsSunflowerHealthPlancom@sunflowerhealthplan.com</a></b></p>	

**Did you know?**

Sunflower offers members 24/7 non-clinical support and companionship, community resources, support to navigate health plan benefit, self-care tools and activities & SDOH/caregiver resources through Pyx Health.



**Scan to access the newsletter and links.**