



# The Canvas

## Letter from the President



In this uncertain time of change and challenges, I want to bring you up-to-date on **what Rainbows has done** to help protect the children and families we serve as well as our staff. Our Leadership

Team is working diligently to keep abreast of the information being shared in so many ways. It is a challenge to keep up with all of it and know what the facts truly are.

Governor Kelly's Order has 26 exceptions to the "Stay-At-Home" provision for Essential Businesses. **The services that Rainbows provides fall within the list of Essential Businesses.**

We believed this is how it would be, and frankly, are very relieved that we can continue providing services to children and families and keep our employees working – although in a different manner for most programs. Here is how each of the programs is functioning at this time.

**Early Care and Education Services at Kids' Point**- While the "Stay-at-Home" Order restricts group gatherings to 10 people or less, we have received clarification from Sedgwick County Health Department and Kansas Department of Health and Environment that the restriction "does not apply to licensed child care facilities". Therefore, we will continue to provide early care and education as long as possible.

**Autism Services** – Autism services continue one-on-one at Kids' Point and in the family home.

**Mental Health Services** - All but one of our Mental Health staff are working remotely. They are calling on families with whom they work and providing tele-therapy via technology.

**Community Based Education and Training Services** - These therapists and teacher are working remotely by calling families and providing tele-therapy for the children.

**Targeted Case Management** - All of our TCM staff are working remotely. Some of the federal and state regulations have been "loosened" which allows TCMs to do a lot of their work on the phone for their families instead of doing it face-to-face.

**Specialized Foster Care** - Staff in this program are calling and checking on these families remotely.

**Bright Beginnings Infant/Toddler Services in Butler County** – All of these staff are working remotely. Staff are calling families and doing tele-therapy via technology.

**Infant/Toddler Services of Sedgwick County** – All of these staff are working remotely. They, too, are calling families and providing tele-therapy via technology.

**Family Support Services** – All of our Direct Service Professionals are working in individual family homes in order to provide care needed by our families. Families need this help even more due to children not being in school. We are trying to limit the number of staff who are going into each individual family home.

**Camp Woodchuck** – We are still hiring staff for Camp Woodchuck this summer and taking applications from families. We are hopeful we will be able to still provide this much needed program.

Because of the population Rainbows serves, we are required by multiple government agencies to continue programs in almost every department regardless of what is going on around us.

**Access to facilities is limited.** Currently we are not having volunteers onsite and no community tours are being given. We have mounted more hand sanitizing stations in all three of our facilities. **Sanitizing of surfaces has increased.** We take the health and safety of each family as well as our staff seriously. We are taking every precaution that we can.

### How can you help?

- Take care of yourselves, practice good hygiene as we have been told and practice social distancing.
- Support Rainbows through a financial gift if you can. The transition of services to online and having employees work remotely comes at a price. Every donation matters. Give online at RainbowsUnited.org.

Take care and stay well!



Deb Voth, President

## Staff and Board = Strong Commitment to Families

In the mist of social distancing and changing times, Rainbows' staff have taken up the charge to continue providing services to children and families in new and different ways. "While more than 60 percent of employees are working remotely, there are some positions that must continue to provide services face-to-face," said Gay Kimble, Vice President of Human Resources.

Dedicated Rainbows' staff members continue to provide early care and education services at Kids' Point. "Many parents provide essential services themselves and need child care," said

Michelle Croomes, Early Care and Education Coordinator. "Others are working from home and find the break from having a preschooler or toddler underfoot helps

their family be successful." With schools providing continuous learning at home, many Rainbows' families suddenly needed additional hours of care for their school-aged child with special needs. In order to provide services to support the increased needs of these families, more direct care professionals have been hired and are going into homes.



"We realized that what families needed to be successful was someone who could care for their child in their home," said Lynlea Southards, Family Support Services Coordinator. "We continue to need additional employees who have a heart for children with special needs and are willing to go into homes to keep them safe and happy while parents work." Anyone interested in becoming a Direct Care Professional can apply at [RainbowsUnited.org/careers](http://RainbowsUnited.org/careers).

Rainbows' Board of Directors recognizes the dedication of all staff and recently provided lunch for those working in the centers. Board Chair Janeen Hughes said, "Thank you for all you do to support the children and families we serve. Especially during this challenging time, your hard work and dedication make a difference."

### How you can help

**Tele-therapy helps Rainbows reach our funding requirements.** Rainbows' families who have suspended tele-therapy for your child under five, can continue services so your child can continue making developmental progress.

**Send gift cards** to support Rainbows essential service providers. Mail to Rainbows United, Attn: Development, 3223 N. Oliver Ave., Wichita, KS 67220.

**Support Rainbows through a financial gift** if you can. The transition of services to online and having employees work remotely comes at a price. Give online at [RainbowsUnited.org](http://RainbowsUnited.org)

**Mark your calendar for May 5** – a very special GivingTuesday Day of Global Action for Giving and Unity in Response to COVID-19. Follow Rainbows on Facebook for more details.

### Continuing services through technology

In May 2019, Rainbows staff went Live with or new client database software myEvolv, a cloud-based electronic records system that allows a better understanding of a child's needs and the services they currently receive all in one accessible place.

"Now, myEvolv has become a critical tool for Rainbows staff in ways we never would have imagined," said Tina Beems, MIS Coordinator. Since Rainbows is considered an Essential Service, our mandatory requirements to maintain a continuum of care for children and families has not changed. "It was such a relief to know our front line staff, those working directly with children and families, already had the tools through myEvolv to successfully transition to work from home. I could focus on getting the technology needed for others, such as our Finance, Human Resources, Research and Development Departments so our entire Agency could be

supported remotely," said Tina.

Using a cloud-based system eliminates the need for confidential information



to be carried in paper form. myEvolv creates an added layer of privacy through electronic records and all staff serving children and youth can access the information.

"When it was time for the Mental Health team to transition to work from home, they were able to focus on families and how to best support them during this time rather than how they would access critical information," said Audra Kenneson, Mental Health Coordinator.

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