

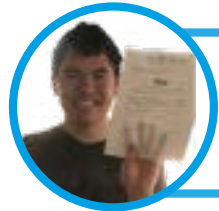


In This Issue



Let's Connect Online

MRCI-CDS has more ways to connect than ever! We'll cover some of our new tools and resources that are now available online.



Meet Brandon

Read about MRCI-CDS participant Brandon and his journey to accomplish one of life's biggest milestones.



Electronic Visit Verification Explained

Your guide to Electronic Visit Verification. We'll provide details on what EVV is, how it works and what our families that have used it are saying.

Have you registered with the COVID Vaccine Connector?

All Minnesotans 16 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Minnesota COVID-19 Response has set up a Vaccine Connector to help Minnesotans find out when, where and how they can receive a COVID-19 Vaccination.

The connector is open to the public, and you can sign up by going to

<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/>

Let's CONNECT

In 2021 MRCI-CDS has added several digital tools, resources and ways to connect with our clients and Families.

Earlier this year, MRCI-CDS updated our website to be more functional and user-friendly.

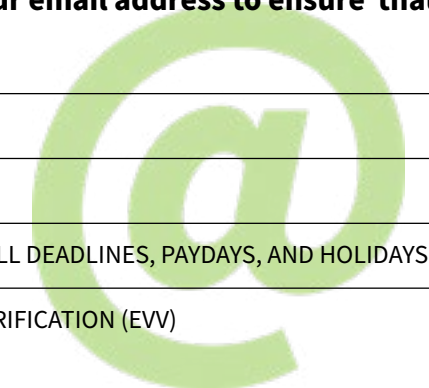
We encourage you to explore the new website to find the resources and tools most valuable to you.

- Simpler navigation and more organized pages
- Get to know our Leadership Team
- Complete documents online via SignNow
- Easily access tools like Participant Dashboard and Electronic Timesheets
- View our updated Calendar to help you keep track of important MRCI-CDS dates
- Learn more about MRCI-CDS and our programs on the updated About Us, and Program pages

Do we have your correct email address?

If not, contact your Program Staff right away to add or verify your email address to ensure that you are receiving helpful and necessary information.

- OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER WILL BE SENT TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
- QUICKLY RECEIVE TIME-SENSITIVE UPDATES AND NEWS
- SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY UPDATES TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF UPCOMING PAYROLL DEADLINES, PAYDAYS, AND HOLIDAYS
- AN EMAIL ADDRESS WILL BE NEEDED TO TRANSITION TO ELECTRONIC VISIT VERIFICATION (EVV)



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Ways to Connect with us Online



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[@MRCICDS](#)

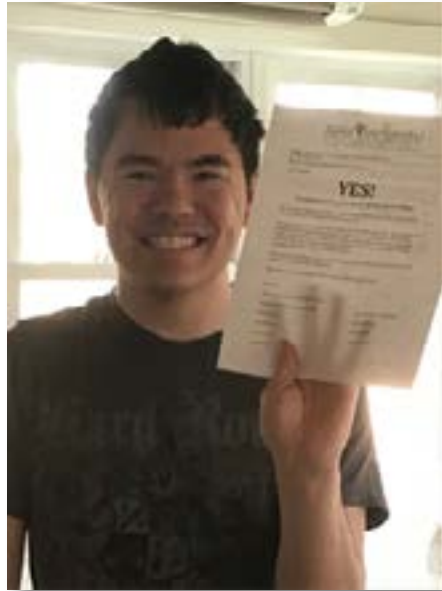


Visit our blog
mrcicds.org/blog



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Meet Brandon



Meet Brandon, he's 23, likes making cookies, has autism, and now, he is going to college. Having been accepted to the Beyond Limits Program at Bethany Global University, he is accomplishing a life milestone and taking a step toward his next phase of independence.

Brandon said, 'I'm going to college!' and he had the biggest grin!

Brandon's success is an example of what is possible for people to achieve with self-directed care. He not only lives in his own apartment at home, but contributes to, participates in, and improves his community. The Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) program, of which Brandon is a participant, allows him and his family to make care choices that best suit his needs

and goals. Brandon has been a part of the MRCI CDCS program for nearly 20 years, and in that time, he has worked with his direct care workers to develop the skills to increase his independence. No stranger to hard work, he has been employed at Davanni's in Minnetonka since 2019 and graduated from the Vector program at South Education Center in Richfield, Minnesota that same year. The skills Brandon has learned along the way would prove valuable in his application and acceptance into college.

Brandon had the right answers and the right skills, all that was left to do was wait and see if he had been accepted.

For Brandon to be accepted into the college, he and members of his family went through interviews with college staff to determine his readiness. Thanks to his hard work, his direct care workers, and his family, he was. "[The interviewers] asked him about conflict situations, like 'what happens if your roommate eats the last cookie you made?' and he answered, 'I'd make more!'" said his stepmother, Kathy. "They'd never had that answer before!" Brandon had the right answers and the right skills, all that was left to do was wait and see if he had been accepted.

When the acceptance letter finally arrived by email, his dad, Paul, printed it and placed it on the table before breakfast. When he came up for breakfast, he started to figure out what was going on. He noticed the letter and when he read it Brandon said, "I'm going to college!" and he

had the biggest grin! It was a special moment made even sweeter by the presence of his brother, Torey and his fiancé, Kelly, who were visiting from Detroit.

The Beyond Limits Program that Brandon will be attending combines practical training, college courses, life skill classes and student life. The practical training includes an on-campus job to teach students job-related skills. Brandon will take courses alongside other BGU students in a standard classroom environment; he will also be able to take specialized courses in valuable life skills like grocery shopping, cooking, and balancing a budget. He will get the campus-life experience and stay in an on-campus apartment with 3 other Beyond Limits students and two trained Resident Assistants (RAs).

Congratulations Brandon from all of us at MRCI Client Directed Services, and good luck! Thank you to Brandon's family for sharing his success with us.

Stories like Brandon's are at the heart of what we do at MRCI-CDS. There is no greater feeling for us than to see program participants living and thriving in their homes and communities. If you have a self-direction story you would like to share, we would love to hear it. You can find more self-direction stories on [our blog](#).

**Share your Story
at
mrcicds.org/share**

RENTHELP MN

Has COVID-19 made it hard for you to pay your bills?

GET RENTHELP MN TODAY

If you are experiencing a financial hardship because of the pandemic, **RentHelpMN** may just be your answer.

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance is available to all Minnesotans who qualify. You could receive up to 15 months total assistance for:

- Rent payments
- Utility payments (gas, electric, water/sewer, garbage/recycling and other utilities as approved by RentHelpMN)

We care about getting you the help you need, when you need it most.



Apply today. Visit renthelpmn.org or call **211**.



EVV Explained



EVV allows the ability to focus more time and attention on the care recipient and less on administrative tasks such as faxing, emailing and tracking timesheets.

As you may have heard, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is working with Minnesota, along with the rest of the nation to implement Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). The 21st Century Cures Act, signed in December 2016, will require Direct Care Workers and Personal Care Attendants (PCA) to verify and submit time worked electronically. The programs covered under the mandate include Personal Care Assistance (PCA), Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS), Consumer Support Grant (CSG), and 245D licensed services such as Individualized Home Supports (formerly Personal Support), Respite, Night Supervision and Homemaker. The purpose of this legislation is to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse of Medicaid dollars and is required for the State to maintain full federal funding.

You may be wondering, what does this mean for me and my workers? Each time care is provided, the direct care worker must clock-in to an electronic system. Each agency, such as MRCI-CDS, must select an EVV software that works for them and includes the six elements in accordance with the legislation that must be collected. These elements include, who received the service, the type of service performed, the date of service, the location of service delivery, who provided the service and when the service began and ended.

Each direct care worker will be connected with the clients for whom care is provided and to the services available for them to perform. At the start of a shift, the direct care worker will select the client and the service, and then select “start visit” through the app. At this point, a geotag of

the location is captured and verified against the locations available to each recipient. The visit continues as usual. Once the visit is complete, the direct care worker will log back into the app, will select “end visit” and will be asked to document any required information. The geotag will be captured at the end as well but no tracking will take place throughout the duration of the visit.

At this point, the direct care worker is able to verify, sign and submit the time worked to the responsible party or representative to approve. The time is then sent directly to MRCI-CDS to be processed. The date and time of each punch is recorded and once submitted to the MRCI-CDS, is used as the time and attendance record. Within the app, care delivery information, timesheet history and available hours will be visible to easily stay on track and manage the services. This allows the direct care worker and the responsible party or representative the ability to focus more time and attention on the care recipient and less on administrative tasks such as faxing, emailing and tracking timesheets.

MRCI-CDS is committed to making this transition as smooth as possible for you. You may be thinking, I am not tech-savvy, what then? The MRCI-CDS staff have been trained in the new system and will work with you personally to get set up and going, building your confidence and skills along the way.

Providing care is at the heart of what you do; MRCI-CDS is here to assist with the rest.

EVV Value



Real-time tracking of hours

EVV Software will track and report hours in real-time so responsible parties or representatives don't have to manually tally hours.



Continue providing service in your community

EVV will not limit the locations where services are performed. Location will only be collected at the start and end of each visit.



Important information - all in one place.

Information and management of your Service Agreement(s), Care Plan(s), visits, timesheets, caregivers and more all in one place

Some of our clients have already been using EVV. Here is what they had to say:

“I really like the electronic time card. It makes my life a lot simpler and I think the PCA's as well. So that has been a nice change.”

“We really likes using the electronic timesheets! They are so much more convenient.”

More information about EVV will be coming . If you have questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact your Program Staff.



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