

# 2019 Legislative Session

Lifeworks has a strong presence at the Minnesota State Capitol during this legislative session! While there are many legislative priorities, Lifeworks is focusing on the following:

### PCA Rate Reform Senate File 968 and House File 1225

Over the summer, Lifeworks began working with the "PCA Rate Reform Coalition" where we partnered with The Arc Minnesota, Minnesota First Provider Alliance, Minnesota HomeCare Association, and self-advocates to reform the PCA program. More than 43,000 Minnesotans access the PCA program to remain active in their communities. The dedicated PCAs that support the program have only seen a \$1.16 rate increase over the past ten years - that's an average increase of less than 12 cents per year!

### Expand Consumer Directed Community Supports Senate File 1250 and House File 1285

Lifeworks has partnered with The Arc Minnesota, Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, and other FMS providers to create a proposal that looks at the following topics:

1. Addressing the current workforce shortage by allowing staff to provide care to more than one individual using CDCS.
2. Avoiding costly financial constraints by allowing CDCS recipients to pay for behavior support services outside of their budget.
3. Raising awareness of CDCS to recipients, counties, and lead agencies by providing funding for a statewide, marketing campaign.

By investing time and energy in to expanding CDCS, the people we serve and their families can take ownership of the services and supports they receive in a cost-effective manner that allows for choices in care.

**Are you interested in helping us advocate?** Join us every Tuesday during the legislative session to learn more and to voice your support. To receive the most up-to-date information, please follow the PCA Reform Coalition on Facebook!



## Stay Connected!

Keep up-to-date on all of Lifeworks happenings by visiting our news and events page:

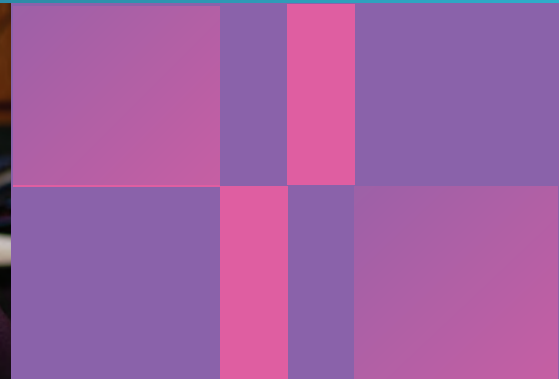
[lifeworks.org/news-events](http://lifeworks.org/news-events)

and following us on social media:

[facebook.com/LifeworksMN](https://www.facebook.com/LifeworksMN)  
[twitter.com/LifeworksMN](https://twitter.com/LifeworksMN)

# Lifeworks LifePursuits

## Fiscal Support Edition | Winter & Spring 2019



Lifeworks is a nonprofit founded in 1965 by parents of children with disabilities. Through Fiscal Support, Employment, and Day Services - as well as through partnerships with 300 businesses - Lifeworks provides support to more than 2,700 individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the Twin Cities and greater Mankato area.

[lifeworks.org](http://lifeworks.org)  
651-454-2732

Lifeworks Services  
2965 Lone Oak Drive, Suite 160  
Eagan, MN 55121



## Service Employees International Union Holidays

Employees supporting individuals under the PCA Choice, CDCS, and CSG programs are covered by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Under this agreement, SEIU bargained on behalf of its members with the State of Minnesota for employees to receive pay for certain holidays throughout the 2017-2019 CBA. The upcoming holiday that will receive time-and-a-half pay is: **May 27, 2019 - Memorial Day**

For workers specifically supporting recipients under CDCS and CSG programs, any time-and-a-half pay will come out of the client's budget. Please be sure to plan accordingly!

During the current legislative session, SEIU is working hard with legislators and the State of Minnesota to agree on their next CBA span of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. If holiday pay is agreed upon in the upcoming CBA, Lifeworks will be sure to send out communication as soon as it is made available.

## Greetings,

Lifeworks is off to a strong start in 2019 and we wanted to share some exciting updates and helpful reminders.

Lifeworks is thrilled to have the opportunity to offer Personal Support and Respite (PSR) services across the Brain Injury (BI), Community Alternative Care (CAC), Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI), and Developmental Disabilities (DD) waivers. Historically, PSR has only been an option under the DD waiver. Having the opportunity to serve more individuals enables Lifeworks to continue promoting the use of self-direction and the importance of this program as a service option.

In addition to expanding our service options, we have also added new team members to our Fiscal & In-Home Services Department!

- Kelsey Kostohryz joined our team in August of 2018. She oversees the Service Coordinators who support participants in the PSR and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Choice programs.
- The PCA Choice program welcomed Kia Xiong as a Service Coordinator/Qualified Professional and two Registered Nurses (RNs) – Debbie Hanna and Emily Mellinger who work alongside our Service Coordinators to support individuals who have Complex Care needs.
- Dan Guerin began working with Lifeworks in November of 2018. He supports the PSR program for individuals primarily residing in Southeastern Minnesota.
- Lastly, Laura Holzemer and Chee Lee have joined our team. They support our administrative functions, specifically helping with processing reimbursements and fiscal budgets.

As the year continues, Lifeworks will be fine-tuning various procedures across all service lines to ensure that we are providing you with the necessary tools to efficiently self-direct your services.

As always, should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Warm Regards,



Lisa Zaspel  
Vice President of Fiscal &  
In-Home Services  
651-365-3702



Alicia McCallum  
Manager of Fiscal &  
In-Home Services  
651-365-3742

## Financial Management Service Transition

For those of you using Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) as your funding option under your waiver, you have received several communications from Lifeworks and the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding the change providers are required to make from a Fiscal Support Entity (FSE) to a Financial Management Service (FMS) provider.

On October 15, 2018, all FMS providers were given a deadline of March 31, 2019 to move recipients from the agency with choice model to the payroll model. To date, we have helped transition roughly 540 individuals to the new model.

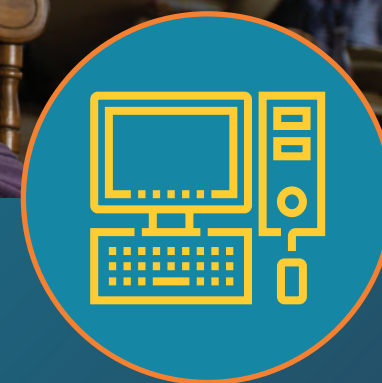
Lifeworks also worked with counties and lead agencies on generating new service authorizations for 400 recipients who were already using the payroll model.

Although this transition presented a significant amount of work, we are moving towards a stronger program that helps the people we serve more easily self-direct their care and maintain their independence. We appreciate your continued patience and support as we wrap up this transition!

**Please note: we are currently accepting new referrals for PCA individuals who need to be seen by an RN.**



Pictured: Fiscal Support participants, Joshua and Sarah, at their home.



## Electronic Visit Verification

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is a requirement of the 21st Century Cures Act. This means that the time in and time out of a PCA worker must be tracked electronically when they are delivering services. EVV is mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

States must implement the use of an EVV system by January 1, 2020. Lifeworks has been following this legislation since 2016 and providing input at the state level. As more guidance is made available from the state of Minnesota, Lifeworks will be making changes as to how employees record their time. Once this information is made available, further clarification and details will be provided to people using this process to ensure full compliance of the EVV requirements.

**More information pertaining to EVV can be found by visiting:**

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/hcbs/guidance/electronic-visit-verification/index.html>

[https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/2018-01-electronic-visit-verification-system-report\\_tcm1053-326158.pdf](https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/2018-01-electronic-visit-verification-system-report_tcm1053-326158.pdf)

**Questions can be e-mailed to DHS:**

[dhs.dsd.learn@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.dsd.learn@state.mn.us)

## Employee Roster

In an effort to keep accurate employee rosters for recipients under PSR, Homemaking, and PCA Choice, Lifeworks will automatically process terminations for employees who have not worked in the last nine months.

Please note: this policy change is not applicable to CDCS and CSG due to the Managing Party's responsibility of maintaining employee rosters under the established Employee Identification Number (EIN).

## Online Pay Stubs

A friendly reminder that you can view and print your pay stubs by visiting: [www.eprintview.com/lifeworks](http://www.eprintview.com/lifeworks)

Should you have any questions or need help logging in, please call: 651-454-2732 and ask to speak to the Payroll Department.

## New System: DATABASICS

Lifeworks will be required to change how hours worked with the people we serve are captured. This change gives us the chance to improve our time and attendance system. We have selected DATABASICS as our vendor. We will be rolling out the implementation of this new system in 2019. Keep an eye out for more information in the near future!