

Vodec Earns Two-Year Certification from State of Nebraska



Above, left to right, Displaying the certification is Nebraska's leadership team: Amy Titus, Residential Services Supervisor; Breena Walton, Employment Training Supervisor; Collin Hames, Day Services Supervisor; Kellie Katelman, Day Services Manager; Micky Jackson, Services Operation Director; Erin Moore, Residential Services Supervisor; Kay Akomolafe, Day Services Supervisor; and Corey McCormick, Transportation Supervisor.

Vodec earned a two-year certification from the State of Nebraska Division of Health and Human Services (HHSS) Department of Public Health, as a result of a recertification review conducted in November of 2024. The two-year recertification is the maximum that can be earned. HHSS requires certification for providers who receive funding through Nebraska's Home and Community Based (HCBS) waiver system at least every two years. The review is extensive and involves file reviews, observations, and interviews. "We have a dedicated team of professionals that manage our services in Nebraska," states Steve Hodapp, Vodec CEO, "They are always well-prepped for a review, I am proud of the work that they have done towards this achievement."

The Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) require each state to review providers of HCBS waiver services. The certification review process requires providers to prove that

they are compliant with state regulations, provide effective services, and ensure that employees are well trained and qualified.

A team of surveyors from the Nebraska HHSS Division of Public Health conducted the review which takes place over several days. The surveyors review consumer files, employee files, and review programs and program notes in detail. They observe Vodec employees while they provide service, and interview consumers and employees.

"We look forward to the recertification process, believe it or not!" exclaimed Micky Jackson, Vodec Services Operations Director, "Some may dread a review, but I know we provide a quality service and can't wait to showcase our efforts to the surveyors." The surveyors are experienced and have a comprehensive understanding of the state's rules and regulations. They provided many compliments about the services we provide and the way we provide them, which means a lot to us."



Resolutions that Survive Quitter's Day



Steve Hodapp, CEO

The start of a new year usually has us thinking about resolutions. Traditionally, these are made at least by New Year's Day. Did you make yours?

Next question: Are you still keeping it? Not surprising if you aren't. Resolutions are usually history within the first two weeks of them being made. In fact, this is celebrated on the second Friday of January, known as Quitter's Day. Yes, it's a thing. Hallmark likely has a card for it.

Why do we make resolutions and why are they mostly not kept? We make resolutions because they mark a fresh start, or we want to either start a positive behavior or end a negative behavior. Universally, they are made with good intentions.

Why do we not make it past Quitter's Day, usually? Well, our resolution was too grand, likely too vague, and maybe someone even told us to make one and we didn't want to.

And what's so magical about New Year's? If we want a fresh start or a change in some behavior, any day is a good day to make a resolution.

Council Bluffs Consumers Explore Air and Space

Recently, consumers from Council Bluffs Cares program visited the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum in Ashland, NE. "This museum is a popular destination for our consumers," remarked Tresa Smith, Days Services Supervisor. "There always appears to be a new exhibit that our consumers are eager to explore, alongside the regular displays."

Smith explains that each month consumers and their support staff meet to determine the monthly activity calendar. There's an event portion of this calendar dedicated to exploring community attractions and leisure



Whenever we make a resolution there are things we can do to be successful to avoid Quitter's Day. Make it achievable. Make it from your own desire, not someone else's. Tell someone because you'll be more accountable. Keep track of your progress. Manage it in small bites.

A resolution is not a good or a bad thing by itself. It's where it comes from and how we follow through which enables it to be successfully achieved. And when you make a resolution and take it past Quitter's Day, give yourself a pat on the back because you've achieved more success than most other people!

Steve Hodapp



Above, left to right: Mark Arends, Day Services Assistant, Jacob, Lauren, and Sandra. activities. "The Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum is an attraction that the consumers choose quite often," states Smith. Smith's explains that going to



attractions like the museum helps consumers develop their self-advocacy skills, presents an opportunity for community integration, and is great exercise.

“Finding opportunities to exercise in the winter months is challenging for all of us. We're grateful for any opportunities for us to exercise and have fun,” Smith explained.



Above, left to right: Lauren and Jacob on board the space shuttle.

A Warm Gift for Elm Consumers

Gesele Murillo, a Day Services Assistant in the Elm program, made knitted hats to give to consumers in the Elm program. These hats were handed out at the Elm Christmas party. Each hat required about two days to knit, and Gesele made hats for all 30 consumers.

Each hat is unique. Murillo designed each hat using a variety of designs and colors. Each hat was knitted to custom fit everyone. “She came to me to ask me if it was OK for her to make and give these hats as gifts to consumers, and I said of course,” states Kayode Akomolafe, Day Services Supervisor, “It is such an amazing expression of love and dedication.”



Above: Kate wearing her new knitted hat



Above: Drake wearing his new knitted hat



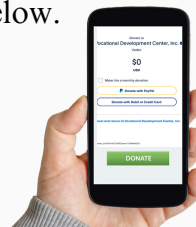
Left, left to right: Gesele Murillo, Day Services Assistant and Kayode Akomolafe, Day Services Supervisor

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Your support makes a difference. We are here to support people with intellectual disabilities, providing them with the skills, courage, and opportunities needed to realize their potential. Your generous donations help to enhance our services, helping us to bring additional tools, resources and opportunities to the people we serve. By donating today, you help us unleash our potential and the potential of the people we support. If you'd like someone to contact you about a potential gift to Vodec, call 712.328.2638.

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612 S. Main Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
www.vodec.org

Our mission is to provide services to persons with disabilities in order that those persons may live, work and participate in the community in the least restrictive environment to achieve their full potential.

Vodec is an equal opportunity employer. There is equal opportunity for services and for employment, retention and advancement without regard to race, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability and veteran status or any other classifications protected by state or federal law.

Vodec is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations may be tax-deductible (consult your tax preparer for specific information about this).

Wish List



When doing your post-holiday cleaning and organizing, consider donating some items to Vodec. Our consumers will put them to good use.

- wooden cutting board
- microwavable bowls
- whisk
- cookie sheets
- aluminum casserole dishes

- scrapbook paper & stickers
- big puzzles
- IPads
- cube organizers bins
- oven mitts

We are thankful for these generous donors.

Donna Bush
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Vodec is accredited by:

- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Vodec is certified by:

- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Education

Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Council Bluffs, Iowa Chamber of Commerce
- Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)
- Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP)
- Iowa Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP)
- Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Vodec is an authorized provider in the following Iowa HealthLink networks:

- Wellpoint
- Iowa Total Care
- Molina Healthcare

Vodec is a contracted Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) with the Iowa Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Vodec Entrance Criteria

- Have behavior which is NOT dangerous to self or others;
- Have medical needs within Vodec's scope of service;
- Have transportation needs within Vodec's capability to provide;
- Have funding in place prior to service provision;
- Be at least 16 years of age for employments services;
- Be between 13 and 19 years of age for the youth services program



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For additional information about Vodec, please get in touch with Daryn Richardson at drichardson@vodec.org or call (712) 328-2638.

