



FIFA WORLD CUP Brasil

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that I am writing to you as this newsletter marks the one year anniversary since we started our newsletters. How time flies and how fun it has been! I hope that you and your loved ones are enjoying the excitement of the World Cup 2014. It's events like these that bring people, countries, and cultures together from across the world. It's always fun to run into people wearing their team's jersey on the street. A few years ago, when Mexico won the Olympic Soccer gold, Mexico beat Brazil in the final match. After the game ended, my family and I headed out to run some errands, all of us wearing our Mexico jerseys. I didn't know at the time that my neighbors were from Brazil. At the same time as us, they came out (approximately 10 of them) wearing Brazil jerseys, and us with our Mexico jerseys. It was so much fun to share the elevator ride with them for 26 floors, as we were all excited about the game. Undoubtedly that kind of excitement will be seen as teams are eliminated and when the brackets get smaller. Go USA! Vamos Mexico!

There have been a number of changes since last summer including new friends at AyS. If you haven't had the chance to meet everyone, we invite you to our 3rd year Birthday Party. The party is scheduled for July 26, 2014 from noon to 5:00 PM at Fretz Park in Dallas, TX. (It's the same park and pool as last year.) Once again we will have refreshments, hotdogs, and hamburgers and of course cake! Do not forget your swim suit, sunblock and sun glasses. It is going to be great fun!

Please continue to check our website, www.myays.net, and our Facebook page, [facebook.com/myaysinc](https://www.facebook.com/myaysinc), for the latest news and updates around AyS. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our birthday party, bring your friends!



Sincerely,

Francisco Gonzalez
HCS/ TxHTML Program Director





STAR+PLUS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO EXPAND STATEWIDE

Most people in Texas who have Medicaid get their services through managed care. In this system the member picks a health plan and gets Medicaid services through that health plan's network of providers. Most health plans offer Medicaid members extra services not available through traditional Medicaid.

Right now, there are three Medicaid managed care programs in Texas: STAR, STAR+PLUS, and STAR Health. The 2013 Texas Legislature approved several expansions of Medicaid managed care and directed HHSC (Health and Human Service Commission) to develop a performance-based payment system that rewards outcomes and enhances efficiencies. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will get their basic health services (acute care) through a STAR+PLUS health plan on September 1, 2014.

The change will apply to people who are determined to have these types of disabilities and are eligible for Medicaid. They may live in a community-based Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities or Related Conditions (ICF-IID) or receive services through one of the following Medicaid waiver programs:

- **HCS** (Home and Community-based Services)
- **CLASS** (Community Living Assistance and Support Services)
- **TxHmL** (Texas Home Living)
- **DBMD** (Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities)

People who live in state supported living centers and those who receive both Medicaid and Medicare (dual-eligible) are not included in this project. Children and youth age 20 and younger will have the choice to enroll in STAR+PLUS or to get their basic health services through traditional Medicaid fee-for-service.

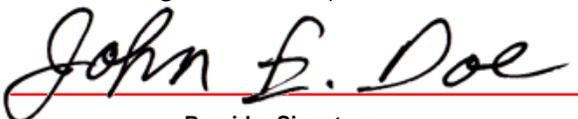
For people with these types of disabilities who are enrolled in managed care, STAR+PLUS will provide the basic health services, like doctor visits, hospital visits, and drugs, and DADS (Department of Aging and Disability Services) will continue to provide long-term services and supports.



ATTENTIONAL ALL CARE PROVIDERS:

We are continuing to receive service delivery logs (notes) that are not signed. It is very important that you remember to sign every sheet that is turned in for services. Notes cannot be processed without a signature; this delays our ability to complete your payment for the services you have provided. If you have any questions on how to complete your service delivery logs please contact our office and will be glad to help you.

 Your signature is required on all notes.



Provider Signature



JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	(7)	8	9	[10]	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	[21]	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	{31}		

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	(7)	8	9
10	[11]	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	[21]	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	(5)	6
7	8	9	[10]	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	[19]	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

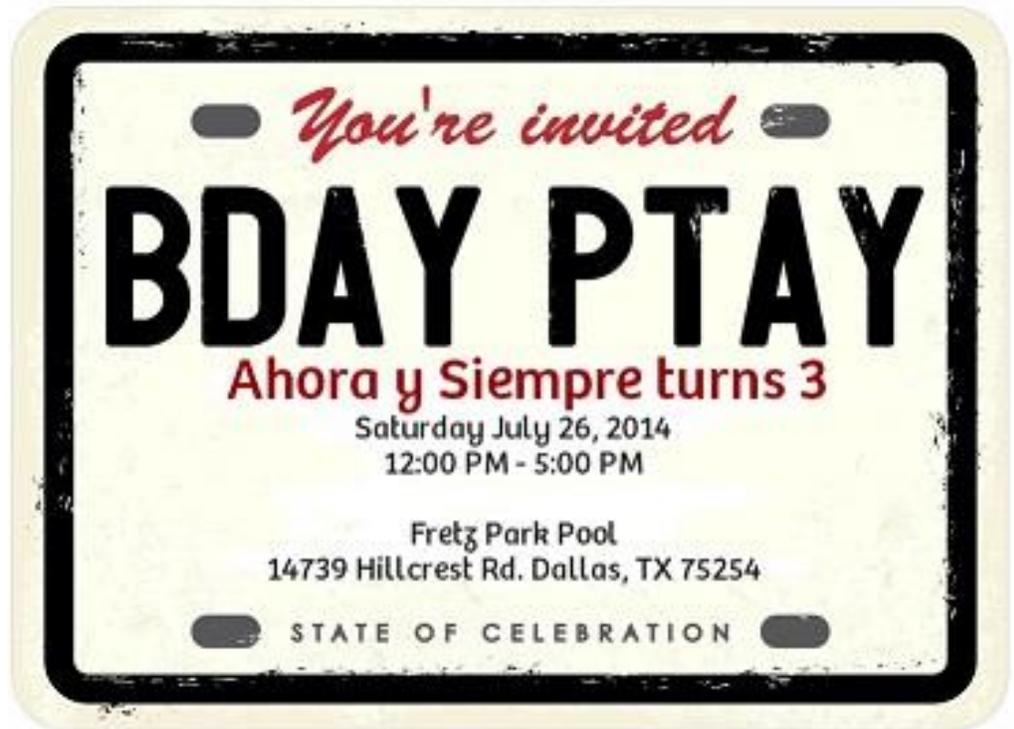
3rd Quarter Holidays & Dates to Remember

- Friday, July 4 | Independence Day | Offices will be closed.
- Wednesday, July 23 | Client Advisory Committee Meeting | 7PM
- Saturday, July 26 | Anniversary Party | Fretz Park | 12-5PM
- September 1 | Labor Day | Offices will be closed.

COME CELEBRATE WITH US

It is hard to believe that on August 1 it will be 3 years since our doors opened at Ahora y Siempre. We are so excited about the many great things that are yet come, but before that we must party! Please bring all your friends and family to this fun celebration that you won't want to miss! Here are some key items to bring:

- Towel
- Swimwear
- Sunscreen
- Empty Stomach
- Yourself



What does our logo, the Ginkgo Leaf, represent?

The Ginkgo Biloba, or Maidenhair tree, has been known to live for 2,000 years. The Ginkgo is sometimes called a "living fossil," because remains have been found dating to the Permian era 270 million years ago. By comparing modern-day Ginkgo leaves to their long-ago relatives, scientists at the Smithsonian Institute are learning about climate change then and now. In the East, it is considered a symbol of longevity, hope, resilience and peace. The tree's delicate fan-shaped leaves have been prized for their beauty, copied by artists and heralded in literature. The Ginkgo is the national tree of its native China and has also come to be used as a symbol of Japan.



Key Considerations for Lifting & Moving a Client

- Employee feet solidly planted on ground, shoulder width.
- Place resident or object close to you – avoid reaching across bed/distance.
- Use lift sheet, slide board, moving equipment as appropriate.
- Two people for a lift or repositioning.
- If moving to a wheelchair or other movable device, be certain it is locked and in a good position.



What would you do?

Have you ever found money? Perhaps a \$5, \$10, or \$20 dollar bill out on the street? What would you do if you found a deposit bag full of money that was accidentally left behind? Would you turn it in? This is what happened to Jennifer Davis. Jennifer is a dear friend and member of our AyS family. It takes a courageous person to return something so valuable. So we are taking the time to recognize her great deed. One morning Jennifer was on her way to work and she stumbled across a big deposit bag full of cash. She didn't hesitate one bit; she grabbed the bag and turned it in to the owner. How incredible is that! Upon hearing her share her story we were so proud of the decision she made to turn it in. There was no question in her mind that this money needed to be turned in. Jennifer demonstrates the heart of a noble, honest, and upright person and member of our community. To us it is important to recognize this story because we know it inspires us and challenges us to do the same. Thank you Jennifer for being honest and acting with amazing character. Everyone at AyS is so proud of you! You are such a great example of a noble young lady! Keep up the great work! ☺ If you have a good deed you would like us to recognize in our newsletter, Facebook and Twitter please feel free to let us know. We hope that Jennifer will be inspiration for you all out there doing a good deed for the day.

1. **What is STAR+PLUS?**

STAR+PLUS is Medicaid services delivered through a managed care network of doctors and other health-care providers. It is for people who have disabilities or who are age 65 or older. Managed care means you get your Medicaid services through a health plan. You pick the health plan you want. You also pick a main doctor. Along with regular Medicaid services, STAR+PLUS also offers long-term services and supports to people who need them.

2. **Where is STAR+PLUS available?**

STAR+PLUS will be available statewide starting September 1, 2014.

3. **Do I have to join STAR+PLUS?**

The following people covered by Medicaid **must join** STAR+PLUS:

- People ages 21 or older that get Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- People age 21 or older who are in the Community Based Alternative (CBA) program.
- People age 21 or older who live in a community-based intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related conditions (ICF-IID).
- People ages 21 or older that get services through certain Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) 1915(c) waiver programs.

The following people covered by Medicaid **can choose** to join STAR+PLUS:

- Children and young adults age 20 and younger who get SSI or SSI-related Medicaid services.
- Children and young adults age 20 and younger living in an ICF-IID or receiving services in certain DADS 1915(c) waiver programs.
- Members of federally recognized tribes.

The following people covered by Medicaid **cannot join** STAR+PLUS:

- People living in state supported living centers.
- People who are covered by Medicare and a) live in an ICF-IID or b) get certain DADS 1915(c) waiver services.
- People enrolled in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
- Children in Texas foster care that get Medicaid services through STAR Health.
- People who are not eligible for full Medicaid benefits.
- Children and young adults enrolled in the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP).



4. What services are offered by STAR+PLUS?

Everyone will get:

- A health plan that offers extra services not covered by Medicaid.

For people covered by Medicaid only, STAR+PLUS offers:

- A main doctor, nurse, or clinic (a primary care provider). You will get most of your healthcare through this provider. This is also how you will get referrals to other doctors and services you need.
- Help finding doctors who will take Medicaid. A STAR+PLUS nurse, social worker, or other professional (a service coordinator) will help you with this. They will also work with your doctor to make sure you get the care you need.
- All the Medicaid services you get now, plus:
No limit on drugs ordered by your doctor (children in Medicaid already get this).
Long-term services and supports through the STAR+PLUS health plan you pick.

For people who live in an ICF-IID or who get certain DADS 1915(c) waiver services, STAR+PLUS offers:

- A main doctor, nurse, or clinic (a primary care provider). You will get most of your healthcare through this provider. This is also how you will get referrals to other doctors and services you need.
- All the Medicaid services you get now, plus no limit on drugs ordered by your doctor.
- You will continue to get long-term services and supports through DADS.

For people who get Medicaid and Medicare (dual-eligible), STAR+PLUS offers:

- No changes in your Medicare benefits. You will still use Medicare for basic medical services and drugs ordered by your doctor. You will use STAR+PLUS for your Medicaid long-term services and supports.
- If you live in an ICF-IID or get certain DADS 1915(c) waiver services and get Medicare, you cannot join STAR+PLUS. You will get your basic medical services through traditional Medicaid.

5. How do I pick a health plan?

In June, we will send you a packet in the mail. It will have a letter that tells you more about STAR+PLUS and tips for how to pick a health plan. The packet also will include report cards with ratings for the performance of each of these health plans.

Things to look for when picking a health plan:

- Which health plan works best with the doctors you use?
- Which health plan has the extra services you like the most?
- How does each health plan rate on the things important to me?

6. Can I change my health plan?

Yes, you can change health plans at any time, but it could take up to 45 days to take effect. When you want to change your plan, call toll-free 1-877-782-6440. If you have a speech or hearing disability, please call 7-1-1 or toll-free 1-800-735-2989.

7. Who do I call if I have questions?

Call toll-free 1-877-782-6440. You can call Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time. If you have a speech or hearing disability, please call 7-1-1 or toll-free 1-800-735-2989.

MEET OUR NEW NURSE



JENNIFER HA
Registered Nurse

My name is Jennifer Ha and I am the new Registered Nurse for our North Texas Office in Dallas, TX. I graduated from Alvin Community College with my Associates Degree in Nursing June 2012. I started working as an HCS nurse in October 2012. I graduated and received my Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas Arlington in December 2013, and I am working towards completing my Developmental Disabilities Certification. I was born and raised in Carrollton, TX and which is where I currently reside now. In my free time, I enjoy investing in my fitness, reading, and attending as many concerts as I can. I don't have any kids or pets of my own, but I am completely content with devoting all my extra time to helping others. I instantly fell in love with all aspects of this field and cannot imagine working in a different environment. HCS has been a very humbling experience for me and gives me more optimism, positive energy and happiness that I could have ever imagined. I hit the ground running in the beginning of June, and have gotten to meet a few families. I am eagerly anticipating meeting all of the AyS families, very soon! I can't wait to get to know each and every one of you!
