

! A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

KIM CORNWELL
EPIC CEO



During the State's FY2024 budget process we had several opportunities for advocacy that could help lead to positive changes for agencies just like ours.

When it comes to rate reimbursement for services provided the original proposed amount was \$1.50. Organizations across the state rallied together to demand a \$4.00 increase that would allow us to pay a professional wage and compete with the rising minimum wage. Thanks in part to your involvement, we are grateful to share they settled at a rate of \$2.50/hour.

Another piece of our funding puzzle is the formula in which reimbursement rates are calculated. Because of the 2020 Guidehouse Study that formula was being updated. Unbeknownst to provider agencies like EPIC and IDHS staff, the new formula funded fewer DSP hours. For EPIC, this meant a decline of 45,468 DSP hours and \$525,000 less in funding per year. Due to the proposed elimination of DSP hours and the uproar over this proposal, IDHS had agreed to freeze the 2022 rate formulas until October as they bring in a third party to analyze the new formula and find out why it was projecting cuts in DSP hours. EPIC submitted our numbers and outcomes as evidence in hopes it adds to the urgency of rectifying and funding the rates properly.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you who took the time to make your voice heard by filing out a witness slip, sending an automatic email or picking up the phone to call our representatives. As voting constituents, your voices speak much louder than the population we support. Keep an eye out on our social media and website for other opportunities to get involved.

Learn more at epicci.org/get-involved/advocate

Thank you on behalf of EPIC Individuals and Staff.

! EPIC NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

EP!C
NIGHT AT THE
BALLPARK
SUPERHERO NIGHT



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Saturday, August 26 | 6:35 PM
Dozer Park | Fireworks after the game



Scan to Buy Tickets
bit.ly/EPICnight2023

A portion of the proceeds will come back to EPIC.

! EPIC 5K 2023



Race Day Shirt
Included

Medals for Top 3 Men,
Women & Para Athlete

After Race Vendors

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

EPIC: 1913 W. TOWNLINE RD.

CHECK IN: 8 AM SHOT GUN: 9 AM

EARLY BIRD ENTRY: \$30
Until July 10th

LATE ENTRY: \$35
Register by August 4th to get a race day shirt.

Scan with your
phone to Register



bit.ly/EPIC5k23

EP!C MISSION AND VISION

At EP!C we enrich the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We envision a world where people with disabilities are respected, engaged in their communities, and have every opportunity to achieve their personal best.



! upcoming EVENTS

EP!C HARVEST POP-UP: PEORIA HEIGHTS FARMER'S MARKET

WEDNESDAYS, JULY-AUG 30
4-7 PM

Tower Park

ADA CELEBRATION & RESOURCES FAIR

JULY 26
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Peoria Civic Center

EP!CASSO AT IGNITE PEORIA

AUG 12
9-5 PM

Peoria Civic Center

EP!C 5K

AUG 19
8 AM

1913 W Townline Rd

EP!C NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

AUG 26
6:30 PM

Dozer Park

COMING UP: FAMILY FUN NIGHT

SEPT 14
4-7 PM

1913 W Townline Rd



Event Note: Be sure to follow us on social media or check our website to stay up-to-date on new and changing events.

! EP!C THANKS

After 9 years on the EP!C team, Steve Rollins our Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has submitted his retirement.

Managing the budget for a nonprofit is no easy task. The knowledge and skill set Steve brought to our team over the past several years has been invaluable. From rectifying our pension obligations, overseeing rate projections with the State, assisting in the growth of our operating budget from \$13 million to over \$22 million, to planning for the next phase of our industry all while keeping that budget balanced, his contributions are endless. Steve will stay on as he trains the new CFO to ensure a smooth transition.

Congratulations Steve, thank you for the impact you have made.



! EP!C WELCOME

We are excited to welcome Michael Cohlman to the EP!C team as our new Sr. VP of Finance/Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Mike has almost 35 years of experience in Finance working in the telecommunications, insurance, and healthcare industries. For the last six years he has worked in the Peoria area with OSF Healthcare and most recently at Heartland Health Services as their Chief Financial Officer since 2018 where he continued to grow his knowledge of funding in the nonprofit medical space.

Mike attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received a bachelor's degree in finance. Outside of work Mike enjoys spending time with his family, coaching youth athletics, and golfing.



! EP!CYCLING CLUB

It's been a very exciting start to the season for the EP!Cycling Club.

This spring we received a generous donation from BossTek purchasing two new side by side bikes bringing our fleet to six! Then our friend and Peoria Outdoor Adventure creator Mark Monge used his passion and platform to raise funds for the club to purchase new bike helmets ensuring everyone has a safe ride.

We invite anyone who is interested to grab your bike and join us for an inclusive ride. Don't have a bike? We are also looking for volunteers interested in riding with individuals.

Rides are bi-monthly on Tuesday at 9AM.

July 11 & 25 | August 8 & 22 | September 5 & 19 | October 3 & 17



! EP!C HARVEST

The 2023 EP!C Harvest CSA season is in full swing.

Don't miss out on getting direct access to high quality, fresh produce grown by EP!C participants. Season runs from July-October weather permitting.



Purchase your share online at EP!Cci.square.site or call (309) 691 - 3800



! EP!C EMPLOYEES



Mint Damaso was selected as our March Employee of the Month.

His nominator said, "He goes above and beyond his expectations daily, he recently assisted an individual in cleaning their apartment and teaching them to cook on his own time. He is empowering and inspiring every day and he always has the individual's best interest in mind. He is a valuable part of the team because he always has a positive attitude and inspiring words of encouragement."



April's Employee of the Month was **Troy Waldschmidt**.

His nominator said, "He goes above and beyond when it comes to caring for individuals. One example is when we experienced technical issues with our electronic program used for passing medications, he made sure to contact nursing to be sure that there had been no changes in anyone's medications before administering them. He provides phenomenal, compassionate, and experienced care."



Laveona Proctor was chosen for May's Employee of the Month.

Her nominator said, "she sees a need, she jumps right in to help. She sees a dream and does all she can to make it happen, she is a strong voice for getting individuals integrated into the community. She is a positive, hardworking team player that makes sure everyone is always have the best day possible."



Our final Employee of the Month for our FY23 was **Donald Dixon** in June.

Her nominator said, he "is a great teammate that brings ideas and concerns to the table to find solutions. Every time they visit a community employer, they are engaged with everyone to ensure our individual's potential and worth. Many of the participants call him "Grandpa" because he is caring and has so many words of wisdom."