

# October

# 2024

## *SOCCEED*

(Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Monthly meeting at 1 p.m. on Webex	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Where has 2024 gone for it to already be OCTOBER!!! With the holiday and colder months on the horizon, SOCCEED wants to help every member of our respective communities to be warm, safe, and have their needs met. To accomplish this, we have several things planned for October. At this meeting, we will be focusing on holiday preparation from both practical and more light-hearted standpoints.

While the holidays are a joyous time for many, that is not the way it is for some. Many of the people that we serve have been struggling throughout the year with financial problems, depression/other mental health issues, medical problems, and more. These concerns often increase over the holidays and seasonal depression is a very real experience. Think about the messages at this time of year that are everywhere, TV, radio, stores, social media, etc. You should be happy, you need to, you should, you

should, you should... Now imagine how this hits someone who is already struggling. To draw more needed attention to this issue, we will have a local subject matter expert to help all of us best support the adults in these situations. The better the parents, caretakers, anyone interacting with children are, the better they will do!

Speaking of children, this is not the “most wonderful time of the year” for all of them as the song goes. For some children, the holidays are stressful for many reasons such as feeding off the stress being experienced by adults, sensory issues, and changes to normal routines. Neurodivergent kids, kids whose brains process information differently than some, are at an added risk for holiday struggles because the inputs become too much to successfully process at once. To help ALL children have the best possible holidays, SOCCEED is happy to welcome a specialist to equip anyone working with or even just concerned about children with best practices. These practices will help any child to thrive and further assist adults with how to turn struggles into successes.

Even though it is still fairly warm in October, we all know that the bitterly cold months will soon be here. It is critical that our community is aware of what options there are to keep utilities connected. Many of the people that we serve as mentioned are struggling financially and the “Cold Weather Rule” can only do so much especially if there is a brief period of warmer weather. During that time many consumers can and are disconnected even though we all know the extreme cold will return. Helping us to understand the changes to assistance programs will be Jennifer Sanchez, Connect Specialist with Evergy. Ms. Sanchez will be discussing such programs as LIHEAP and ERPP as well as other potential help.

After our featured presentations, there will be time for updates and announcements from anyone or organization that would like to share. I (Jennifer) will have information pertaining to holiday safety (e.g., food preparation, fire safety, etc.). I will also have information about our annual holiday assistance program that is expanding this year to assist more individuals and families. Additionally, I am happy to announce that we will again be thanking all of you for your hard work throughout the year with a doubled allotment to be distributed to charities of YOUR choosing. This year, we have \$2,000.00 to disperse to wherever you tell me to and once completed as with last year, I will send you the receipt.