

09/29/09

Mileage Overpayment: For those of you with Sumlar Therapy in March of this year, you'll recall an email I sent out informing you that the IRS's limit for mileage reimbursement for 2009 had been lowered from \$0.585/mile to \$0.55/mile, and we reset our mileage reimbursement rate at the IRS guideline. Unfortunately, I did not make the change on your paychecks at that time, and I did not catch the mistake until last payperiod, and corrected it. We will need to deduct the overpayment (\$0.035/mile—3.5 cents per mile) in the next few payrolls. Following is the deduction that will be split between your paychecks dated **October 16th, 2009** and **November 13th, 2009**. We are splitting the amount in half equally and dividing it over two months' time for your convenience. (If you do not receive money for mileage, or a paycheck, in the next payperiod, the deduction will be taken out in subsequent checks.) Please accept my apology for this inconvenience.

Name	Miles	\$ Amount
Andrew, Tera	2572	90.02
Behrens, Kari	114	3.99
Bergman, Andrea	2685	93.98
Boozer, Mallory	4644	162.54
Carrell, Cindy	2215	77.53
DiLorenzo, Michelle	110	3.85
Elson, Darci	4847	169.65
Farmer, Haley	1138	39.83
Fenn, Patty	822	28.77
Gatlin, Kristi	1870	65.45
Kinsaul, Ashley	4778	167.23
Mayo, Michele	4338	151.83
Platt, Meredith	4579	160.27
Purvis, Kristy Lynn	1117	39.10
Quinlivan, Brooke	4283	149.91
Shell, Casey	6298	220.43
Stewart, Tara	1831	64.09
Sumlar, Kristin	1487	52.05
Wells, Paige	6486	227.01

09/29/09

Cafeteria Plan & Health Insurance: When we initiated our payroll by PREmployer, we also initiated a Cafeteria Plan, which allows health insurance payments to come out of our pre-tax payroll dollars. Thanks go to Freta for questioning whether or not we were truly getting the benefit of our Cafeteria Plan. I called PREm and found that the health insurance had not been coming out pre-tax, but that it can be corrected next pay period. You will see less money taken out for FICA during that payperiod, as a way to "pay back" the money you should not have paid in taxes. It will be correct after that payperiod, and you will not see any issues with your taxes for 2009.

09/29/09

Quarterly reports due in the schools in a couple of weeks:

For those of you practicing in the schools (including VBA), make sure you complete a quarterly

progress report for each child. Make two copies (one for the teacher, one for the student to take home) and keep the original for yourself. As the quarters proceed, you will continue to document on the same form. You should already have your quarterlies prepared, with goals noted, but if you do not, you can find the form on our website.

You need to do a quarterly report for every school child, no exceptions. Make sure the kids take the notes home (place in their backpacks). We have had some complaints in the past about lack of communication between the therapists and the parents, and this is your opportunity to improve that relationship. Try to make your notes timely, accurate, and meaningful. Your notes should go home the same week the grade cards do. It is your responsibility to find out the date for report cards in each of your schools.

09/28/09

Please come to **The Buddy Walk on Saturday, October 24th, at Kiwanis Park in Dothan** to represent Sumlar Therapy, or to be a part of a team with one of your patients or friends. Some of our therapists have participated in the past, and are planning to do so again this year. Jill Wilson has participated every year with Anne Cline, whose son, Joseph, has Down Syndrome. Anne began organizing the event to bring families of Down Syndrome children together in Dothan, with friends and supporters, and has asked Sumlar Therapy to provide a table sharing information to families about our services. Anne's letter to me is below—be sure to read it.

Attached are three forms, one for registration, one for a team member list, and one with the deadline dates. I will post these in the clinic, and for those of you who are in the schools and homes, please print and share.

Siran Stacy, “former University of Alabama football stand out” and motivational speaker will be the walk leader this year. Many of you will recognize Siran's name because of the tragic accident two years ago in which his wife and children were killed. He is an incredible man of faith.

Please join us on October 24th! Complete your forms and mail them with your \$12 check to the address provided. Shirts are to be picked up at KNOLOGY in Dothan on October 20th, or you can wear a Sumlar Therapy T-shirt. The Walk begins at 10AM on Saturday, with registration beginning at 8:30AM. It should be a beautiful day, and don't worry—for those of you not physically inclined to exercise—it's a short walk!

[2009 Registration Form](#) [2009 Team Member List](#) [Important dates 09](#)

Kristin

09/28/09

At least one month's news will be posted in the LOOK section, which you access by clicking the LOOK sticky note on the bulletin board. When two months have transpired, Rich will archive the oldest month's news into the “STS Employee News Archive.” You can access this link by clicking [on Archive Postings at the top of the LOOK page](#). We have just archived August's news. We will leave September's up until about the end of October.

09/28/09

I don't know how accurate the following email is, but thought I would share it with you. It does make sense that a child could get "drunk" on hand sanitizer. I checked the back of the GermX, and it is 62% ethyl alcohol. It also states that children under the age of 6 are to use it only with adult supervision, and that if ingested you should call the poison control center. Please be sure to keep your hand sanitizer up out of the reach of children (in the clinic, this should not be in the window sill, but on top of the shelving unit).

"Yesterday, my youngest daughter, Halle who is just 4 years old, was rushed to the ER by her father for being severely lethargic and incoherent in her classroom. He was called to her school by the school secretary who said that she was 'VERY VERY SICK!' He told me that when he arrived at her classroom, Halle was barely sitting in the chair.. She couldn't hold her own head up and when he looked into her eyes, she couldn't focus them. He immediately scooped her up and rushed her to the closest ER, and then called me. When he got there, they ran blood test after blood test and did x-rays, every test imaginable. Her white blood cell count was normal, nothing was out of the ordinary. When I arrived at the ER, the doctor there told us that he had done everything that he could do so he was transferring her to Saint Francis Hospital for further tests. Right as we were leaving in the ambulance, her teacher arrived at the ER and told us that after questioning Halle 's classmates, She had found out that our little girl had licked liquid hand sanitizer off of her hands !!! Hand sanitizer, of all things. But it makes sense. These days they have all kinds of different scents and flavors and when you have a curious child, they are going to put all kinds of things into their mouths. When we arrived at the Saint Francis' Hospital ER, we told the ER Doctor there to check her blood alcohol level, and yes we did get weird looks, but they did it. The results showed her blood alcohol level was 85% -- six hours after we first took her. There's no telling what it would have been if we would have requested it at the first ER. Since then, her school and a few surrounding schools have taken the liquid hand sanitizers out of all the lower grade classes, but what's to stop middle and high schoolers from ingesting this stuff? After doing research on the Internet, we found out that it only takes about 3 squirts of the stuff ingested to be fatal to a toddler. For her blood alcohol level to be so high, it would be like someone her size drinking 120 proof liquor. So PLEASE PLEASE don't disregard this because we don't ever want another family to go through what ours has gone through." [Author unknown](#)

09/24/09

Judy has taken over the job of handling school referrals. Please communicate with her about them, and **cc your evaluations to her.**

09/09/09

FYI -

On behalf of:

Susan Colburn, State Parent Consultant Children's Rehabilitation Service
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Fri Sep 4, 2009 5:56 am (PDT)
State Launches Web Site To Give Autism Information

MONTGOMERY, AL (APR - Alabama Public Radio) - The state of Alabama has launched a Web site to provide information about autism and autism-related disorders to state residents.

The chairman of the state's Autism Task Force, Republican state Rep. Cam Ward of Alabaster, said the Web site will provide resources for teachers who have children with autism in their classrooms. Ward said the site also offers information for parents about services available to them.

Ward said the Web site was created and will be maintained by the Alabama Department of Education. Creation of the Web site was a recommendation of the Alabama Autism Task Force.

On the Net: **Autism Web site:** <http://alex.state.al.us/autismAL>

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