

## Driver Assessment & Training

Kathy Woods Rakowczyk, OTR/L, CDRS, LDI  
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute  
612-775-2829  
[Kathy.Rakowczyk@Allina.com](mailto:Kathy.Rakowczyk@Allina.com)



# Why Community Mobility is Important

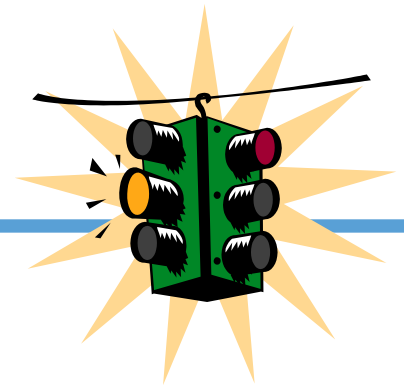
“Accessible transportation is a determining factor to a person’s quality of life.

Not only does accessibility determine employment opportunities, but it also allows **participation** in entertainment, politics and religious services; socializing and connection with people, and activities outside of the home.

Progress and innovation have brought new freedom to consumers on the road and take them to the places they want to go.”

From “Down the Road – A History of Automotive Success”  
Mobility Management July/Aug 2005

# Background Information



- 1978: Courage Center's program began
- 1995: Licensed as Commercial Driving School
- 1990's (mid): OT's joined Driver Assmt Program
- 2013: Courage Center merged with S. Kenny/Allina
- CKRI is one of a few driver assessment resources in MN
- In accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. 171.131, a physician is immune from liability as a result of reporting to DVS any physical or mental condition that significantly impairs a person's ability to operate safely a motor vehicle.



# Diagnoses Seen for a Comprehensive Driver Assessment

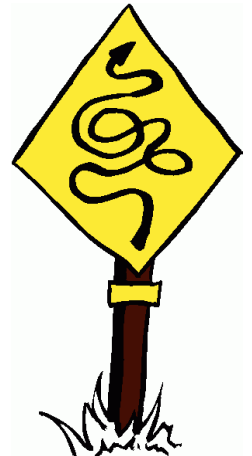
- Well Elderly
- Parkinson's Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease / Dementia
- Stroke
- Visual infractions
- Congenital disabilities
- Mental health: depression, bipolar, anxiety...
- Diabetes: amputations
- General medical
- Developmental disabilities
- And more

# What do Driver Assessments offer?

- **Uniquely educated and trained service providers:**
  - Occupational Therapists (OT)
  - Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (CDRS)
  - Licensed Driving Instructors (LDI)
  - Other professional credentials may also qualify as service providers
- **Comprehensive evaluations of one's driving skills**
- **Variety of vehicle and adaptive equipment options:**
  - Low-tech Sedans (i.e. from no adaptations to handcontrols & left foot accelerators)\*
  - Mid-tech Accessible Minivan\* *(\*available at CKRI)*
  - High-tech Accessible Vans
- **Individualized driving lessons:**
  - Client must have assessment before s/he may pursue lessons.
- **Multiple locations**

# Comprehensive Driver Assessment: Clinical

- Medical history
- Driving history
- Medications
- Community living skills
- Physical status
- Vision
- Visual motor
- Reaction time
- Cognition
  - Divided attention
  - Judgment
  - Processing
  - Executive skills
  - Memory





# Comprehensive Driver Assessment: Behind-the-Wheel

- Control of vehicle
- Turning
- Lane positioning
- Planning/ processing
- Identify potential risk situations
- Judgment
- Insight
- Ability to recall / apply feedback
- Speed control
- Signage
- Visual scanning and attention
- Management of distracters
- Ability to use adaptive equipment (when applicable)
- *Clients drive vehicles provided by CKRI*

# Comprehensive Driver Assessment: Potential Outcomes

- Continue to drive
- Continue to drive with restrictions...
- Adaptive equipment
- Lessons
  - Must have an assessment prior to pursuing lessons
  - Driver rehabilitation specialist provides feedback
  - Evaluate client's ability to apply & maintain feedback
    - 1-2 hours / session
    - 1:1
- Need for more therapy
- No driving ... retirement from driving
  - Provide information on alternative transportation and community resources







# Potential Funding Resources

- Private Pay
- Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS)
- VA
- MS Society
- County Programs (i.e. CADI Waiver)
- Workers Compensation
- AAA/AARP discount
- Cost Share
- Others



# Driver Assessment vs. State Road Test vs. Traditional Driving School

---

- What is the difference?
- Why might choose one or the other?



# Discussion & Questions

---

- Central Scheduling: How to schedule
  - Phone: 612-262-2475
  - Fax: 612-262-6706

*As the service is private pay a doctor's referral is not required but welcomed.*

## Thank you!