



**Upcoming Community Meetings on
Conflict-Free Case Management**

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is leading a committee to implement conflict-free case management (CFCM) and person-centered planning (PCP). The CFCM/PCP Committee is an interagency work group that comprises BHDDH, DHS, OHA, and EOHHS. Our goal is to create a person-centered planning and case management network that complies with federal and state requirements, is stakeholder informed, and leverages IT solutions to streamline services access, foster quality, and promote person-centered goals and outcomes.

We are inviting you to participate in a virtual community meeting to learn more about this project and the impact it will have on our Medicaid long-term care system. Please note that we plan on providing future webinars to stakeholders as we design and implement this program.

Please register for one of the Community Meetings using one of the links below

The presentation materials and content will be the same at each meeting.

[Wednesday, July 6, 2022 from 11:00 am-12:00 pm \(click to register\)](#)

[Monday, July 11, 2022 from 1:00-2:00 pm \(click to register\)](#)

[Thursday, July 14, 2022 from 12:00-1:00 pm \(click to register\)](#)

All meetings will be conducted via Microsoft Teams.

Happy Fourth of July!

BHDDH offices will be closed on Monday, July 4th.



Share Your Thoughts on What Services and Supports BHDDH Should Pay For

The Rhode Island Department of Behavior Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) is in the process of reviewing the services and supports we offer for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). There are two parts to this project.

1. First, BHDDH is looking at the types of services people with I/DD need. We are asking questions like these:
 - a. Do we need to change anything about the current services?
 - b. Are there services and supports that people need but they can't get now from BHDDH?
2. After we look at what services and supports BHDDH should offer, we will look at how much we should pay for each service.

BHDDH has contracted with Burns & Associates, a division of Health Management Associates (HMA-Burns) and The Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to help with this project.

We want to hear from people who use DD services and their family members.

BHDDH wants to be sure we consider all of the options for services and supports that people need, and that we have clear definitions of what is covered by each service.

We have worked with HMA-Burns and HSRI to get some input from stakeholder groups, providers, and BHDDH staff. You can watch a presentation about the discussions on services [here](#).

Based on what we have heard so far, we have developed a survey for all DD participants and family members with questions about what you like and don't like.

- [Click here to take the survey](#)
- You can watch a webinar that walks you through the survey [here](#)
- If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Alena Vazquez at avazquez@hsri.org.



If you have any other comments or questions about this project, please send them to BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

RI Sibling Community Initiative Hosts Screening of “My Brother is Deaf” on Zoom

Saturday, July 9

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Zoom

[Click Here to Register](#)

Please join PLAN RI for the launch of their RI Sibling Community Initiative with a screening of “My Brother is Deaf” and the opportunity to hear from its Director Peter Hoffman Kimball.

This will be the first in a series of Zoom events to encourage the development of a sibling information, support, and activity network in Rhode Island. This launch is made possible by a community-building grant from the RI Foundation.

COVID-19 Pandemic Direct Support Professionals Survey

Attention direct support professionals and frontline supervisors! The [National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals](#), in partnership with the [Institute on Community Integration](#) at the University of Minnesota, is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on direct support professionals.

Survey results will help identify the most effective ways to protect direct support professionals, frontline supervisors, and the people who receive support.

Your responses will be anonymous. [Take the direct support professionals survey](#) today.



MHARI Scholarships for RI College Students

The Mental Health Association of Rhode Island (MHARI) aims to increase the availability of culturally and linguistically competent mental health providers in Rhode Island. MHARI has funding to distribute scholarships and internship stipends for social work and mental health counseling graduate students from diverse backgrounds at Rhode Island College. Supporting today’s students will diversify tomorrow’s mental health professionals, thus increasing access to treatment and services for under-represented groups.

This is a pilot program, and MHARI is excited to launch it. Applications are due August 1, 2022.

[Click here to learn more and apply. \[mhari.org\]](#)



A Night at the Theatre!

Thursday, July 7

6:00 PM

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)

The United Theatre in Downtown Westerly presents "Monica and David", a film about the marriage of two people with Down Syndrome.

\$50 film and pre-show reception, \$25 reception only. All proceeds benefit the Frank Olean Center.

Reflecting Upon the ADA: Soaring to Employment

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

3:00-4:30 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Join the Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) to celebrate the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and learn how the ADA has supported the goal of competitive, integrated employment (CIE) for persons with disabilities. Pre-recorded remarks will be provided by Acting Administrator Alison Barkoff from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) that will include highlights describing how ACL has made strategic investments to advance CIE in communities. Additionally, a panel comprised of five self-advocates (2 from Rhode Island!) will jointly reflect on how the ADA has impacted and empowered them to achieve employment.

Highlighting the Evolution of Investments that ACL has Made in Support of CIE
by Alison Barkoff, Acting Administrator of the ACL and Assistant Secretary for Aging

Followed by a panel of self-advocates from across the country:

Nicole LeBlanc
Self-Advocate Adviser,
DETAC



Tracy Rackensperger, Ph.D.
Public Service Faculty Member,
Institute on Human
Development and Disability,
University of Georgia



Katie Lowe
Business Owner,
"Cheetah Greetings"
Cards



Jack Carfagna
Business Owner,
"Mr. C's Old
Thyme Scents"
Candles



Mikelle Learned
Podcaster & Jewelry
Maker,
The Shining Beautiful
Series



Human Service Transportation 2022 Coordinated Plan **Virtual Strategy Sessions**

Tuesday, July 19th, 3:30 to 5:00 PM [Link to register](#)

Wednesday, July 27th, 12:30 to 2:00 PM [Link to register](#)

The statewide [Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council](#) is preparing a 2022 update of the [Rhode Island Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan](#). This plan is updated every five years to consider the changing transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and others who need transportation assistance; provide strategies for meeting those needs; and prioritize services for funding and implementation.

Four public listening sessions were held in April and May to hear public comments, ideas and concerns related to human services transportation in Rhode Island. (view the presentation [here](#).) The team has since been reviewing the comments, analyzing demographic data, and updating the strategies explored in the 2018 Coordinated Plan.

The team is now scheduling a series of virtual strategy sessions in July.

Anyone who uses human service transportation, providers of transportation, and representatives of advocacy organizations that support the target populations are invited to attend. Please note that the presentation content will be the same for both meetings. A copy of the presentation will be shared on the [RIPTA website](#) before the first session. There are two ways to participate:

1. Attend a Virtual Strategy Session on Zoom

Tuesday, July 19th, 3:30pm to 5:00pm or Wednesday, July 27th, 12:30pm to 2:00pm. Click on the link above for the meeting you plan to attend to RSVP and receive log-in information.

- To request ASL interpretation or other accommodations, contact:
Joelle Kanter by July 12th at jkanter@ripta.com or (401) 784-9500 x1283.

2. Review the presentation [here](#) and provide comments via email by Friday, July 29th

You can submit your comments or ideas to RIPTA, or ask a friend or advocate to send them in for you. Send comments to Joelle Kanter at jkanter@ripta.com by Friday, July 29 with the subject line "**Coordinated Plan Comments**".

Next Steps

Following these sessions, the consulting team will work with RIPTA and the RI Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council to draft the updated Coordinated Plan, which will include:

- An inventory of human services transportation providers in RI
- An assessment of transportation needs and gaps
- A review of ongoing programs and initiatives in RI as well as best practices from other regions
- Updated strategies for enhancing human services transportation and coordination in RI

For more information on the Coordinated Plan, see <https://www.ripta.com/coordinatedplan/>

Contacting DD Staff

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter.

Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00
for questions or support
(401) 462-3421

Para español, llame
(401) 462-3014

Send general questions to the
AskDD email address.

BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Please do not email critical issues.

Sign Up for Our Email List

If you aren't receiving email updates
and newsletters from BHDDH, you can
[sign up here](#) or on our website. Go to

<https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/events/newsandupdates/> to sign up or to see
past quarterly newsletters and issues of DD News.



SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, BH Link is here for you

BH Link's mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. Call 911 if there is risk of immediate danger. Visit the BH Link website at www.bhlink.org or for confidential support and to get connected to care:

CALL (401) 414-LINK (5465) If under 18 CALL: (855) KID(543)-LINK(5465)

Visit the 24-HOUR/7-DAY TRIAGE CENTER at 975 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

For Information on the Consent Decree

For information on the Consent Decree and BHDDH, see <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/consent-decree>.

COVID-19 Information

Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 Resources

Hotline (401) 222-8022 or 211 after hours;
Email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov
Website <https://health.ri.gov/covid/>
Includes a link to ASL videos

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

Website <https://ripin.org/covid-19-resources/>
Call Center (401) 270-0101 or email callcenter@ripin.org

Advocates in Action – for videos and easy to read materials

Website <https://www.advocatesinaction.org/>
Website offers BrowseAloud, which will read the website to you

Division of Developmental Disabilities - All Staff Contacts

Main Phone #: (401) 462-3421 **TDD:** (401) 462-3226 **Website:** <https://bhddh.ri.gov/>
Fax: (401) 462-2775 **Spanish Line:** (401) 462-3014 **BH Link:** 401-414-5465

To report abuse/neglect:
 (401) 462-2629

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Vacant	Administrator, Employment	462-3857	

Case Management Units

East Providence/Pawtucket/Central Falls region

Marguerite Belisle	Casework Supervisor	462-0714	Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov
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Mary Beth Silveria	Social Caseworker II	462-2438	Marybeth.Silveria@bhddh.ri.gov
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Northern RI/West Bay/Kent Region

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Erin Simonelli	Social Caseworker II	462-2502	Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov

South County/West Bay/Kent Region

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Vacancy		462-2563	

Providence/West Bay/Kent Region

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Transition Unit

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Support Staff

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Lori Vandall	Clerk Typist	462-6086	Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov



Introduces online

The RI Sibling Community Initiative

We launch this initiative by screening “My Brother is Deaf” and hearing from its director, Peter Hoffman Kimball. Featuring Kimball’s sons, Bennett and Lincoln, this heartwarming film premiered at Slamdance and won such awards as Best Short Documentary at the DC Independent Film Festival and the ADA Award for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access from the Thomas Edison Film Festival.

Saturday, July 9

7:00 – 8:30

Register on Zoom by clicking [here](#).

First in a series of Zoom events to encourage the development of a sibling information, support and activity network in Rhode Island, this launch was generously funded by a community-building grant from the RI Foundation. Everyone is welcome to join these Zoom sessions, most especially families that include a member of any age with any disability.

Personal Lifetime Advocacy Networks of RI (**PLAN RI**) helps families plan a good life for and with their relatives with disabilities. A facilitator helps them organize a personal support network to promote their active inclusion in the community. Please direct questions to John or Connie Susa at (401) 785-9541.

As we proceed through this series, we welcome the ongoing collaboration of Akalaka, a national sibling support organization and The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College.

PLAN RI is building networks for life.

SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS NETWORK

A NETWORK OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY MEMBERS USING SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS IN RHODE ISLAND

ONLINE MEETING
TUESDAY, July 12, 2022
7:00 – 8:30 PM

Presentation & Dialogue with: Kevin Nerney

Learn about different Trust options and the ABLÉ Account

(Invite your Direct Support Professionals to join)

This meeting will take place online using Zoom. When you RSVP, you will receive an email with the directions and a password to join the meeting. You can connect by computer, mobile device, or listen using your telephone. You may be prompted to download an app depending on the device you plan to use.

The Self-Directed Supports Network is a resource for individuals and families using self-directed supports through the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Meetings provide an opportunity to share experiences and learn from others.

AGENDA

7:00 – 8:00 – Presentation & Dialogue with Kevin - Trusts & the ABLÉ Account
8:00 – 8:30 – The future of Self-Directed users group support network meetings

RSVP LINK: <https://bit.ly/2YUamqz>

Please RSVP using the link above. Click the link or cut and paste it into your browser. If you need a reasonable accommodation (e.g., ASL Interpreter, captions) or information in a language other than English, please make your needs known when you RSVP.



For questions, call or email Crystal Cerullo, Sherlock Center on Disabilities:

Email: ccerullo@ric.edu

Voice: 401-456-8915 TTY: 711

OLMSTEAD COALITION GUBERNATORIAL FORUM



RIGHT PLACE RIGHT NOW!

The US Supreme Court required in the Olmstead decision that people with disabilities have the right to live in the community

Unfortunately too many people are segregated because services and supports are not being provided

Join us to hear each candidates' views on Olmstead Plans and how they will help establish one if elected.

**44 STATES HAVE
CREATED
OLMSTEAD
PLANS OR
ALTERNATIVE
STRATEGIES.**

**RHODE ISLAND
HAS NEITHER**

TUESDAY, JULY 26TH

10:00-11:00 Forum

11:00-12:00 Resource Fair

RI Dept. of Administration

1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

Conference Rooms A, B, C



 SCAN ME

RSVP encouraged but not necessary, rsvp@mhari.org