



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 or [download the presentation 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](#)
- The survey will close on July 22
- 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

July 15 is Developmental Disability Professionals Day



Developmental Disability Professionals Day is observed on July 15 every year. This day is all about recognizing the important work done by developmental disability professionals. They go by many names, but formal titles aside, these disability professionals fulfill a variety of roles - from advocate to supporter to educator to leader.

We want to pay particular attention to Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), who are the bridge between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their communities. They work to help people become integrated and thrive in all areas, from employment opportunities to daily activities like grocery shopping or preparing meals at home for

themselves to enjoying life doing what they want to do. All of these dedicated professionals have been working diligently during COVID, and covering for a shortage of workers in the field. We appreciate all they do!

Your Feedback is Needed for a Survey about Transportation Options in Rhode Island

The [Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council](#) is conducting a survey about the following publicly-funded transportation services in our state:

- RI Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA) Fixed Route and Flex Bus
- The Ride Program- RIPTA ADA Paratransit and contracted services for the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Non-Emergency Medical (NEMT) and Elderly Transportation Program (ETP), which are currently provided by MTM
- Local Van Services provided by Cities and Towns
- Rhode Island's Commuter Rail and Train Service

The information you provide will help the Coordinating Council better understand how publicly-funded transportation services meet the needs of ALL Rhode Islanders and identify areas for improvement in our state.

[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)

This survey is open to everyone.

If you don't use any of these public transportation options, you can still take the survey to give your feedback on why they don't work for you.

TechACCESS Can Help With Smart Home Technology

Smart home technology can increase the independence of individuals with disabilities within their home environment. Systems such as Alexa, Google Home and Apple HomeKit can integrate many tasks and make them voice accessible. While this technology is mainstream, selecting the appropriate devices and effectively integrating them into an individual's home and daily routines can be challenging. TechACCESS can provide consultation and installation of smart home technology, including:

- Cameras
- Doorbells
- Lighting (indoor and outdoor)
- Door locks
- Thermostats
- Motion sensors
- Amazon and Google hubs

TechACCESS has received several grants to evaluate smart home needs and provide equipment. For additional information, visit the [TechAccess website](#), call (401) 463-0202, or email techaccess@techaccess-ri.org.

TechACCESS believes that an informed consumer working collaboratively with knowledgeable professionals can best identify and select effective technology devices and services to improve his or her independent functioning. To achieve this, they offer programs to assistive technology users, families, educational and therapeutic professionals, and others interested in learning more about assistive technology.

For additional resources, see the TechACCESS [current newsletter](#).



Benefits Check Up Tool

The [National Council on Aging](#) (NCOA) has a free [BenefitsCheckUp tool](#), used to connect aging professionals and their community to benefits programs, has been updated to be more accessible. The new version of the tool includes the following features:

- Details on 2,000 benefits in English and Spanish, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicare Savings Programs, Affordable Connectivity Program, and more
- Free, confidential eligibility checks by program or category
- Personalized support via a call center, chat, email, and connections to local centers



[Click Here to explore the tool](#)

**Financial Security for New Workers with Disabilities: Understanding
ABLE Today and Future Opportunities for Advancement**

Wednesday, July 20

2:00 – 3:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Despite a booming job market, fears over inflation and rising costs are putting conversations about financial security front and center for millions of Americans. These conversations are especially important for people with disabilities and their families. Supported by the National Association of State Treasurers Foundation (NAST Foundation) and Wells Fargo, the new National ABLE Initiative (ABLE today) is a major effort to improve the financial wellbeing of millions of people with disabilities and increase the number of people with disabilities who hold ABLE accounts.

This webinar will be an exciting and dynamic conversation about the personal benefits of opening an ABLE savings account and how it connects to advancing job opportunities for people with disabilities.

**White House Office of Public Engagement:
Disabled Stakeholder Calls for Disability Pride Month**

Thursdays, July 21 and 28 at 2:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)



You're invited to join Emily Voorde, the White House liaison to Disabled Americans, for a community update call. This call is open registration, closed press, and will provide updates for the Disabled community. All are welcome!

**Upcoming Meeting of the President's Committee
for People with Intellectual Disabilities**

Thursday, July 28, 2022

12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) will host a virtual meeting for its members to identify emerging topics to examine in the Committee's Report to the President. All the PCPID meetings are open to the public. Comments and suggestions from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are strongly encouraged.

Choosing a Health Care Power of Attorney: Who Is Your ‘Who’?

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

3:00-4:30 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Person-centered practice includes advance care planning for healthcare and other decisions. Recent research describes some challenges with advance care planning. For example, people change their minds, and it’s hard for people to imagine into the future what their healthcare wishes may be when they don’t have personal experiences upon which to draw. Additional research also identifies what works, and what is useful and effective practice. One key is having a trusted person who can act on the person’s behalf when they’re unable to act, and formalizing that relationship in a healthcare power of attorney.

This session on advance care planning and healthcare decision making will focus on four critical elements in healthcare decision making and advance care planning:

1. How do you help someone identify the person “who” can serve as a healthcare power of attorney?
2. What options exist for people who have no unpaid supports in their lives? What is the role of the service provider and how can we help people find that person “who” can serve as a decision maker?
3. What are the implications of culture on helping someone identify “who” can be their healthcare power of attorney?
4. What is the role of state surrogate decision making laws in designating “who” will make a healthcare decision?

NCAPPS webinars include ASL interpretation and live-captions in both English and Spanish. If you require any additional accommodations, please contact Saska Rajcevic at srajcevic@hsri.org.

Recordings of Past Webinars

[Person-Centered Decision Making in Healthcare and End of Life Care](#)

This webinar explored the benefits and the limitations of advance care planning as a more person-centered approach to care. Advance care planning and health care directives are written instructions that tell people who care about you, others, and providers the type of medical care you want in the event that you’re not able to speak for yourself.

[Pathways to Person-Centered Decision-Making and Alternatives to Guardianship](#)

This webinar explored how disability systems are expanding alternatives to guardianship, such as supported decision-making where people choose supporters to help them make important decisions in their lives. Also see the printed resource: [How to Expand Supported Decision-Making and Increase Informed Choices](#).

The National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) is an initiative from the Administration for Community Living and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help States to implement person-centered practices.



Poetry Contest on Disability and Health

The Narrative Matters section of the October issues of [Health Affairs](#), focused on disability and health, is holding a poetry contest. *Health Affairs* is looking for poems touching on topics related to disabilities and health by writers who have experience with disability. Family members and caregivers of people with disabilities are welcomed to submit work as well. The winner will receive a \$500 prize and have their poem featured in the October issue of *Health Affairs*.

The deadline to submit a poem is **Monday, July 25, 2022**. [Click here for more information.](#)

Guidelines for Submission

- Limit 3 poems submitted per person.
- Each poem should be submitted as a separate entry through our submission portal here: <https://healthaffairs.submittable.com/submit/707cb7e9-ed81-49ea-8695-568657fff799/narrative-matters-poetry-contest-on-disability-and-health>
- Poems can be submitted in written, audio or video format (for sign language/ASL poetry).
- Written poems should be submitted in pdf or word doc format. No longer than a single-spaced page, with a font size no smaller than 11 point, and must be written in English.
- Audio format poems should be submitted as an audio file (please use mp3 format). No longer than 4 minutes and must also be in English.
- Video format poems in sign language/ASL should be submitted as a video file with either captioning or spoken interpretation (please use mp4 format). No longer than 4 minutes.
- Format type will not be a factor in the judges' evaluation; all format types will be considered objectively.
- Poems must be previously unpublished.
- Poems themselves should not contain the poet's name.

You can read some earlier poems published by *Health Affairs*, including the winners of the [2015](#) and [2019](#) Narrative Matters poetry contests, poems by [patients and consumers](#), poems on [vulnerable populations](#), and poems on the [cancer experience](#).

WheelchairTravel.org

Being able to navigate the environment as independently as possible is important, as is having environments as accessible as possible. For many individuals using mobility aids (wheelchairs, scooters, walkers), gaining access to places and spaces within their community can be challenging. [WheelchairTravel.org](#) has great [lists of accessible activities in various destinations](#), including a list for [Providence, RI](#). They also have a great travel resources.



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

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Kevin Savage	Director	462-0581	Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov
Heather Mincey	Assistant Director	462-1218	Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov
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Anne LeClerc	Associate Director, Prgm Perf	462-0192	Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov
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Gerard (Jay) MacKay	Associate Administrator, Employment	462-5279	Gerard.Mackay@bhddh.ri.gov
Erin Perron	Associate Director, RICLAS	462-2180	Erin.Perron@bhddh.ri.gov
Jacqueline Reilly	Programming Services Officer	462-0126	Jacqueline.Reilly@bhddh.ri.gov
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
Amie Adams	Social Caseworker II	462-2480	Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov
Carl Desjarlais	Social Caseworker II	462-1555	Carl.Desjarlais@bhddh.ri.gov
Stacey Perry	Social Caseworker II	462-2418	Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov
Suzanne Porter	Social Caseworker II	462-1972	Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov
Mary Beth Silveria	Social Caseworker II	462-2438	Marybeth.Silveria@bhddh.ri.gov
Heather Soares	Social Caseworker II	462-6097	Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov

Northern RI/West Bay/Kent Region

Janice Bijesse	Casework Supervisor	462-4290	Janice.Bijesse@bhddh.ri.gov
Mary Cameron	Social Caseworker II	462-1307	Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov
Jackie Camilloni	Social Caseworker II	462-3022	Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov
Megan Gilbert	Social Caseworker II	462-2524	Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov
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Natalie Sam	Social Caseworker II	462-2529	Natalie.Sam@bhddh.ri.gov
Erin Simonelli	Social Caseworker II	462-2502	Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov

South County/West Bay/Kent Region

Meredith MacDonald	Casework Supervisor	462-1329	Meredith.Macdonald@bhddh.ri.gov
Timothy Cronin	Social Caseworker II	462-1721	Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov
Jennifer Gouveia	Social Caseworker II	462-0098	Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov
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Joseph Tevyaw	Social Caseworker II	462-2474	Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov
Vacancy		462-2563	

Providence/West Bay/Kent Region

Kelly Petersen	Casework Supervisor	462-3402	Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov
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Eligibility Unit

Karen Lowell	Eligibility Supervisor	462-2209	Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov
Christine Harding	Eligibility Caseworker	462-3233	Christine.Harding@bhddh.ri.gov
Lori Lombardi, RN	PASRR	462-0089	Lori.Lombardiburns@bhddh.ri.gov
Kim Wright	Information Aide	462-2584	Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov

SIS Unit

Donna Standish	SIS Supervisor	462-2628	Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov
Wendy Cormier	SIS Caseworker	462-1302	Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov
Kristen Miga	SIS Caseworker	462-0449	Kristen.Miga@bhddh.ri.gov
Judy Smith	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov
Jamie Fitzgibbons	Social Caseworker II	462-2510	Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov

Transition Unit

Susan Hayward	Administrator, YIT	462-2519	Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov
Carolee Leach	Prof. Services Coordinator	462-1723	Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov

Support Staff

Stephanie Andreozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Lori Vandall	Clerk Typist	462-6086	Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov

Share your ideas for the 2022 statewide

COORDINATED PLAN



3 Ways to Participate

1

Attend a **Virtual Strategy Session** on Zoom

2

Review the presentation online and email comments to jkanter@ripta.com

3

Ask a friend or advocate to submit your comments

RIPTA and the RI Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council are updating the **Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan**.

The plan is updated every 5 years to consider the changing transportation needs of **individuals with disabilities, older adults and others who need transportation assistance**. With your input, it will identify strategies and priorities for implementation and funding.

Visit the project website to register for a strategy session, view the presentations, or learn more about the plan. To request special accommodations, call (401) 784-9500 x1283.

Summer 2022 Virtual Strategy Sessions:

Tuesday, **July 19**
3:30 pm - 5 pm

Wednesday, **July 27**
12:30 pm - 2 pm



To register or learn more, visit [RIPTA.com/CoordinatedPlan](https://www.ripta.com/CoordinatedPlan)



AUGUST 2, 2022 ACCESS FOR ALL ABILITIES MINI-GRANT AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION

4:30 – 6:30 PM **FREE!**

Join the **Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities** at **The Steel Yard** to celebrate the 2022 Access for All Abilities Mini-Grant award recipients. Come and learn how each grant winner plans to make their activities more accessible for people with disabilities. Light refreshments will be available. Tours of The Steel Yard will be offered upon request.

Please RSVP by Friday, July 29. All are welcome!

Grants are awarded for the purpose of increasing access for people with disabilities to social, leisure, recreational, and cultural activities. The 2022 award recipients include:

- Biomes Marine Biology Center
- RIOT RI
- Shri Service Corps
- The Steel Yard

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities / RI College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908
Voice: 401-456-8072
TTY via RI Relay: 711 or 1-800-745-5555
Spanish via RI Relay: 711 or 1-866-355-9214

Date:

August 2, 2022
4:30 – 6:30 PM

Location:

The Steel Yard
27 Sims Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
www.thesteelyard.org

Accommodations:

Please let us know if you need handicap parking or other accommodations (e.g. ASL or language interpreter) when you RSVP.



RSVP BY JULY 29TH

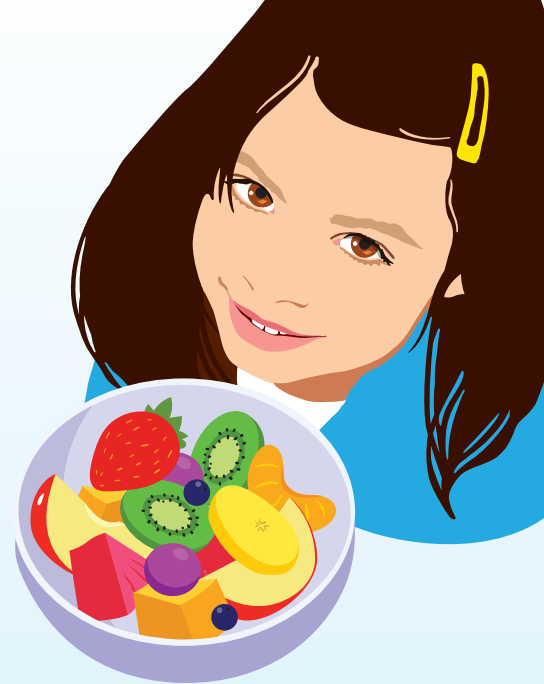
Online:
<https://bit.ly/3ygg08w>

Phone: 401-456-8072
Email: esollecito@ric.edu

For questions, contact Elaine Sollecito by email at esollecito@ric.edu or call 401-456-2764.

RI SUMMER MEALS

Available on the
App Store



Healthy Kids. Healthy Communities. Healthy Rhode Island.
Niños Saludables. Comunidades Saludables. Un Rhode Island Saludable.

FREE SUMMER MEALS

FOR TEENS AND KIDS
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CALL **211** FOR
LOCATIONS

COMIDA DE VERANO GRATIS

PARA JOVENES Y NIÑOS
EN TU VECINDARIO

LLAMA AL **211** PARA
LOCALIDADES



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