



**Save the Date for the Next DD Community Forum**  
**Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

[Click Here to Register](#)



Join BHDDH for a DD Community Forum on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00-4:30 PM to get the latest news from the BHDDH Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Everyone must register in advance. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with your unique login details to join the forum.

When you register, you can enter your questions or comments about the RI DD System. Director Kevin Savage and the DD team will answer questions and share other information and updates at this quarterly online event.

The forum will be hosted by Advocates in Action and will be held on Zoom. You will also be able to call in. If you can't join us, the forum will be recorded to watch later.

An ASL interpreter will be present at this event. For other accommodation requests, please email [MichelleWhite@AdvocatesinAction.org](mailto:MichelleWhite@AdvocatesinAction.org) no later than Wednesday, August 10th.

If you have any questions or need assistance registering, call Advocates in Action toll-free: 1-877-532-5543, or email [aina@AdvocatesinAction.org](mailto:aina@AdvocatesinAction.org).

**Public Comment on Proposal for DD Rate and Payment Options**

The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) is in the process of reviewing service requirements, provider payment rates, and processes for establishing individual budgets for services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Burns & Associates, a division of Health Management Associates (HMA-Burns) is assisting with this review. HMA-Burns has developed initial recommendations for public review.

**Public Review and Comment**

Two public presentations to present the proposed recommendations were held on Zoom on September 28<sup>th</sup> and September 29<sup>th</sup>. Both were recorded. Recordings of the webinars and a packet of information on the proposed rates, and other related materials can be found on the BHDDH website at <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/rate-and-payment-methodology-review-project/public-comment>.

**Please submit comments by Monday, October 24, 2022**

Written comments should be submitted to [bsmith@healthmanagement.com](mailto:bsmith@healthmanagement.com).

## **Rhode Island Medicaid 1115 Waiver Extension**

Rhode Island operates the majority of its Medicaid program through an 1115 waiver, including DD services. The 1115 waiver (called “the Demonstration”) has been in place since 2009. The Demonstration allows the State to pursue innovations that improve health care access, quality and outcomes by providing medical and behavioral health services to eligible beneficiaries. The Demonstration is currently authorized for five years through 2023. The Annual Demonstration Monitoring Report for the 2021 calendar year is available [here](#).

### **RI EOHHS Public Forum on the progress of the current Demonstration**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

**8:30 AM**

**Location:** 3 West Road, Virks Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Training Room, Cranston, RI 02920

### **Waiver Extension**

To continue the Demonstration for another five-year period, the state is submitting an extension request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The public will have 30 days to provide comment on the proposed waiver extension request, beginning **September 30, 2022**, and ending on **November 1, 2022**. The public notice is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Documents about the proposed extension [can be found here](#). There are also two upcoming public hearings to discuss the proposed waiver extension request.

#### **Waiver Extension Public Hearing Dates**

##### **Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Peace Dale Library  
1057 Kingstown Road  
Peace Dale, RI 02879

**Also available for virtual participation  
via Zoom or phone:**

[Click Here to join the Zoom public hearing](#)

Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099  
Meeting ID: 876 1653 3965  
Passcode: 867253

##### **Thursday, October 27, 2022**

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Woonsocket Public Library  
303 Clinton Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

**Also available for virtual participation  
via Zoom or phone:**

[Click Here to join the Zoom public hearing](#)

Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099  
Meeting ID: 815 4981 1005  
Passcode: 132667

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments on the waiver extension draft or the public notice and comment period please send a message to the Waiver Extension Mailbox at [OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov).

## **COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) Continues**

On October 13, the federal COVID public health emergency (PHE) was renewed. States will be given 60 days notice before the federal PHE for COVID ends. Some flexibilities that Medicaid has approved during the PHE will be able to continue for 6 months after the PHE ends. This includes hiring parents/guardians.

This means that once the federal government announces the end of the PHE, we will be able to continue options such as hiring of parents for up to 8 months. The State continues to work with the Medicaid office to make some of the COVID options permanent.

## **COVID Update**

All 5 Rhode Island counties have moved from low to medium COVID-19 Community Level transmission. Learn about steps you can take to protect yourself and others from severe impacts of COVID-19, including staying up to date with your vaccines at .

## **Bivalent COVID Boosters Now Available**

Bivalent booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine are now authorized and recommended for people age 5 or older. “Bivalent” means that doses protect people against TWO strains of COVID-19, the original strain and the Omicron variant. Pfizer has a bivalent booster for people age 5 or older. Moderna has a bivalent booster for people age 6 or older. These bivalent boosters are available at most places that offer COVID-19 vaccine now. To find a vaccine near you, visit [Vaccines.Gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

### **Updated COVID-19 Booster Doses**

**New boosters are now available to provide increased protection against Omicron variants.**

#### **When to get the updated booster**

At least **2** months after your last COVID-19 dose – either a booster dose or your primary series.

#### **Who should get the updated booster**

Individuals age **5** and up are eligible for the updated Pfizer booster, and adults age **6** and up are eligible for the updated Moderna booster.



**Health Risk-Informed Telemedicine:**  
**A Model for Improving Health Equity for People with IDD**

**Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 2:00 - 3:00 PM**

**[Click here to register](#)**

Equitable access to telemedicine and other healthcare services is a challenge for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) because most clinicians are not aware of the unique health risks that exist for this population. As a result, the health conditions most likely to result in morbidity and mortality are overlooked or misdiagnosed.

This presentation highlights an innovative model and public/private partnership comprised of three key elements: online clinician education in IDD healthcare, the use of web-based health risk-informed data, and IDD competent telemedicine supports. Strategies for preventing unnecessary emergency department visits, promoting identification and diagnosis of often-missed health conditions, and addressing health disparities for people with IDD will be explored.

**Disability Rights Rhode Island Seeks**  
**New Members to Join the PAIMI Advisory Council**

Disability Rights Rhode Island (DRRI), the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency for Rhode Island, is seeking applications or nominations for new members of the PAIMI Advisory Council (PAC) to advance the work of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 10801). The PAIMI Advisory Council provides P&A agencies independent advice and recommendations relating to individuals with mental health disabilities and challenges.

Are you an individual, family member, parent, provider or attorney who has experience with mental health challenges or services? Are you looking for a vital way to contribute your interest and experience for better and more effective mental health supports and services? This is a small personal commitment, but provides a huge benefit, as well as camaraderie and community! PAIMI Advisory Council members meet every other month for one hour, and help DRRI develop their priorities for their work, in addition to pursuing separate PAC activities and advocacy.

DRRI is especially seeking PAC members who have lived experience with mental health challenges, as well as parents of individuals with mental health challenges, both children and adults.



For more information or to apply for a position on the PAIMI Advisory Council, please contact DRRI Executive Director, Morna Murray, at [mmurray@drri.org](mailto:mmurray@drri.org).



## DD State Workforce Initiative Participation Opportunities

BHDDH, the Department of Labor & Training (DLT), DD providers, and other community partners are working together to address the shortage of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

The State Workforce Initiative has a vision that Rhode Island will have a sustainable, comprehensive, diverse DSP workforce who have the knowledge and skills to provide high quality services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities.

There are three ways people who use DD services and DSPs can participate.

### **1. Tell your story about what DSPs do**

Whether you're a current or former DSP or you are someone who is supported by a DSP, the initiative would like your help to develop testimonials to use in social media recruiting efforts. A \$50 honorarium will be provided in recognition of the time commitment.

### **2. Help with recruiting events**

We are also looking for people interested in participating in recruiting events. An honorarium will also be provided to DSPs who participate in recruiting events. How much will be paid will be based on the length of each event.

### **3. DSP Advisory Council**

The statewide workforce initiative is convening a DSP Advisory Council. This council will meet quarterly.

**If you are interested in any of these opportunities,  
please email [RI.Workforce@sagesquirrel.com](mailto:RI.Workforce@sagesquirrel.com)**

## BHDDH and The Arc of RI Pilot Project to Help Self-Directed Individuals Hire DSPs

The ARC of Rhode Island, in partnership with BHDDH, has begun an outreach campaign to increase interest in the role of DSPs. The campaign consists of radio ads in English and Spanish, social media ads, and community based recruiting. People who are interested may call the ARC at **401-363-9899** or see the RI ARC website for more information on [applying to be a DSP](#).

If you self-direct your BHDDH services and are looking for support staff, please call ARC at 401-363-9899 to learn more about connecting with people who have expressed interest in becoming a DSP.



## **New National Technical Assistance and Resource Center to Improve Support for People with Intellectual, Developmental, and Mental Health Disabilities**



The Administration on Community Living (ACL) has awarded a cooperative agreement totaling an estimated \$3.25 million over five years to create a national technical assistance and resource center that will improve support for people with co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and mental health needs so they can live and participate in their communities.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a [Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration](#). *The Roadmap*, which was developed in support of the President’s strategy to address the national mental health crisis, affirmed HHS’s commitment to “providing the full spectrum of integrated, equitable, evidence-based, culturally appropriate and person-centered behavioral health care.” It outlined a range of actions to be taken, including the creation of this new resource center that will help to ensure that people with I/DD have access to the behavioral health care they need.

Research has shown that people with I/DD who also have mental health needs – estimated at more than a third of people with I/DD – are less likely to access appropriate services when experiencing mental health crises than people without I/DD. They are more likely to be institutionalized than people with either disability alone, and they often remain in institutions longer than people who have only I/DD or mental health disabilities because they cannot access the services they need to live in the community. In addition, according to the [National Core Indicators Consumer Survey](#), when compared to their peers with I/DD only, people with both I/DD and mental health disabilities who live in the community are more likely to live in congregate settings (such as group homes) rather than independent settings and to report feeling lonely. They are less likely to be in excellent or very good health or to report having friends. They also earn less than their peers without mental health disabilities.

The grant was awarded to the [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services](#) (NASDDDS) in partnership with the [National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors](#) (NASMHPD), and the [National Association for the Dually Diagnosed](#) (NADD). Other key partners include:

- [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#)
- [Center for Systemic Therapeutic Assessment, Resources and Treatment](#) (START) Services at the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability
- [CommunicationFIRST](#)
- [Green Mountain Self-Advocates](#)
- [Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University](#)
- [Sonoran Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#) at the University of Arizona.

The Center will focus on systemwide capacity building by supporting state agencies, including state behavioral health, developmental disabilities and Medicaid agencies, with resources related to policy development, service design, and service coordination across agencies. Guided by people with lived experience, including those from underserved communities, the center also will provide information, training, peer-to-peer learning for people with dual I/DD-mental health diagnoses, their families, and the professionals who work with them.

This center will build on the work of [ACL's UCEDD National Training Initiative to Support People with I/DD and Mental Health Disabilities](#). Through that project multidisciplinary teams from state I/DD and mental/behavioral health agencies developed a shared training infrastructure for their staff that focuses on improving coordination of the services people with both conditions receive from these agencies.

The Center also will leverage the recommendations of [ACL's Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities](#) at the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, which include increasing opportunities for medical students to specialize in serving people with I/DD; increasing knowledge of mental health characteristics among people with disabilities; improving the healthcare system; and conducting research related to the co-occurrence of disability and mental health conditions, needed treatments, and suicide prevention for this community.

The cooperative agreement is funded under the Projects of National Significance. Through the [Projects of National Significance](#) program projects, ACL supports the development of national and state policy and awards grants and contracts that enhance the independence, productivity, inclusion, and integration of people with I/DD.

## **Employees with IDD**

An article in #evolve Magazine, [Employees with IDDS](#), discusses the importance of eliminating stigma that surrounds employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by sharing stories, providing supports, and hiring people with IDD.

Many feel frustrated with the slow progress of social justice movements. Though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed 32 years ago, people with disabilities still face discrimination in employment and in our communities. Progress may be slow, but it is happening. People with disabilities have been fighting on the front lines for disability justice long before 1991.

"I view myself as being part of a social change movement, and what I realize in looking at social change [is that] absolutely nothing happens quickly. Nothing. You just have to chip away at it, because you can get very frustrated, but have to recognize that, especially since the passage of the ADA, the recognition of people with disabilities is still a relatively new concept. For decades they were secluded away, in institutions, not allowed to work, not allowed to really be in the community. And there are still massive public policy changes that could happen, but we do have to recognize that there is progress. It's slow, but steady."

The article also highlights the importance of sharing success stories and providing job supports, including the role of business engagement in employment services.

Read the full article, [Employees with IDDS](#), in #evolve magazine.

## **SuperFest Disability Film Festival**

**Thursday, October 20th**

**through**

**Sunday, October 23rd**

Superfest Disability Film Festival is the longest running disability film festival in the world. It has become an eagerly anticipated international event hosted by [Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State](#). For over 30 years, Superfest has celebrated cutting-edge cinema that portrays disability through a diverse, complex, unabashed and engaging lens. Superfest is one of the few festivals worldwide that prioritizes access for disabled filmgoers of all kinds.

This year, the festival includes four days of virtual access to all of this year's films. All films are available 24/7 starting October 20 at 12:01am PT to October 23, 11:59pm PT. Once you unlock, you will have 96 hours to access the films (*so if you unlock for the first time Sunday evening, you'll actually be able to keep watching the films after the festival is over*).

For more details about the films, visit <https://superfest.eventive.org/films>.

### **Passes**

All passes include full access to the films online anytime during Superfest weekend. After you unlock a screening, you will have 96 hours to finish watching it. You may pause and resume at your leisure within this timeframe.

There are different prices offered on a sliding scale, including complimentary passes for those unable to pay.

Go to <https://superfest.eventive.org/passes/buy> to get tickets.



### **Superfest Community Conversation (ONLINE)**

**Sunday, October 23, 9-10:30 PM ET**

Once you've watched some of the films from Superfest 2022, come chat with other Superfest attendees and share your reactions with some of the filmmakers and disability community members, moderated by our Cafe Crip leader, Bianca Laureano. What did you love? Which film gave you that moment of joy, seeing your story told without stereotypes or pity? What was your best laugh? What film went over your head?

ASL (Deaf interpreters) and live captioning provided.

You can access [the Zoom link directly here](#) Meeting Id: 831 9543 2021 and password: Superfest



## **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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	

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#### *South County/West Bay/Kent Region*

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#### Transition Unit

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#### Support Staff

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# VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES GET READY NOW TO VOTE

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS:

### Primary Election Key Dates

- August 14: Last day to register to vote.
- August 23: Last day to request mail ballot.
- August 24: Early voting begins.
- September 13: Primary Election at the polls.

### General Election Key Dates

- October 9: Last day to register to vote.
- October 18: Last day to request mail ballot.
- October 19: Early voting begins.
- November 8: General Election at the polls.

For the Mid-term elections in fall of 2022, RI voters will select many local and federal officials including for U.S. Congress, Governor of Rhode Island, Mayor of Providence and more.

If a person has a RI License or State ID, they may register to vote or update registration online at <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/>. Otherwise, they must complete a Registration Form and return it to the election office called the Local Board of Canvassers in their city or town. **We can help!**

**CALL US: Contact Disability Rights Rhode Island (DRRI) at 401-831-3150 or 1-800-733-5332 for help to register to vote, with questions about voting rights or how to vote, if your voting rights have been violated, or to request that we provide a training about voting.** Please call us if you experience a disability-related barrier to accessing your polling place or casting a ballot and you wish to request our assistance.

## VOTING RIGHTS:

- Voters have the right to an accessible polling place.
- Voters have the right to assistance with marking their ballot.
- Voters have the right to use an accessible voting system by mail or in-person.
- Voters have a right to register and vote upon release after a felony conviction.
- Voters have the right to file an administrative complaint about voting rights violations.
- Voters with a legal guardian have a right to vote unless there is a written court order specifically stating they are not allowed to vote.

## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

To find out what will be on your ballot, voters may call DRRI or the Local Board of Canvassers about 30 days before the election and ask them to send a sample ballot or voters can visit the Secretary of State's website to check their voter registration status and find a sample of their ballot. On the website, the voter first checks their registration status, next scroll to "Upcoming Elections" and then click where it says "view sample ballot" for a sample ballot for your district. Contact DRRI if you need help.

## WAYS TO VOTE:

Voters may vote in-person **at the polls** on Election Day, in-person at **Early Voting** in the 20 days prior to Election Day or **by mail**. Voters may find the location of their polling place or early voting by calling DRRI, the Secretary of State's office at (401) 222-2340, or their Local Board Canvassers. Voters may also obtain information about the location of their polling place by visiting the Secretary of State's website at <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/>. If the voter would like to vote by mail, contact the Local Board of Canvassers at City or Town Hall to ask about the deadlines to meet when applying for a mail ballot.

## PHOTO IDENTIFICATION (ID):

For in-person voting, Rhode Island law requires all voters to present a VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION (ID). ID is valid if it is unexpired or expired no more than six months prior to voting. **Voters will need to present one of the following forms of PHOTO ID:**

RI License;

free RI Voter ID card issued by the Secretary of State's Office;

U.S. Passport;

U.S. educational institution ID;

U.S. military ID;

ID card issued by U.S. or RI with a photo such as a RIPTA bus pass;

Government issued medical card; or

Tribal ID.



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

3 West Road | Virks Building | Cranston, RI 02920

## ABBREVIATED PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST

In accordance with 42 § CFR 431.408 and Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) its request to extend the Rhode Island Comprehensive 1115 Demonstration Waiver (11-W-00242/1) through December 31, 2028. This abbreviated notice serves to formally open the thirty (30) day public comment period, which will begin on September 30, 2022 and conclude on November 1, 2022.

### Program Description

Rhode Island is submitting an extension request for its 1115 waiver. Section 1115 waivers are utilized to implement experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects found to be likely to assist in promoting the objectives of the Medicaid program. Rhode Island's 1115 waiver (hereinafter "the Demonstration") has been in place since 2009. Rhode Island's entire Medicaid program is operated under the Demonstration. The Demonstration offers a complete array of services, including medical, behavioral health, and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), to multiple eligibility groups.

The State sees this waiver extension as an opportunity to continue to build upon its foundational aims while implementing new focused enhancements targeted at behavioral health, social determinants of health, and long-term services and supports. The State has also utilized this waiver renewal to request a number of administrative enhancements to the waiver that will promote efficiency, transparency, and flexibility. All existing beneficiaries covered by the waiver will be impacted by the extension.

The program enhancements and technical revisions requested in this Demonstration extension are each summarized below.

Program Enhancements
<b>Home Stabilization Expansion:</b> EOHHS seeks to expand the pool of qualified providers, expand the targeted population for home stabilization benefits, and add coverage for one (1) time transition costs.
<b>Recuperative Care (Medical Respite) Pilot:</b> EOHHS is seeking authority to establish a pilot program to provide short term residential care to individuals experiencing homelessness in a Recuperative Care Center to allow individuals the opportunity to rest and recover from illness or injury in a safe environment while accessing medical care and other supportive services.
<b>Health Equity Zone (HEZ):</b> EOHHS plans to use several managed care strategies to drive additional funding and support to the fund HEZs in its upcoming MCO procurement, and to use the Demonstration to evaluate the benefits of HEZ investment to support future federal support for HEZ expenditures.
<b>Pre-Release Supports for Incarcerated Individuals:</b> EOHHS is seeking federal authority to provided Medicaid coverage, including enrollment in managed care, to incarcerated individuals thirty (30) days before release to support reintegration and improve access to care upon release.



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<b>Program Enhancements</b>
<b>HCBS Enhancements:</b> EOHHS seeks to permanently continue many of the HCBS flexibilities allowed during the COVID public health emergency, including expanding access to telephonic HCBS assessments, adding remote supports service, and allowing parents to be paid to provide services to adults with disabilities.
<b>Accountable Entities (AE):</b> As federal funding phases out, EOHHS requests removal of the AE related sections of the demonstration but reaffirms continued state commitment to the AEs and furthering value-based payment models in Medicaid.
<b>Managed Dental Benefits for Adults:</b> EOHHS seeks to carve adult dental benefits into the existing RIte Smiles managed care program.

<b>Technical Revisions</b>
<b>Eligibility Revisions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand postpartum coverage to 12 months</li> <li>• Use inclusive pregnancy language in formal documentation</li> <li>• Remove Populations 16 and 23, which are no longer active eligibility categories</li> <li>• Expand financial limits for Budget Population 15 from 300 to 400% of SSI benefit rate</li> </ul>
<b>Benefit Revisions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifying the distinction between Family/Youth Support Partners and Peer Recovery Specialists benefits</li> <li>• Expanding access to complimentary alternative medicine to individuals with certain behavioral health conditions</li> <li>• Codifying family home visiting services as a state plan service</li> </ul>
<b>Removing Inactive Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental Case Management</li> <li>• Healthy Behaviors Incentives</li> <li>• Recovery Navigation</li> </ul>
<b>HCBS Benefit Clarity:</b> EOHHS seeks to make technical revisions to the demonstration documentation to update service definitions to support transparency and benefit clarity.

The proposed extension request along with other related documentation, including the formal public notice, is accessible for public review on the EOHHS website at <https://eohhs.ri.gov/reference-center/medicaid-state-plan-and-1115-waiver/waiver-extension>. In addition, the draft documents are also available in hard copy, located at the Security Desk on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Virks Building at 3 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920.

**Public Hearings**

During the public comment period, the public is invited to provide written comments to EOHHS via US postal service or electronic mail, as well as make comments verbally during several public hearings that will be hosted at geographically diverse locations around the state. Specifically, notice is hereby given in



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accordance with the provisions of Chapter 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, that the Secretary will hold three (3) public hearings, as detailed below, at which time and place all interested persons therein will be heard on the above-mentioned matter. Public hearings will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

Public Hearing #1	Public Hearing #2	Public Hearing #3
October 12, 2022 5:30-7:00 p.m. Pawtucket Public Library 13 Summer Street Pawtucket, RI 02860 <b>Also available for virtual participation:</b> Zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85040776334?pwd=WIMvRHNLZnBkYkxETTBOcDN6aWo5QT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85040776334?pwd=WIMvRHNLZnBkYkxETTBOcDN6aWo5QT09</a> Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 850 4077 6334 Passcode: 226735	October 25, 2022 3:00-4:30 p.m. Peace Dale Library 1057 Kingstown Road Peace Dale, RI 02879 <b>Also available for virtual participation:</b> Zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87616533965?pwd=NFFpWnJFQkVnekp4NnlicG54Z2JUz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87616533965?pwd=NFFpWnJFQkVnekp4NnlicG54Z2JUz09</a> Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 876 1653 3965 Passcode: 867253	October 27, 2022 5:30-7:00 p.m. Woonsocket Public Library 303 Clinton Street Woonsocket, RI 02895 <b>Also available for virtual participation:</b> Zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81549811005?pwd=WG9ySDZBMXVvYllrMWJlY3FjUzNDUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81549811005?pwd=WG9ySDZBMXVvYllrMWJlY3FjUzNDUT09</a> Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 815 4981 1005 Passcode: 132667

In addition to the above public hearings, EOHHS will also accept public comment on the proposed extension request during the Health System Transformation Project (HSTP) Accountable Entity (AE) Advisory Committee Meeting on **October 18, 2022, 8:30am at 3 West Road, Virks Building 1st Floor Training Room, Cranston, RI 02920**. Also available for virtual participation:

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84460354854?pwd=R1BydGE1ZIN4ZVNpNkxFTUd4cHR4dz09>.

Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099

Meeting ID: 844 6035 4854

Passcode: 311195

### Public Comments

Interested persons should submit comments to EOHHS on the proposed extension on or before **November 1, 2022**. Comments can be submitted via email to [OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov) or by mail to Amy Katzen, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920.

### Non-Discrimination and Accommodations

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief, or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.

The Pawtucket Public Library, Peace Dale Public Library, Woonsocket Public Library, and the Virks Building are all accessible to persons with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/ captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please notify the





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Executive Office at [OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov) or (401) 462-6222 (hearing/speech impaired, dial 711) at least three (3) business days prior to the public hearing so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

**To request interpreter services at any of these events, please notify the Executive Office at [OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov) at least five (5) business days in advance. Interpreter services will be made available at no cost to the person requesting.**

**Si necesita servicios de interpretación en cualquiera de estos eventos, por favor solicítelos a la Oficina Ejecutiva al correo electrónico [OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov) con al menos cinco (5) días hábiles de antelación. Los servicios de interpretación están a disposición de los solicitantes de forma gratuita.**

**Para solicitar serviços de intérprete em qualquer um destes eventos, por favor, notifique o Gabinete Executivo através do endereço [OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov) com, pelo menos, cinco (5) dias úteis de antecedência. Os serviços de intérprete serão disponibilizados sem custo para a pessoa que solicita.**