



Date Change

The Next DD Community Forum Will Be Moved to March 22

Wednesday, March 22, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

The DD Community Forum is being moved to **Wednesday, March 22**. DD senior staff need to attend a House Finance Committee hearing on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 21, the original date of the community forum.

If you registered for the original community forum, you do not need to register again. You should have already received an update for the rescheduled date.

If you have not yet registered, 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. If you have any questions or need assistance registering, call Advocates in Action toll-free: 1-877-532-5543, or email aina@AdvocatesinAction.org.



March is DD Awareness Month



The DD Awareness Month (DDAM) campaign highlights how people with and without disabilities come together to form strong communities. DDAM raises awareness of the inclusion and contributions of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life, and it's a time to explore the work we still need to do to remove barriers.

This month, BHDDH Director Charest, DD Director Kevin Savage, and Chief of Staff Liz Silvestre visited the CEO Amy Gratten at the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RI College to get an in-depth look at the work they do promoting policies and inclusion for individuals with disabilities. They are also an excellent resource for family members, educators, and elected officials.



**Save the Date for the
Next Technology Fund Forum**
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Rhode Island College

You are invited to come learn more about the Tech Fund and how it can benefit you on April 5th in person at Rhode Island College. People

who have used the Tech Fund will share their experience with their new technology. They will share how they are using it in their daily life, how it has benefited them, and what challenges they have faced. There will be refreshments. Watch for more details coming soon!

**Adopting a Competency-Based Approach to
Recruitment, Retention, and Training**
April 12, 2023, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
[Click Here to Register](#)

The Rhode Island Statewide Workforce Initiative Training and Professional Development Workgroup recently endorsed a set of 15 competencies for direct support professionals (DSPs) that aim to prepare workers to navigate challenges, provide high-quality supports and services, and assist people with I/DD in achieving their goals.

In this webinar, learn from an expert panel about how provider agencies and people who direct their services can use the new competencies for wide-ranging applications, including DSP training, recruitment, and retention. During this session:

- **Mary Madden**, Conversion Institute Facilitator at Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disability, will provide background about the Training and Professional Development Workgroup and how the core competencies fit into the group's broader vision.
- **Robert D. Kalaskowski**, Assistant Director of Planning and Program Development at the RI Department of Labor and Training, will introduce the competencies and their intended impact.
- **PJ Harder**, Director of Training and Development at Perspectives Corporation, will describe how her team is leveraging the core competencies to stabilize their DSP workforce.

By the end of this session, attendees will learn how to apply the new core competencies in workforce development efforts—and how to get involved in future statewide workforce development activities.

Person-Centered Approaches to Supporting Dignity of Risk for People with Disabilities

Thursday, March 23, 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Dignity of risk is the idea that taking reasonable risks is essential to learning new things and supporting autonomy for people with disabilities. Risk should be balanced with ensuring the person's health and welfare. People with disabilities often have less personal control over risk-taking as a result of other people making decisions about risks that should or shouldn't be taken for them. When people with disabilities are supported to make their own choices and accept the reasonable risk involved, it can lead to personal learning, growth, and feelings of self-worth, autonomy, and independence.

In this webinar, national experts, providers, people with lived experience, and state representatives will examine best practices for assessing and addressing risk through person centered practices while balancing choice, decision-making, and satisfaction. Critical to the success of these concepts is the role of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), and how they are supported to not intervene when someone makes a mistake, how their response can spur learning, and how to recognize when risk is too great and the person's informed decision may lead to significant consequences. Webinar participants will hear stories from several agencies demonstrating real person-centered practice of dignity of risk.

NCAPPS webinars include ASL interpretation, live English captions, and live Spanish interpretation. Please contact Saska Rajcevic at rajcevic@hsri.org if you require additional accommodations. All NCAPPS webinars are recorded and archived and can be viewed on the [NCAPPS Webinars page](#).

Growing Older with Lifelong Intellectual Disabilities: When Dementia is Suspected or Diagnosed

The series begins on Monday, April 10, 2023

Every 2 weeks for 5 sessions

[Click Here to Register](#)

The [National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices](#) (NTG) and University of Rhode Island/VCU has opened registration for its Spring 2023 online ECHO Series -- '***Growing Older with Lifelong Intellectual Disabilities: When Dementia is Suspected or Diagnosed***'.

This ECHO series is a free, practical, case-based education program for health care and social service providers who want to enhance their knowledge, capabilities, and performance related to the care of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities affected by dementia.

This series is a collaboration between the NTG and the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEPS) at the University of Rhode Island and Virginia Commonwealth University and is supported by grants from [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#).

View past ECHO Series at <https://web.uri.edu/rigec/category/professional-education/idd-echo>.

Self-Direction Conference Virtual Series



[Applied Self-Direction](#) hosts the only national conference dedicated to self-direction. They offer the National Self-Direction Conference as an in-person event every other year, with the next to be held on March 14-15, 2024 in Baltimore, Maryland. With interest in self-direction at an all-time high, they are offering a virtual conference series during the “off-year” to reach a broader audience. Thanks to their generous sponsors, the 2023 Self-Direction Conference: Virtual Series is FREE to attend!

Sessions will be offered twice a week throughout March and April from 2-3 PM. Some sessions are highlighted below. To see all sessions, visit the [Applied Self Direction Conference website](#).

The Surprising Successes: How Self-Direction Serves People Frequently Sidelined as "Too-Challenging to Self-Direct"

Thursday, March 23, 2023 from 2-3 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Frequently those with dual diagnoses, complex behavioral challenges, or significant intellectual disability are told that their cases are too complex to self direct. In this webinar participants will hear from the parents of three clients about the immense benefits and flexibilities that self-direction has in the lives of those choosing to self direct.

Self-Direct Sustainability Planning: What Happens When a Caregiver is No Longer Capable or Alive to Administer the Self-Direct Model of Care?

Wednesday, March 29th from 2-3 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

This session will discuss a new Georgia-based project that is underway seeking answers to this critical issue. This cutting-edge initiative is driven by families and people with disabilities. Join a frank conversation on the sustainability of the self-directed service model from the perspective of families. Registration is free but attendance is limited to the first 500 participants.

A Day, A Week, A Year, A Life – Family Caregivers on the Front Line

Thursday, March 30th from 2-3 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

States took advantage of the flexibilities enabled by the Appendix K waivers to address caregiver shortages during the COVID pandemic, allowing families to make use of family caregivers. States recognize that family caregivers can help solve the caregiver shortage and are particularly a vital part of service delivery in rural areas and for people of color. This session will present the real-life experiences of family caregivers, encouraging policies that supports families in several ways.

Employment Spotlight: Martin is a Vital Part of the Team Deli at McQuade's Marketplace



Regular shoppers at McQuade's Marketplace in Westerly will recognize the star of the latest [Olean Center](#) video – Martin at the busy deli counter. Martin explained his responsibilities, and his co-workers spoke of Martin's dedication, attention to detail, and good nature as a vital part of Team Deli! Watch the video on the new Frank Olean Center YouTube channel at [Olean Center Martin at McQuades Supported Employment - YouTube](#). The video was made by the [Community Provider Network of RI \(CPNRI\)](#).

Advance Planning Basics: An Overview for Advocates

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 2:00 - 3:15 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Older adults may wish to plan ahead for decision making if an accident or illness leaves them in need of support or assistance in making health care decisions or managing personal affairs. A lack of effective advance plans may also result in avoidable guardianship filings.

Legal assistance, elder rights, and aging services advocates can help older adults understand the various types of advance planning tools and how best to choose trusted supporters. Careful selection of supporters increases the likelihood that the values and wishes of the person will guide the choices being made.

This session will:

- Provide advocates with an overview of common advance planning tools, including powers of attorney, health care proxies, and supported decision-making agreements;
- Explore tools for describing personal goals, values and wishes to create guidance for decision support;
- Share strategies to help older adults select and empower trusted supporters for health care, personal and financial matters;
- Discuss how to share advance care plans when the documents are completed; and
- Identify legal aid and pro bono models to connect older adults to assistance with planning.

**NATIONAL
CENTER ON
LAW &
ELDER
RIGHTS**

Capacity for this session is limited to 3,000 participants, and all participants will have the option of accessing audio through the computer or by phone. Closed captioning will be available.

If you would like to request ASL interpretation or have other accessibility related questions, please email ncler@acl.hhs.gov at least a week in advance.

This webinar will be recorded and available on the NCLER website shortly after the presentation. The recording and training materials will also be emailed to all registrants within a few days after the training.

Package Introduced To Help Adults With Developmental Disabilities

Excerpted from [The Westerly Sun](#)

Rep. Tina Spears (D-Dist. 36, Charlestown, Westerly, South Kingstown, New Shoreham) has introduced a package of bills to improve funding and care for adults with developmental disabilities.

One bill (2023-H 5996) Rep. Spears has introduced would remove income limits for people with developmental disabilities to qualify for Medicaid. Currently, most individuals with developmental disabilities qualify for Medicaid. But if they earn more than 250 percent of the federal poverty level or have more than \$10,000 in savings, they lose their insurance. That, critics say, disincentivizes work and condemns individuals with disabilities to a life of poverty.

A second bill (2023-H 5633) would require the state to provide inflation increases to individuals living with developmental disabilities on Supplemental Security Income. Currently, that payment is capped by the state. The bill would tie increases to the inflation index used for Social Security.

A third bill (2023-H 6119) would increase the Medicaid rate of reimbursement for ambulance and wheelchair van services to not less than ninety percent of Medicare rates for the same medical services. Currently, Medicaid pays less for these services, impacting the ability of providers to recruit and retain staff and ensure the services are provided in a timely way.

DD Director Kevin Savage Presents at RI DD Council

The [RI Developmental Disabilities Council \(RIDDC\)](#) invited Kevin Savage, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, to address its quarterly membership meeting at Chelo's Restaurant in Warwick. Director Savage offered updates on BHDDH initiatives and community grants, the Consent Decree, Conflict Free Case Management, and welcomed questions from Council members, families, and guests.

At the meeting the RIDDC also presented the purpose and main components of the Developmental Disability Transformation Project. This new project has been funded from a BHDDH grant designed to "create sustainable change for meaningful and inclusive lives...It's a New way of Thinking." Project Directors, Tanja Blicher-Ucran and Sue Babin, also introduced the key people coordinating the multi-faceted plan as well as the partner organizations: The Cross Disabilities Council, RI Developmental Disabilities Council, and Skills for RI's Future.

RIDDC and RI Cross Disability Coalition leadership and members, as well as small business owners, family and invited guests numbered nearly fifty at the gathering. RIDDC Executive Director Kevin Nerney noted, "while we remain vigilant to our group's health concerns, we are continuing to create community and connection – learning from, listening to and enjoying each other's company. This evening was an ideal time to re-connect and to enjoy a celebration with friends and those with whom we work."

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) believes that people with developmental disabilities should fully participate in community life. Men, women, and children should be able to enjoy family life. Children and adolescents should go to school. Adults should work. All should have decent homes, have friends, and live as independently as possible. For more information, visit www.riddc.org.

Input Needed: Proposed Rule Omitting Food from SSI Calculations

Submit Comments Until April 17, 2023

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has a [proposed rule](#) that would no longer consider food expenses to determine benefits for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Currently, SSA considers it “in-kind support and maintenance” when someone else provides or contributes towards food for someone receiving SSI. In those cases, the SSA considers how much someone else is contributing to that person’s food costs when determining SSI benefits, which may lower a person’s SSI payment. SSA proposes to keep food-related questions only for the purposes of determining which category someone falls into, not for the purposes of determining someone’s benefits.

SSA is soliciting comments on alternative ways to make this determination. In addition, SSA also seeks comments on how to make the rule easier to understand. Comments can be submitted [online](#) or by fax or mail by Monday, April 17, 2023.

SSA proposes to make the changes outlined for two reasons: to simplify the policy and to promote equity by not disadvantaging an already vulnerable population when they receive food assistance. SSA expects that the proposed rules will provide increased financial security to impacted beneficiaries; provide consistent treatment of food support regardless of source; reduce unduly burdensome reporting requirements; and facilitate improved food security among certain beneficiaries.

Rhode Islander Appointed to the US Access Board

Rhode Islander Tina Guenette Pedersen has been appointed by President Biden as a member of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board.

Tina is CEO, President, and Founder of [RAMP \(Real Access Motivates Progress\)](#), a non-profit that educates and advocates for accessibility and inclusion. She devotes her life to helping others by raising awareness of accessibility for all. From talking with school-age children to engaging with the disability community, she works with and for the community on bullying prevention and speaks on the benefits of maintaining a positive attitude throughout life. Pedersen works with businesses, multiple professions, and first responders on areas of communication and best practices to include the disability community in their work. She is Vice Chair of the Rhode Island Governor’s Commission on Disabilities and Chair of the Awareness Committee.

The [Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board](#) is an independent federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards. The Board develops and maintains design criteria for the built environment, transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, medical diagnostic equipment, and information technology. It also provides technical assistance and training on these requirements and accessible design and continues to enforce accessibility standards that cover federally funded facilities.

Parking Mobility

[RAMP \(Real Access Motivates Progress\)](#) is bringing the Parking Mobility program in Rhode Island. [Parking Mobility](#) is a nonprofit company that recruits, trains, and manages local citizen volunteers to help solve the universal problem of accessible parking abuse on the local level by using a smartphone app as a reporting tool.

To learn more, watch the video [Volunteer Solution](#) or the RAMP interview with the Parking Mobility Project Director at <https://youtube.com/live/ZJJaSvGShTQ>.

Is enforcement all Parking Mobility does?

Enforcement is an important part of addressing accessible parking abuse but to truly end it takes changing social behavior. If you report in a community that has partnered with the Parking Mobility program, reports are processed by your local law enforcement and a citation is mailed to the registered owner of the offending vehicle. In addition, the Parking Mobility Program will provide targeted offender education as well as broad community education to change behavior.

In addition to reporting abuse of accessible parking, app users can suggest a spot for an accessible parking space, log accessible spaces for others to use to find parking, report blocked sidewalks and sidewalk ramps, report inaccessible business fronts. All reports become part of the data that is sorted and collected. RAMP gets the RI data so they can educate and advocate for local changes.

Wouldn't it be better if I just told someone parked illegally they are breaking the law?

Confrontation is never effective and Parking Mobility does not condone confronting a violator. The major focus of Parking Mobility is to educate the broader community on the importance of accessible parking and why these spaces must be reserved for those who need them. By making a report using the Parking Mobility app, you are supporting this effort...easily, safely and discretely. All reporting is confidential for volunteers and for those being reported. No personal information is shared. Volunteers, however, can see the progress of a report.

How do I volunteer?

Your reports are critical to helping prove that accessible parking abuse is a real problem in Rhode Island communities. Download the free [Parking Mobility App](#) and use it to report every violation you see. You'll become familiar with the App and how it works and the data you submit will help educate our community.

It's About Accessibility, Not Disability

Parking Mobility's mission is to improve every day access for persons with disabilities. Accessible parking provides just that: access. Access to employment, health, entertainment...the community.

[Parking Mobility](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community education and enforcement program designed to efficiently address accessible parking abuse. It was founded in 2009 and is operated by the disability community, with a mission to improve awareness in order to enhance access to every day life.

For questions, reach out to Tina at RAMPTina@yahoo.com or visit [RAMP's website](#).



Enforcement is essential, but education changes behavior.

Contacting DD Staff

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter.

Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
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>.

Report Suspected Abuse

Mandated Reporting

Reporting suspected occurrences of abuse, neglect, and mistreatment of individuals with developmental disabilities

To report abuse and serious incidents call the QA hotline at **(401) 462-2629**

The Quality Assurance (QA) Unit at BHDDH operates a 24 hour hotline, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Staff respond to reported incidents of abuse, neglect, mistreatment and financial exploitation.

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
Christine	Botts	Deputy Administrator	462-2766	Christine.Botts@bhddh.ri.gov
Brenda	DuHamel	Associate Director, Admin Services	462-3010	Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov
Cindy	Fusco	Chief Implementation Aide	462-3016	Cynthia.Fusco@bhddh.ri.gov
Melissa	Greenlief	Administrator, Community Services	462-2459	Melissa.Greenlief@bhddh.ri.gov
Susan	Hayward	Administrator, Youth in Transition	462-2519	Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov
Anne	LeClerc	Associate Director, Program Performance	462-0192	Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov
Tracy	Levesque	Clinical Administrator	462-0209	Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov
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

<i>East Providence/Pawtucket/Central Falls region</i>				
Marguerite	Belisle	Casework Supervisor II	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

<i>Northern RI/West Bay/Kent Region</i>				
Janice	Bijesse	Casework Supervisor II	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
Dayna	Hansen	Social Caseworker II	462-2505	Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov
Natalie	Sam	Social Caseworker II	462-2529	Natalie.Sam@bhddh.ri.gov
Erin	Simonelli	Social Caseworker II	462-2502	Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov

<i>South County/West Bay/Kent Region</i>				
Meredith	MacDonald	Casework Supervisor II	462-1329	Meredith.Macdonald@bhddh.ri.gov
Marisa	Abbruzzi	Social Caseworker II (RICLAS)	462-6099	Marisa.Abbuzzi@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
Celestina	Okai	Social Caseworker II (RICLAS)	462-3896	Celestina.Okai@bhddh.ri.gov
Jill	Murphy	Social Caseworker II	462-2409	Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov
Lena	Sousa	Social Caseworker II	462-1834	Lena.Sousa@bhddh.ri.gov
Joseph	Tevyaw	Social Caseworker II	462-2474	Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov

<i>Providence/West Bay/Kent Region</i>				
Kelly	Petersen	Casework Supervisor II	462-3402	Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov
Lauree	Champagne	Social Caseworker II	462-2728	Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov
JoAnn	DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov
Souphalak	Muriel	Social Caseworker II	462-2512	Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov
Yolande	Ramos	Social Caseworker II	462-1059	Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov
Judy	Smith	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov
Vacancy			462-2563	

Eligibility Unit

Karen	Lowell	Casework Supervisor II	462-2209	Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov
Christine	Harding	Social Caseworker II	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	Casework Supervisor II	462-2628	Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov
Wendy	Cormier	Social Caseworker II	462-1302	Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov
Kristen	Miga	Social Caseworker II	462-0449	Kristen.Miga@bhddh.ri.gov
Jamie	Fitzgibbons	Social Caseworker II	462-2510	Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov
Meaghan	Jencks	Social Caseworker II	462-2113	Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov

Transition Unit

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

Support Staff

Stephanie	Andreozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Laurie	Rossi	Implementation Aide	462-2563	Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov
Lori	Vandall	Clerk Typist	462-6086	Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT BRAIDING AND SEQUENCING OF FUNDS

Informational sessions on how Supported Employment Funds should be Sequenced and Braided for Optimal Support for the Job Seeker.

Two sessions are being offered below:

For BHDDH Funded Providers

March 21 @ 11am (1 hour)

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92424653781?pwd=RmRqc0ljRVh6aXJ4Wjk5SEpuc1Zxdz09>

FOR ORS COUNSELORS, BHDDH SOCIAL WORKERS, AND SELF-DIRECT

MARCH 23 @ 2PM (1 hour)

ZOOM LINK:

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/94408370832?pwd=UG1UASStTZfYbVvURGovU3VjVEDYdZ09](https://zoom.us/j/94408370832?pwd=UG1UASStTZfYbVvURGovU3VjVEDYdZ09)

SESSIONS WILL BE RECORDED. PLEASE CONNECT WITH MELANIE SBARDELLA AT MELANIE.SBARDELLA@ORS.RI.GOV IF ANY ACCOMMODATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS NETWORK

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

ONLINE MEETING

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

7:00 – 8:30 PM

**Dialogue with: Heather Mincey from Behavioral
Healthcare Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals**

Learn about what is Medicaid allowable
(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 – Dialogue with Heather Mincey – Medicaid allowable costs

8:00 – 8:30 – Kim Einloth – Information on the Technology Fund

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, large print) 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

JOIN ATAP FOR **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY** **APRIL 18, 3-6PM**



Join the Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) as we celebrate Assistive Technology Awareness Day!

We will be hosting an Open House at RI College (Student Union Ballroom). Join us to visit the ATAP Partners and state agencies that support and promote the AT Movement.

The first 100 people to register will receive an AT Swag Bag! Complete our AT Passport and be entered for a chance to win an Echo!

What is ATAP?

ATAP is designed as a statewide partnership of organizations, each with a targeted assistive technology (AT) focus, working together to improve access to and acquisition of AT for individuals with disabilities. ATAP Partners are:

- Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program
- East Bay Educational Collaborative
- Ocean State Center for Independent Living
- TechACCESS of RI



This event is sponsored by RI College

Register to attend:



Consent Workshop



Wednesday, March 29th

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

ZOOM link:

<https://triangle-inc-org.zoom.us/j/6358907961>

Meeting ID: 635 890 7961



DROP IN!

No Registration needed

ASL Provided



For questions or if you have language and/or ASL accommodations, please reach out directly to Adriana at ali@impactboston.org

Consent Workshop



This workshop is for adults with disabilities to:

Explore the meaning of consent



Learn how to ask for permission



Brainstorm the many ways we can have healthy relationships through asking for and giving consent through communication.

RECORDING AND PRIVACY

All virtual sessions are recorded and distributed amongst DDS agencies throughout the state of Massachusetts. Personal information, besides first names, should be kept confidential. Disclosing any personal history or identifying information about participants is not allowed.



The IMPACT: Ability curriculum teaches people with disabilities to recognize unsafe situations and respond with effective self-protective behaviors. Students learn skills that are relevant to sexual violence, attempted abduction, bullying, and harassment as well as how to assert and advocate for themselves in everyday situations.

Are You Interested in a FREE Speakers' Program?



We have a Speakers' Bureau available to talk with students and adults with disabilities, families, staff, etc. on topics that are important to know about. Our speakers want to share their personal experiences & knowledge at no charge to you!

TOPICS:

- Person-Centered Planning 
- Employment Can WORK for YOU! 
- Owning your Own Business...I am the Boss! (Self-Employment) 
- Building Social Skills and Self-Esteem for Living the BEST Life 
- Understanding the Adult DD System of Services/Supports 
- Let's Talk about Money Management 
- Developing Good Relationships 
- Sexual Abuse Awareness



Email: RISpeakersBureau@RIDDC.org or

Contact Us [Tanja Blicher-Ucran](mailto:Tanja.Blicker-Ucran@riddc.org) tanja@riddc.org 401-737-1238

"The Coalition is for individuals with any type of disability to connect and talk about what is important in our lives and what we can do together to improve quality for all people! It is an opportunity to become familiar with community activities, how to make informed decisions, and take control of our lives by using self-directed supports and services available from RI agencies."

an initiative of the RI Developmental Disabilities Council

Disability Rights

RHODE ISLAND

The Designated Protection and Advocacy System for Rhode Island



Join the DRRI PAIMI Advisory Council!

Disability Rights Rhode Island, the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency for Rhode Island, is seeking applications or nominations for new members of our PAIMI Advisory Council (PAC). The PAC provides DRRI with critical, independent advice and recommendations relating to individuals with mental health disabilities and challenges.

Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute your interest and experience for better and more effective mental health supports and services? This is a small time commitment, but provides a huge benefit, as well as camaraderie and community! PAIMI Advisory Council members meet every other month, 6 times per year, for one hour, and help DRRI develop priorities for our work. We accommodate anyone wishing to attend virtually.

We are especially seeking PAC members who are mental health providers, attorneys, and parents or family members of individuals with mental health challenges, both children and adults.

For more information or to speak with us about the PAIMI Advisory Council, please contact DRRI Executive Director, Morna Murray, mmurray@drri.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

www.drri.org
(401) 831-3150

DRRI

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