



Kathryn Power confirmed as BHDDH Director

In June, the RI State Senate confirmed the appointment of Kathryn Power as Director of BHDDH. Director Power has a long and stellar record of service and achievement in the fields of behavioral health and developmental disabilities, including as Director of BHDDH from 1993 to 2003. During her last tenure, the Director led Rhode Island to high achievements on many fronts, including substance use recovery programming, deinstitutionalization, and reducing seclusion and restraint. She also led the development of mobile treatment teams and the expansion of supported employment and competitive employment opportunities. Director Power returned to BHDDH in January 2020 when appointed by Governor Raimondo. We welcome her back and look forward to what this tenure will bring!



DDD Community Forum

Save the Date
August 17
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
DD Community Forum

The next DDD Community Forum has tentatively been scheduled, via Zoom, on Monday, August 17th from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. This will be the first forum with Kevin Savage serving as Acting DDD Director. As soon as we have the Zoom information, we will post the information on the BHDDH website and send out notifications to our DDD listserv. We hope that you will join us.

In observance of the 4th of July, State offices are closed on Monday, July 6th.



State of Rhode Island



Governor Raimondo has signed an Executive Order removing the phrase “Providence Plantations” from all the state websites and all state documents. The General Assembly has followed suit and removed the reference as well. A legal change can occur by putting the question to voters in November, but in the meantime you will notice the change in the letterhead from BHDDH.

Who Will Advocate When You're Gone?

Webinar by the ARC of Northern Virginia

Friday, July 10, 2020

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

On July 10 The Arc of Northern Virginia is offering a webinar about planning for the future. While some of the information is specific to Virginia, people in the RI DD Community may be interested in the discussion and approach being taken in Virginia. From their description of the webinar:

We often worry about the future of our adult children with disabilities. As parents and primary caregivers, we possess a wealth of knowledge that no one else shares. We need to pass on that knowledge before we die, and preferably long before we die. It takes energy and perseverance to relay that information. That’s why we need to create detailed plans that address the future of our adult children with disabilities.

When we shape detailed long-term advocacy plans, we address our adult children’s wishes--and our own. We should involve our child in the process to the greatest extent possible. We need to involve their siblings, friends and family as soon as we can. The plan needs to address the past, present and future; the likes and dislikes; the tried and true methods we implement to address a variety of situations. It should cover health, housing, recreation. It should detail spiritual, medical, financial, government benefits, and more.

All workshops presented by The Arc of Northern Virginia are FREE to attend, but pre-registration is required. [Register for the Webinar here \[thearcofnova.us7.list-manage.com\]](https://thearcofnova.us7.list-manage.com)

Recorded Webinar on Social Media Safety for Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

<https://thearcofnova.org/workshops/past-workshops/#social-media>

Recordings of Other Webinars and Workshops

Find other recorded webinars from the ARC of Northern Virginia at:

<https://thearcofnova.org/workshops/past-workshops/>

Resources from the University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration

FRIENDS manual for families

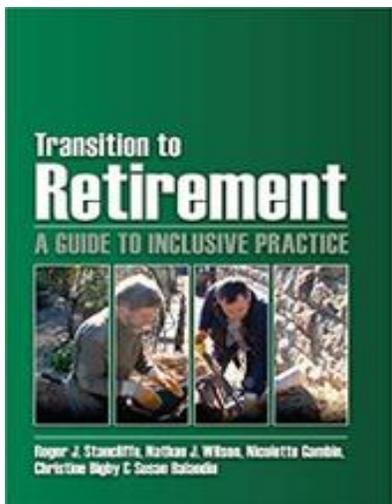
<https://ici.umn.edu/products/tpYWhm5tRHua0nutcqCX3Q> [ici.umn.edu]



A manual providing concrete, "how-to" strategies for family members to support relationships between their family members with disabilities and other community members. It describes why it is important to promote such friendships, community belonging and membership. The manual includes specific exercises to guide users in creating a plan for connecting people. This manual is designed for family members, but can also be used by support coordinators, teachers, staff, and people with disabilities to support community relationships. Additional Activity Worksheets are available.

Transition to Retirement

<https://ici.umn.edu/products/vZB4utgUTEmGLMNkk7V2YA> [ici.umn.edu]



This resource guide explores the transition to retirement for people with disability, particularly intellectual disability. The prospect of retirement unsettles most people. It's a major transition in anyone's life and change of this magnitude often arouses anxiety. This is much more so for people with disability, particularly intellectual disability. But this manual shows it doesn't have to be like that and highlights the need for an effective approach to supporting older employees to build an active, socially inclusive lifestyle after retirement. With the manual comes a DVD, which makes the idea of inclusive activities in retirement easily understandable to people with disability, their families and community organizations.

Summer Webinar Series on COVID-19: Issues and Practical Strategies for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

This webinar series is offered as a platform for community providers to share their experiences in maintaining services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to share information with self-advocates and their families.

July 7, 2020 at 2 PM EDT

Preparing Your Employees for the Impact of COVID-19: Updates from Providers

Ed Kaul, Chief Executive Officer ARCA and Eligio Velasquez, 2020 Direct Support Professional of the Year

[REGISTER](#)

July 14, 2020 at 2 PM EDT

Communicating COVID-19 Updates to People with IDD, Caregivers, and Stakeholders

Maggie Hassler, Director of Executive Communications at Aspire

[REGISTER](#)

July 21, 2020 at 2 PM EDT

Even During a Crisis, People with Disabilities have Rights

Robin Jones, MPA, COTA/L, ROH, Director of the Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT, Department of Disability and Health, University of Illinois at Chicago

[REGISTER](#)

July 28, 2020 at 2 PM EDT

Hospitalized People with IDD Need their Caregivers: They Aren't Visitors

Sarah H. Ailey, PhD, APHN, Professor, Rush University

[REGISTER](#)

August 4, 2020 at 2 PM EDT

Health Matters Now More than Ever: The Triple Burden of Disease for People with IDD

Jasmina Sisirak, PhD, MPH, Co-Director of the HealthMatters Program, Department of Disability and Health, University of Illinois at Chicago and Jennifer Eastman, MBA, Director of Community Living Policy at Maryland Department of Disabilities

[REGISTER](#)

August 11, 2020 at 2 PM EDT

Shifting Services in Community-Based Organizations: Meeting the Needs of People with IDD

Susan L. Silberman, PhD, Senior Director, Research & Evaluation at National Council on Aging (NCOA), Washington, DC

[REGISTER](#)

This COVID-19 Webinar Series is presented by the [HealthMatters Program](https://www.healthmattersprogram.org) (<https://www.healthmattersprogram.org>), Department of Disability and Human Development, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago through continued partnership with [Project SEARCH](https://www.projectsearch.us) (<https://www.projectsearch.us>) funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Grant # 17CH03FA20 and [Aspire](https://aspirechicago.com) (<https://aspirechicago.com>).

Don't Use These 9 Hand Sanitizers Due To Toxic Ingredient

Excerpted from Forbes.com article by Bruce Lee and CDC information

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning about nine different hand sanitizer products manufactured by Eskbiochem. These products may contain methanol, otherwise known as methyl alcohol, carbinol, or wood alcohol. Actually, make that “no you wouldn’t” alcohol, at least when it comes to being used as a disinfectant. Compared to other types of alcohol, such as ethyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol, methanol is not very good at killing microorganisms like bacteria and viruses.

Methanol is toxic and can be absorbed through your skin, stomach, and lungs. This is the “don’t drink it or you may go blind” alcohol. This type of alcohol can also lead to nausea, vomiting, headaches, seizures, coma, permanent damage to your nervous system, or death. Plus, you still won’t have clean hands.

Don't use these nine products made by Eskbiochem with toxic methyl alcohol:

- All-Clean Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-002-01)
- Esk Biochem Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-007-01)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-008-04)
- Lavar 70 Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-006-01)
- The Good Gel Antibacterial Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-010-10)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-005-03)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-009-01)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-003-01)
- Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-001-01)

People who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol should seek immediate treatment, which is critical for potential reversal of toxic effects of methanol poisoning. Although all persons using these products on their hands are at risk, young children who accidentally ingest these products and adolescents and adults who drink these products as an alcohol (ethanol) substitute, are most at risk for methanol poisoning.



**Hand sanitizers
should have
at least 60%
ethyl alcohol.**

Silver Linings

Busy As A Bee

Ian Shepherd worked for the Newport Harbor Corporation from 2005 until The Yacht Center closed in 2014. When the Yacht Center was closing, he asked if there were any jobs at their other division, The Newport Restaurant Group, which owns The Inn at Castle Hill. Ian got an interview and was hired. Ian is assertive and a great self-advocate! He now works 16-18 hours a week at The Inn at Castle Hill in Newport as a Facilities Technician. Ian's favorite part of working there is keeping the grounds clean. He pulls weeds, collects trash, hauls fire wood, positions the chairs on the lawn and the beach, and otherwise helps keep the Inn looking good. He is happy to be back to work after the Inn was closed for a bit due to COVID-19.

Ian is also self-employed. When Ian was very little his parents kept bees but they gave up beekeeping to focus on raising their children. Seven years ago Ian expressed interest so he and his Dad started beekeeping together. Ian now takes care of more than 15 hives around Aquidneck Island, some at the homes of family and friends and some on working farms. He tends to them once a week.

Ian is passionate and knowledgeable about raising bees, and is a member of the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association. Ian's favorite part is smoking the hives to calm the bees, and identifying the queen of the hive. She is a little larger than the worker and drone bees and sometimes has a marking. Ian loves to share the details of bee keeping from purchasing bees to start a hive to treating for varroa mites to the fact that honey is harvested in the fall. Ian's honey can be purchased at The Green Grocer in Portsmouth and Downtown Design in Newport.

A Very Generous Donation by Cranston Firefighters

Our sincerest thanks to Cranston Firefighters IAFF Local 1363 for the kind and generous donation of an iPad for our patients to use at Eleanor Slater Hospital. The no visitation policy has been difficult for both patients and their families. Electronic devices are sorely needed during this time. Patients, of course, want to be in touch with their loved ones while hospitalized. Some patients do not have phones, or they own a phone not capable of making video calls. The loneliness that ensues from not seeing a loved one while in a hospital most certainly affects mental health, which creates other emotional issues.



Presenting the iPad to ESH Chief Operating Officer Chris Feisthamel were: Scott Robinson, President; Chris Feisthamel; Armand Niquette, Vice President and Jon Francis, Board Member (not pictured Matt Howard, Firefighter).

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

Stay Informed with Information on COVID-19

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/>

Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Information

Website cdc.gov/coronavirus

Videos <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html>

Includes a link to ASL videos

BHDDH Information on COVID-19's Impact on DD Services and the DD Community

Website bhddh.ri.gov/COVID

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

Sign Up for Our Email List

If you aren't receiving email updates and newsletters from the Division, you can sign up on our website. From the main BHDDH page at bhddh.ri.gov, select **What's New**, then go to bottom and click on **DD Community Newsletter**. The link to sign up for the BHDDH Newsletter is directly below the title, as shown in the picture at right.

DD Community Newsletter

[SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER](#)

Contacting the Division

The department is working on a reduced workforce and therefore calls should not be placed directly to your social caseworker. DDD has put 24-hour phone coverage in place with a central business hour phone number and an on-call number for nights and weekends.

If you have a vital need, please call the numbers below. If you have any general questions or concerns, please email them if you can, in order to try to leave the phone lines free for those who need to call. We will do our best to address your questions directly or through future newsletters.

AM **M T W Th F** PM
401-462-3421

8:30 AM → → → → → ← ← ← ← ← **4:00 PM**

WEEKDAYS DURING BUSINESS HOURS FOR:

- **VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS**
- **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DD SERVICES**

During business hours
 (Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00),
 for questions or support
(401) 462-3421
 Para español, llame
(401) 462-3014

PM **M T W Th F** PM
401-265-7461

4:00 PM → → → → → ← ← ← ← ← **10:00 PM**

AFTER HOURS ON WEEKDAYS FOR:

- **VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

For emerging or imminent care
 related questions,
 Mon - Fri 4pm-10pm and
 weekends 8:30am-10pm
(401) 265-7461

AM **SAT SUN** PM
401-265-7461

8:30 AM → → → → → ← ← ← ← ← **10:00 PM**

ON WEEKENDS FOR:

- **VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

Send general questions to the
 AskDD email address. Please
 do not email critical issues.
BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

E-MAIL THE DIVISION

BHDDH.AskDD
@BHDDH.RI.GOV

HELP US KEEP THE PHONE LINES OPEN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLING WITH A VITAL NEED!

WHEN POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL FOR:

- **NON-CRITICAL CONCERNS** about Your Services and Supports
- **GENERAL QUESTIONS** about Your Services or the RI DD System

911

FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
CALL 911
RIGHT AWAY. DON'T WAIT!

For medical or
 healthcare related
 emergencies, call
 your Primary Care
 Physician or 911

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR

CALL FOR:

- **ROUTINE Healthcare Questions**
- **NON-EMERGENCY Medical Care**

FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S ADVICE
DON'T go to their office unless they tell you to!