



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals  
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
6 Harrington Road – Simpson Hall  
Cranston, RI 02920-3080  
TEL: (401) 462-3421 – FAX: (401) 462-2775

Greetings,

Welcome to an introduction to adult services for transition age youth! In Rhode Island, transition planning occurs between the ages of 14 – 22 for students who have been diagnosed with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability that indicates support services into adulthood may be needed.

The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH/DDD), in collaboration with Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN), has created this folder to provide information to assist you in creating a plan of action to strengthen your child's transition to adulthood.

You may have received a similar packet during your child's previous Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings. The information in this packet is slightly different as your child is now 17 years of age or older. At this age it is important to consider completing the enclosed application for adult service. Through submission of this application and substantiating documentation, DDD can determine eligibility for adult service by age 17, giving you and your child time to plan for their future.

You may be concerned about your child's ability to make informed decisions as they near adulthood. Trying to decide the best thing to do for your soon-to-be adult child can be overwhelming. Disability Rights RI (DRRI) has put together a booklet of information on guardianship and alternatives to guardianship. This information may be useful in assisting you to make a decision. The booklet can be found at <https://www.drri.org/resources/publications>

The option of employment has likely been a topic of discussion during your child's IEP meetings. Employment supports are available within adult services should your adult child choose to pursue this path. Until that time, applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) when your child turns 18 may provide monthly income and access to Medicaid, necessary to fund adult support services. More information regarding application for SSI can be found here <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>

RIPIN holds information sessions, peer to peer support and education regarding navigating adult services to assist parents and transitioning youth in developing a plan for their future. Please review the RIPIN brochure in this folder or call 270-0101 for information. DDD staff is also available to answer questions and can be reached at 462-3421 or by email at [Transition@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:Transition@bhddh.ri.gov). To reach the Administrator directly, please call 462-2519 or email [susan.hayward@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:susan.hayward@bhddh.ri.gov)

Thank you for taking the time to review this folder. By doing so you are taking an important step in helping your child build a strong and successful future.

Sincerely,

Susan Hayward, MSW, LCSW  
Administrator, Transition Services