



**May is Mental Health Month**



**Mental Healthcare for All:  
Equity Requires Action Recorded Event**



One in five Rhode Islanders live with a diagnosable mental health condition. Since 1949, May has been a month dedicated to mental health awareness and ending stigma.

A virtual kickoff event was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> with recorded remarks from the Mental Health Association of RI's 2021 Mental Health Hero of the Year, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. It also featured Barbara Morse from Channel 10 News and other members of the RI Congressional Delegation.

[Click here to visit the MHARI website to watch the kickoff video and register for free virtual workshops and events throughout May](#)

**Memorial Held for Those We've Lost**



About 100 people gathered on April 30 to remember those in the Rhode Island I/DD community who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony took place in front of Simpson Hall, which houses the DD Services offices in Cranston. Organizers lined up photographs of those who have passed on and listened to remarks from:

- **Erin Perron**, Director of the Rhode Island Community Living and Supports program;
- **Dr. Louis Cerbo**, Deputy Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals; and,
- **The Reverend John Sweet**, Director of Pastoral Care at BHDDH.

Volunteers painted rocks, which were laid around a newly-planted dwarf weeping cherry tree donated by BHDDH Chief Financial Officer Jennifer White.

## Walk-In COVID Vaccinations Now Available

As vaccines have become more readily available, the State-run vaccination sites at 100 Sockanosset Cross Road in Cranston, the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, and 1400 West Main Road in Middletown are now providing on-site registration. No appointments are necessary. If you prefer to make an appointment, you can still do that by visiting [vaccinateri.org](http://vaccinateri.org).

<u>Location</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Hours</u>
100 Sockanosset Cross Road	Tuesday through Saturday	8:00 AM to 9:00 PM
The Dunkin' Donuts Center	Tuesday through Saturday	9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
1400 West Main Road	Wednesday through Sunday	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

## A Call to Action: Eliminating Compounded Disparities for People with Disabilities in a Year of COVID-19

**Friday, May 14**

**8:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This past year was like no other in memory. COVID-19 has laid bare the gross inequities that are deeply-seated in society. Focusing on Lived Experience, this Symposium will explore the **Intersectionality of Disability, Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Gender Identities, and the Political Determinants of Health** and provoke a deeper discussion, a greater sense of shared responsibility and a better-defined road map for future action in partnership with people with disabilities.

### **Objective**

Increase awareness of the impact of disability and its intersections with race, ethnicity, gender identity and cultural biases on quality of life and health outcomes.

### **Desired Outcomes**

- A deeper discussion to identify needed changes (policy, service delivery, training, and other key considerations);
- Create alignment on prioritization of system and policy change;
- Commitments from attendees to engage in ongoing dialogue to implement necessary change.

### **Who Should Attend**

Leaders in health and health-equity policy and social/racial justice; local, state, and federal legislators and staff; health and behavioral health care providers; non-profit disability agency leaders and staff; NYC and NYS government staff; staff from academic institutions; corporate leaders focused on diversity, equity and inclusion; BIPOC with disabilities; foundation leaders and staff; and all other interested parties.

## Correction

At the March 22<sup>nd</sup> DD Community Forum it was stated that there was a projected caseload reduction. That was incorrect information which has since been corrected.

The budget reduction is, in fact, due to rescinding the health home initiative that had previously been included in the proposed budget.

We apologize for any confusion that the error may have caused.

## RIPIN Webinar - Customized Employment: New Opportunities for Adults with Disabilities

**Tuesday, May 11**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

PRE-REGISTER HERE: <https://conta.cc/2PptA5L> [conta.cc]

*Hey PCSEPP3 Participants, help spread the word!*

Grab a friend so they can learn more about the innovative and creative things going on with the PCSEPP3 customized employment project.

Join us at the RIPIN Webinar on **Customized Employment: New Opportunities for Adults with Disabilities** on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00 PM.

*We would love to see you!*



**RIPIN**

A photograph of two men, one younger and one older, smiling and embracing each other. The younger man is on the left, and the older man is on the right. They are both looking towards each other with joyful expressions.

**RIPIN WEBINAR**  
VIRTUAL WORKSHOP! REGISTER ONLINE.

**Customized Employment:  
New opportunities for adults  
with disabilities**

**May 11th  
1:00 - 2:00 PM**

## Self-Employment from a Parent's Perspective

Hear from the Rhode Island DD Council's self-employment project and from parents who are supporting loved ones as they pursue their employment dreams through entrepreneurial ventures. This webinar discusses the role of self-directing waiver services, family supports, marketing, and collaborative partnerships.

[Click Here to Watch the Recorded Webinar](#)

### Panelists

Sheila Coyne and her son, Michael, have opened two businesses together – one a coffeehouse and the other a retail shop that sells items made by other business owners with disabilities and local entrepreneurs.

Deb Wood and her son, Jason, started their business of making and selling jams before growing into an entire product line. Their latest initiative is organizing outdoor markets for vendors from throughout the state that support people with disabilities.

## VIDEO: RI's Self-Employment Small Business Incubator Project

The [DD Council's Self Employment Project](#) was also featured in the latest podcast from [Real Access Motivates Progress](#).

See RAMP past podcasts [here](#).

Join RAMP Real Access Motivates Progress! & Host Tina G. Pedersen on The Coalition - Talk Radio, Wednesdays @ 7PM Eastern Time. Watch Live! @ [www.Facebook.com/TheCoalitionRadio](http://www.Facebook.com/TheCoalitionRadio)



Wednesday April 28th

Episode 36

RI's Self-Employment  
Small Business  
Incubator Project  
For People With Disabilities

With Special Guests

Sue Babin  
Project Director

Jack & Karyn Carfagna  
Mr. C's Old Thyme Scents

Karen Gasperini  
Children's Author

and Your Host,  
Tina Guenette Pedersen

## **FCC Announces Emergency Broadband Benefit Program** **Helping Households Connect During the Pandemic**

*This information is being shared on behalf of Federal Communication Commission*

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) program](#) to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.

### ***What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program?***

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. If your household is [eligible](#), you can receive:

- Up to a \$50/month discount on your broadband service and associated equipment rentals
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

### ***When Can I Sign Up for the Benefit?***

Starting **May 12, 2021**, eligible households will be able to enroll in the program to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting <https://getemergencybroadband.org>.

### ***Other Resources***

- [Broadband Benefit Consumer FAQs](#)
- [Rhode Island participating providers](#)
- [The recorded FCC webinar](#) with an overview of the benefit, eligibility criteria, how to apply, and the FCC's partner toolkit materials
- For more information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>
- Individuals who use videophones and are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) may call the FCC's ASL Consumer Support Line at (844) 432-2275 (videophone).



## This is Jeopardy! with the Job Seekers Club

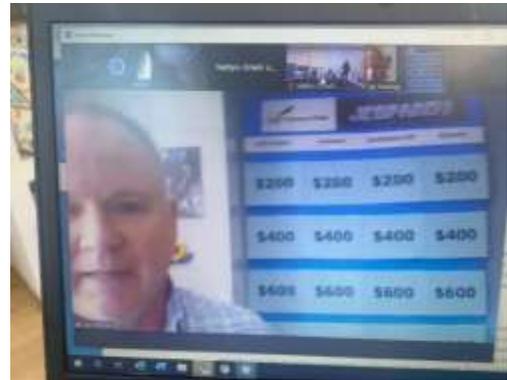
On April 14<sup>th</sup> the BHDDH DD Employment Team, Jay MacKay and Tracey Cunningham, hosted their monthly Job Seekers Club virtually on Zoom. During COVID the club moved online and has continued to be an opportunity to discuss job seeking strategies, share success stories, and talk about issues surrounding finding and keeping a job.

This month, the Job Seekers played Employment/Job Jeopardy! (see pictures at right). Jay MacKay designed this virtual job seeker version of the game.

Seven contestants participated in answering clues (in the form of a question, of course!) from four categories including, Myth Busters, Interviews, Employment 101, and Discovery.

It was an informative and fun competition that ended in a tie between Jacob and Zachary. Everyone involved looks forward to their monthly social engagement and everyone is always encouraged to bring a friend.

To join the excitement, reach out to Jay MacKay ([Gerard.mackay@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:Gerard.mackay@bhddh.ri.gov)) or call 401-462-5279.



## Wicked Tulip Flower Farm In-Person or Virtual Experience

Get ready for a socially distant U-pick & Curbside Bouquet pickup at Wicked Tulip's NEW Exeter, RI location! Please note, in order to visit the farm you must pre-purchase a ticket and make an appointment.

The Exeter farm opened on April 18th, and the peak season is from 4/26 until 5/2. The farm will be closing a bit sooner than other years because they did not plant late blooming varieties there. Late tulips are planted at their new [Preston, CT location](#)

Last year, the virtual tulip experience provided many people who couldn't visit in person with a birds eye view of the tulip field along with ballet, music, cooking classes, cocktail making, and other content. The farm will continue the virtual experience this year on YouTube, allowing tulip lovers from anywhere, access to the breathtaking tulips for free. If you are not able to visit in person, you can still enjoy the beauty of the tulip fields, take a yoga class, and so much more by viewing the [Virtual Tulip Experience](#) on YouTube.

## 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

## 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](mailto:RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov)

Website <https://health.ri.gov/covid/>

### Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Information

Website [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://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](http://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](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*

## Sign Up for Our Email List

SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER

If you aren't receiving email updates and newsletters from BHDDH, you can sign up on by clicking the link at left or on our website.

Go to <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/events/newsandupdates/> to see past quarterly newsletters and issues of DD News.

## Contacting DD Staff

DDD has put extended 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 on the next page. 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.

**401-462-3421**

**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**

**401-265-7461**

**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**

**401-265-7461**

**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](mailto: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!

## Developmental Disabilities Services - Social Services Staff

Main Phone #:		(401) 462-3421		
To report abuse/neglect:		(401) 462-2629		
Brenda DuHamel, Associate Director for Administrative Services		(401) 462-3010		
		<a href="mailto:Brenda.Duhamel@bhddh.ri.gov">Brenda.Duhamel@bhddh.ri.gov</a>		
<b>Case Management Units</b>				
East Providence/Pawtucket/Central Falls Region				
Marguerite	Belisle	Casework Supervisor	462-0714	<a href="mailto:Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov">Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Amie	Adams	Social Caseworker II	462-2480	<a href="mailto:Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov">Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Stacey	Perry	Social Caseworker II	462-2418	<a href="mailto:Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov">Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Suzanne	Porter	Social Caseworker II	462-1972	<a href="mailto:Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov">Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Mary Beth	Silveria	Social Caseworker II	462-2438	<a href="mailto:Marybeth.Silveria@bhddh.ri.gov">Marybeth.Silveria@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Heather	Soares	Social Caseworker II	462-6097	<a href="mailto:Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov">Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Northern RI/West Bay/Kent Region				
Janice	Bijesse	Casework Supervisor	462-4290	<a href="mailto:Janice.Bijesse@bhddh.ri.gov">Janice.Bijesse@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Mary	Cameron	Social Caseworker II	462-1307	<a href="mailto:Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov">Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jackie	Camilloni	Social Caseworker II	462-3022	<a href="mailto:Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov">Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Megan	Gilbert	Social Caseworker II	462-2524	<a href="mailto:Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov">Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Dayna	Hansen	Social Caseworker II	462-2505	<a href="mailto:Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov">Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Natalie	Sam	Social Caseworker II	462-2529	<a href="mailto:Natalie.Sam@bhddh.ri.gov">Natalie.Sam@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Erin	Simonelli	Social Caseworker II	462-2502	<a href="mailto:Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov">Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
South County/West Bay/Kent Region				
Meredith	MacDonald	Casework Supervisor	462-1329	<a href="mailto:Meredith.Macdonald@bhddh.ri.gov">Meredith.Macdonald@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Brenda	Centracchio	Social Caseworker II	462-0098	<a href="mailto:Brenda.Centracchio@bhddh.ri.gov">Brenda.Centracchio@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Lauree	Champagne	Social Caseworker II	462-2728	<a href="mailto:Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov">Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jill	Murphy	Social Caseworker II	462-2409	<a href="mailto:Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov">Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Teresa	Pereira	Social Caseworker II	462-1834	<a href="mailto:Teresa.Pereira@bhddh.ri.gov">Teresa.Pereira@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Judy	Smith	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	<a href="mailto:Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov">Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Joseph	Tevyaw	Social Caseworker II	462-2474	<a href="mailto:Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov">Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Providence/West Bay/Kent Region				
Joanne	Prior	Casework Supervisor	462-2563	<a href="mailto:Joanne.Prior@bhddh.ri.gov">Joanne.Prior@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Carl	Desjarlais	Social Caseworker II	462-1555	<a href="mailto:Carl.Desjarlais@bhddh.ri.gov">Carl.Desjarlais@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
JoAnn	DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	<a href="mailto:JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov">JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Meaghan	Jencks	Social Caseworker II	462-2113	<a href="mailto:Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov">Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Souphalak	Muriel	Social Caseworker II	462-2512	<a href="mailto:Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov">Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Kelly	Petersen	Social Caseworker II	462-3402	<a href="mailto:Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov">Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Yolande	Ramos	Social Caseworker II	462-1059	<a href="mailto:Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov">Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Eligibility Unit</b>				
Karen	Lowell	Eligibility Supervisor	462-2209	<a href="mailto:Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov">Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Christine	Harding	Eligibility Caseworker	462-3233	<a href="mailto:Christine.Harding@bhddh.ri.gov">Christine.Harding@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Lori	Lombardi, RN	PASRR	462-0089	<a href="mailto:Lori.Lombardiburns@bhddh.ri.gov">Lori.Lombardiburns@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Marisa	Abbruzzi	RICLAS Social Caseworker II	462-2139	<a href="mailto:Marisa.Abbuzzi@bhddh.ri.gov">Marisa.Abbuzzi@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>SIS Unit</b>				
Donna	Standish	SIS Supervisor	462-2628	<a href="mailto:Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov">Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Wendy	Cormier	SIS Caseworker	462-1302	<a href="mailto:Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov">Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Kristen	Miga	SIS Caseworker	462-0449	<a href="mailto:Kristen.Miga@bhddh.ri.gov">Kristen.Miga@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Gail	Reynolds	SIS Caseworker	462-2510	<a href="mailto:Gail.Reynolds@bhddh.ri.gov">Gail.Reynolds@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Youth in Transition</b>				
Susan	Hayward	Administrator	462-2519	<a href="mailto:Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov">Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Carolee	Leach	Professional Services Coord.	462-1723	<a href="mailto:Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov">Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

# Meaningful May 2021

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1 Make a list of what matters most to you and why

2 Do something kind for someone you really care about

3 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do

4 Take a step towards an important goal, however small

5 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together

6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful

7 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why

8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today

9 Notice the beauty in nature, even if you're stuck indoors

10 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today

11 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times

12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you

13 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder

14 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture

15 Do something to contribute to your local community

16 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger

17 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

18 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful

19 Send a handwritten note to someone you care about

20 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful

21 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable

22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about

23 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost

24 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of

25 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today

26 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why

27 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful

28 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others

29 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight

30 Today do something to care for the natural world

31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future

