



**DD Community Forum**

**Monday, November 1**

**3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**on Zoom**

**[Register Here](#)**

Hosted by Advocates in Action.

Please submit any questions you have about this event to: [MichelleWhite@AdvocatesInAction.org](mailto:MichelleWhite@AdvocatesInAction.org)

**BHDDH Offices Closed on Veterans Day**

The BHDDH offices will be closed on Thursday, November 11 for Veterans Day.

A sincere thank you for your service to all our veterans and their families!



**Update on Self-Directed Hiring**  
**During and After COVID-19**

The State is seeking approval of the option to allow people who self-direct to hire any qualified adult, including family members, parents, and legal guardians to continue after the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends.

It was previously reported that legal guardians could not be approved by the federal Medicaid office to be paid staff. After further research and discussion, it has been determined that legal guardians could also be recommended for consideration as paid caregivers after the PHE.

## Update on the Consent Decree

On October 21, 2021 the Court accepted and order a proposed Action Plan regarding the Consent Decree. In developing the terms of the Action Plan and the State's committing to executing the Action Plan, relative to the Show Cause Order, the Court found that "cause has been shown and that the State should not be held in contempt."

Initially, DOJ had asked the court to find the State in contempt because DOJ believed not enough progress had been made on the Consent Decree. When the Court accepted the Action Plan, DOJ agreed to voluntarily withdraw their motion for contempt.

The main components of the Action Plan are:

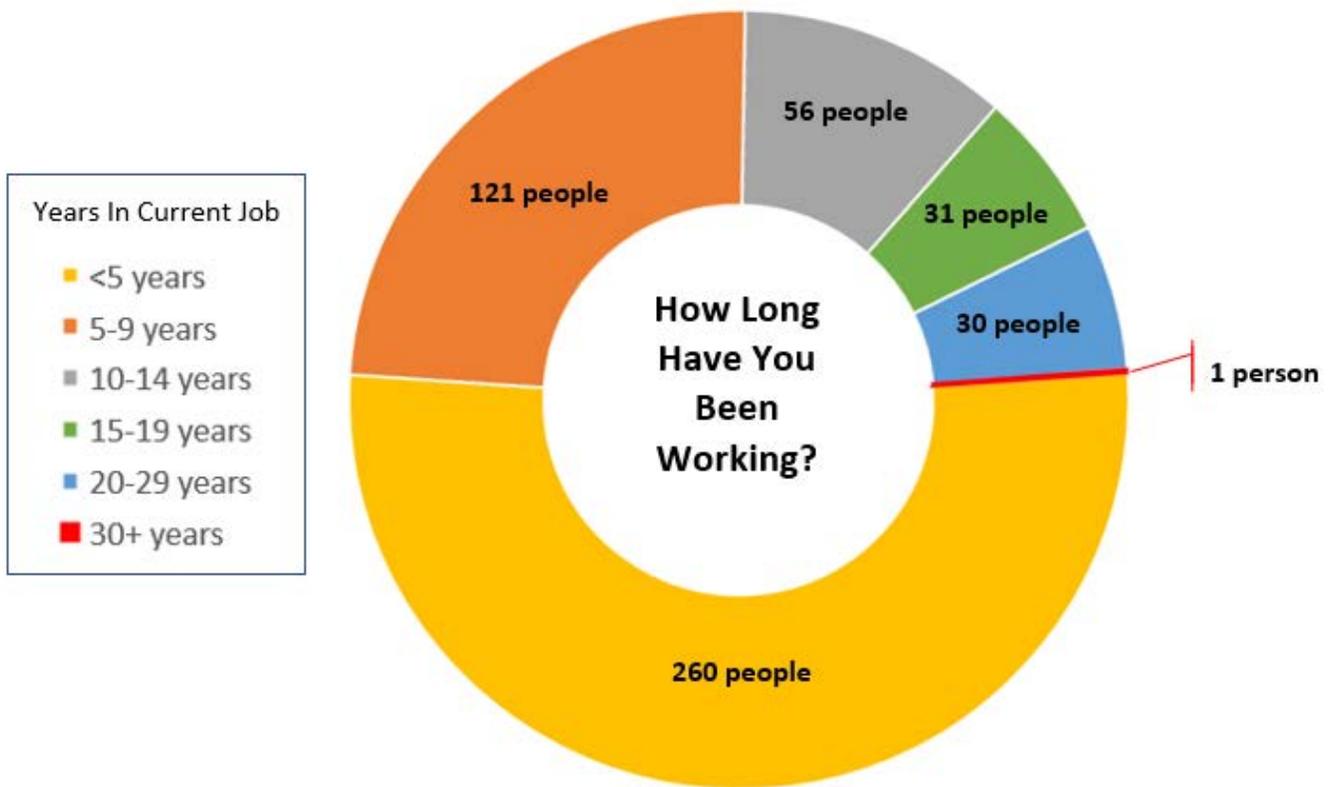
- A rate revision and payment methodology review.
  - New rates that impact DSP wages will bring the average starting hourly wage to \$18/hour in fiscal year 2023 and to \$20/hour in fiscal year 2024.
- Workgroups looking at administrative barriers will complete their work by 3/31/22.
- A statewide workforce initiative will focus on recruiting and credentialing staff to work with adults with disabilities.
- The State will implement a Transformation Fund to:
  - Support the creation of regional service coordination models and pool of substitute staff for individuals who self-direct.
  - Create a technical assistance grant process with defined tasks, funding, and outcomes to help provider agencies change their service models.
- A new Technology Fund to support adults with disabilities in acquiring assistive and supportive technology.
- A review of transportation needs and options to increase availability of transportation.
- The Court Monitor will be evaluating progress by looking at data, including:
  - Increased stability of the workforce;
  - Increased numbers of adults with disabilities achieving employment and integrated community activity;
  - Increased integrated service hours for adults with disabilities.

We appreciate and thank the many stakeholders who were involved in this process and continue to help transform the DD system.

## How Long Have You Been Working? A Snapshot of DD Employment

At the close of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Division of Developmental Disabilities wants to do a shout out to all those individuals with I/DD who are working in their communities throughout Rhode Island.

Through the use of Therap, the central computer system that Division and the DD provider network uses to track data, we are happy to celebrate those who have been working and the longevity of their jobs. One person has been working at the same employer for more than 30 years!



*We are aware that we may be missing many individuals in the Therap system and for that we apologize. We are making every effort to solidify the system over the next year so that we may celebrate each and every worker.*

## **Documentary Film Screening: “Of the Community”**

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021**

**1:00 PM to 1:45 PM**

[Click here](#) to register

This film follows the lives of eight individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their journey to becoming of their community, not just in it. It also warns service providers of unconscious institutional mindsets that can threaten good service intentions. Attendees can expect to:

- Gain a refreshed and energized perspective on the meaning of true community inclusion.
- See how an elevated role-perception amongst direct support professionals is a key driver to making dreams a reality for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families!

## **Rhode Island 2030:**

### **Charting A Course For The Future Of The Ocean State**

#### **Community Conversations**

Following 13 virtual community conversations on key priority areas such as education, workforce, and children and family issues, Governor Dan McKee and Lt. Governor Sabina Matos have rolled out a working paper containing preliminary recommendations which, once further shaped by public input, will serve as a framework and guiding document for the state over the next decade.

[Read the RI 2030: Working Draft and Preliminary Recommendations HERE \(en Español aqui\)](#)

Beginning on October 26, the McKee-Matos Administration, will be holding in-person public input sessions to solicit feedback on the preliminary document. Upcoming public input sessions are:

- Tuesday, November 2 at the Community College of Rhode Island (400 East Ave, Warwick), 5 PM\*  
*\* = Proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test (72 hours) is required at CCRI. Rapid testing is available on site. For more information, visit CCRI's website.*
- Thursday, November 4 at Innovate Newport (513 Broadway, Newport), 5 PM
- Tuesday, November 9 at United Theatre (5 Canal Street, Westerly), 5 PM

Please note masks are required at all venues. Additional conversations will be announced at a later date.

If you would like to submit comments virtually, please [fill out this form](#).

[View videos of past conversations here](#)

## **2021 Symposium: Supporting Older Adults, Caregivers, and People with Disabilities Through Innovative Volunteer Models**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 1:00-3:30 PM**

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 1:00-3:45 PM**

**[Click Here for More Information and to Register](#)**

In conjunction with National Family Caregivers Month, USAging has organized a free two-day, virtual symposium to learn about local innovative models for supporting older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers through the use of volunteers. The symposium will promote and elevate awareness of the Community Care Corps initiative among stakeholder groups, highlight the work of grantees, and share lessons learned with others who may wish to start similar programs.

The symposium will incorporate keynote addresses and panel presentations featuring experts on topics such as caregiving, volunteerism, and the value and impact of non-medical care. Presenters will share information and insights on engaging leaders and activating volunteers to participate in innovative models that address the needs of caregivers at the community level.

### **Agenda November 16**

1:00 pm **Welcome**

**Community Care Corps: Setting the Stage**

**Videos from Capitol Hill** featuring US Reps Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Susan Collins (R-ME)

**Keynote: Volunteer Activation and Engagement, a National Perspective**

2:00 pm **Break** - videos highlighting impact of Community Care Corps will be shown

2:30 pm **Activating Volunteers in Local Models Supporting Older Adults, Family Caregivers and People with Disabilities - Panel Discussion**

### **Agenda November 17**

1:00 pm **Welcome**

**Keynote Address: ACL's Efforts to Support Family Caregivers**

**Needs of Caregivers at Community Level - Panel Discussion**

2:15 pm **Break** - videos highlighting impact of Community Care Corps will be shown

2:30 pm **Addressing Community Needs of Caregivers, Older Adults and People Living with Disabilities Through Innovative Models - Panel Discussion**

For questions, contact [Community Care Corps](#).

*Funded by ACL, [Community Care Corps](#) is a national program that fosters innovative models in which local volunteers assist family caregivers, older adults, or persons with disabilities with non-medical care in their own homes in order to maintain independence.*



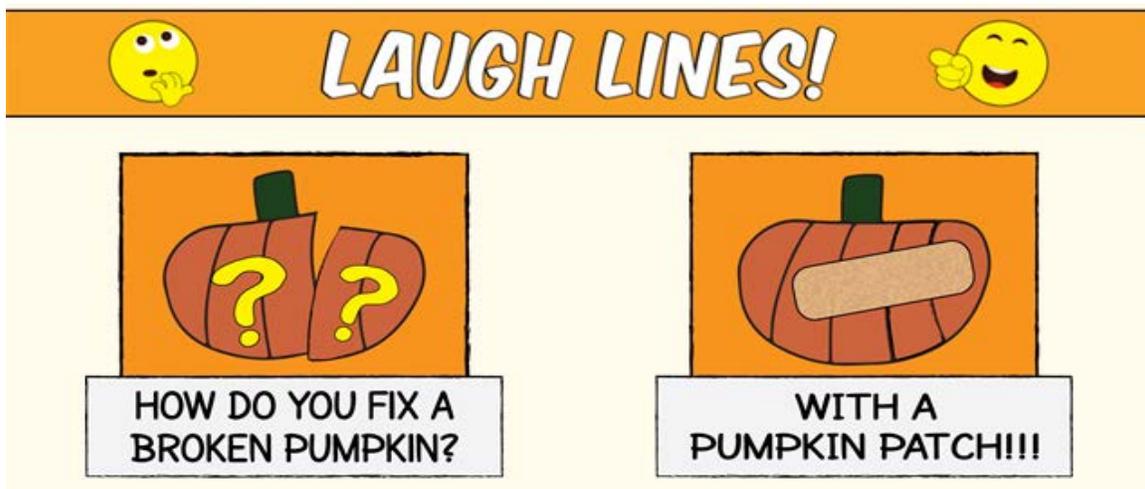
## Raise Report Offers 26 Recommendations to Strengthen Family Caregiving

The Family Caregiving Advisory Council created by the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, & Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017 has issued its initial report to Congress. The report outlines progress to date on the council's efforts to evaluate and document the experiences and unmet needs of the nation's family caregivers in the current environment. The report includes 26 recommendations that were developed in response to a broad range of information-gathering efforts conducted between 2019 and 2021. These efforts included a formal request for information (RFI) from family caregivers, a series of listening sessions and focus groups, and more than a dozen briefings from experts in the field. The council used the findings of its information-gathering efforts to develop the recommendations presented in this report. The recommendations include:

- Five recommendations that address the need for increased awareness of family caregiving.
- Five recommendations for increased emphasis on integrating the caregiver into processes and systems from which they have been traditionally excluded.
- Nine recommendations for increasing access to services and supports to assist family caregivers.
- Four recommendations to increase financial and workplace protections for caregivers.
- Three recommendations to drive better and more consistent research and data collection to assist in the development and dissemination of systemic policies and interventions that can help family caregivers in meaningful ways.

Download the [RAISE Family Caregivers Act Initial Report to Congress](#).

Watch the [video interviews](#) with caregivers about their experiences.



**Thanks to Advocates in Action for sharing this laugh!**

## **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

## **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*

### **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*

## Developmental Disabilities Services - All Staff Contacts

<b>Main Phone #:</b>	(401) 462-3421	Website:	<a href="https://bhddh.ri.gov/">https://bhddh.ri.gov/</a>
<b>To report abuse/neglect:</b>	(401) 462-2629		
<b>Fax:</b>	(401) 462-2775		
<b>TDD:</b>	(401) 462-3226		
<b>Spanish Line:</b>	(401) 462-3014		

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Kevin Savage	Director	462-0581	<a href="mailto:Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov">Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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Gerard (Jay) MacKay	Assoc. Admin, Comm Services	462-5279	<a href="mailto:Gerard.mackay@bhddh.ri.gov">Gerard.mackay@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jacqueline Reilly	Programming Services Officer	462-0126	<a href="mailto:Jacqueline.Reilly@bhddh.ri.gov">Jacqueline.Reilly@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### Case Management Units

#### 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>
Carl Desjarlais	Social Caseworker II	462-1555	<a href="mailto:Carl.Desjarlais@bhddh.ri.gov">Carl.Desjarlais@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>
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Jennifer Gouveia	Social Caseworker II	462-0098	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov">Jennifer.Gouveia@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>
Lena Sousa	Social Caseworker II	462-1834	<a href="mailto:Lena.Sousa@bhddh.ri.gov">Lena.Sousa@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>
Timothy Cronin	Social Caseworker II	462-1721	<a href="mailto:Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov">Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

#### Providence/West Bay/Kent Region

Vacancy	Casework Supervisor		
JoAnn DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	<a href="mailto:JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov">JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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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>
Judy Smith	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	<a href="mailto:Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov">Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### Eligibility Unit

Karen Lowell	Eligibility Supervisor	462-2209	<a href="mailto:Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov">Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Marissa Abbruzzi	Social Caseworker II (RICLAS)	462-6099	<a href="mailto:Marisa.Abbruzzi@bhddh.ri.gov">Marisa.Abbruzzi@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>
Kim Wright	Information Aide	462-2584	<a href="mailto:Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov">Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### SIS Unit

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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>

### Transition Unit

Susan Hayward	Administrator, YIT	462-2519	<a href="mailto:Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov">Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Carolee Leach	Prof. Services Coordinator	462-1723	<a href="mailto:Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov">Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### Support Staff

Stephanie Andreozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov">Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Lori Vandall	Clerk Typist - medical leave	462-6086	<a href="mailto:Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov">Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

# Community of Practice in Autism in RI

## November Meeting

### Zoom Webinar

## Overcoming Barriers – A Mother's 25-Year Journey Raising a Son with ASD

#### PRESENTERS:

**Susan Linehan**, autism advocate, parent consultant and support group facilitator  
**Patrick Linehan** – artist, musician, self-advocate

Attend this webinar and learn about one family's journey from autism diagnosis to adulthood. Susan Linehan will guide the audience through her family's experience navigating the public education system, building a team of parent/teacher/school collaborations, and successfully helping her son Patrick to transition to adult services. The discussion will emphasize the importance of positive engagement while focusing on nurturing the child's unique strengths and talents. You will have an opportunity to see some of Patrick's artwork as well as a recent piano performance.

#### REGISTRATION

**NOVEMBER 2, 2021**  
**4:00 - 6:00 PM**  
ZOOM WEBINAR

Advance registration is required  
using the link below:

<http://bit.ly/38DRVJN>



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar.

#### Professional Development:

Continuing Education Credits (2.0 credit hours) from NASW-RI and RIMHCA will be available pending approval.

To be eligible for CEUs you MUST:

- JOIN USING YOUR UNIQUE ZOOM LINK PROVIDED UPON REGISTERING,
- SIGN INTO WEBINAR USING BOTH FIRST & LAST NAMES, and
- PARTICIPATE THE DURATION OF THE WEBINAR.

#### Questions & Requests:

If you need a reasonable accommodation, please indicate your request on the registration form as soon as possible.

**For registration questions**, contact Elaine Sollecito at [esollecito@ric.edu](mailto:esollecito@ric.edu) or 401-456-2764.

**For questions about the Community of Practice or this meeting**, contact Paul LaCava at [placava@ric.edu](mailto:placava@ric.edu) or 401-456-4735.



Registration information is also available on the Sherlock Center website at [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org).

# SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS NETWORK

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

## ONLINE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021

7:00 – 8:30 PM

### Dialogue with:

Heather Mincey, Assistant Director,  
Division of Developmental Disabilities (BHDDH)

Hear about what is happening at BHDDH

Share your thoughts – Give Feedback

Ask questions

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.

RSVP LINK: <https://bit.ly/2YUamqz>

Please RSVP using the link above. Click the link or cut and paste 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 Claire Rosenbaum, Sherlock Center on Disabilities:

Email: [crosenbaum@ric.edu](mailto:crosenbaum@ric.edu) Voice: 401-456-4732 TTY: 711



## We have an announcement!

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce the formation of the Rhode Island Self-Direct Coalition (RISDC). We will provide resources and guidance to individuals and families interested in Self-Direct Services. Self-Direction has many benefits, but unfortunately, navigating the system can be overwhelming and confusing. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to be a part of this coalition to help assist one another, so we can all work together to improve the lives of those that use self-direction.

We will be holding monthly informational sessions around topics of interest to those that Self-Direct. In addition, we will schedule speakers around a variety of topics to help keep us all better informed.

We will also provide workforce training and development for *Achievement Coordinators\**. We are in a workforce crisis, now is the time to appreciate and support these important individuals. Our goal is to form an Employment Hub for *Achievement Coordinators* to be partnered with individuals seeking to expand their workforce.

We will be a starting point for local businesses that are looking to hire employees. We will connect and align qualified applicants with developmental disabilities to job opportunities. In addition, we will increase awareness around the potential for self-employment.

We will provide education and awareness on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to, self-advocacy, personal safety, and self-empowerment to promote a healthy, person-centered life.

We have all faced situations and obstacles that have left us feeling alone and frustrated. Our goal is to share correct information, avoid misinformation and improve the way self-directed communication is provided.

Thank you for your time. Feel free to reach out with any questions. Please email [info@risdc.org](mailto:info@risdc.org) to be placed on our email list. The website is just about finished, and we will have current and up-to-date resources available.

Let's work together to improve everyone's life!

All the best,

Claudia Lowe & Sheila Coyne  
Co-Founders

\**Achievement Coordinators*-formerly known as Direct Service Professionals (DSPs)

# Personal Lifetime Advocacy Networks of RI

## Housing Alternatives Information Service

*Are you a parent of a person with a disability,  
wondering where your son or daughter will live  
when it is time to move out of your home?*

**Find a new window on the world  
of creative housing options**



Please contact one of our housing information and referral consultants:

- Deb Langevin at (401) 317-0200 or [dlangevinplanri@gmail.com](mailto:dlangevinplanri@gmail.com). She is actively working to assure a customized community living option for her son
- Iraida Williams at (401) 317-0212 or [iwilliamsplanri@gmail.com](mailto:iwilliamsplanri@gmail.com), a Spanish-speaking parent, who has proactively sought out a variety of person-centered outcomes for her loved one
- Heidi Showstead at (401) 317-0217 or [heidishowstead@verizon.net](mailto:heidishowstead@verizon.net), a woman with disabilities who has lived independently throughout her adult life

*PLAN RI is grateful for the support of the John E.  
Fogarty Foundation, RIFORCE & the Carpcionato Group*

