



DD Community Forum

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/MayDDForum>



Join BHDDH for a DD Community Forum on Wednesday, May 11th at 3:00 PM.

Join us on Zoom to get the latest news from the BHDDH Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Everyone must register in advance. The registration form also asks for your questions or comments about the RI DD System. Division Director Kevin Savage and the DD team will answer the 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.

BHDDH Seeks Your Thoughts on the DD Forums

Please take a moment to answer four simple questions about yourself and the Quarterly DD Community Forum.

Your input is extremely valuable as decisions are made about future Forums.

Simply click this link to get started:



<https://tinyurl.com/DDForumSurvey> [tinyurl.com]

Thank you for your time!

Technology Fund

Following the October 2021 Consent Decree Action Plan, a \$2 million Technology Fund was created. This one-time Technology Fund is intended for individuals to purchase hardware or software that will assist, improve, increase and/or maintain their ability to meet the outcomes of their Individual Support Plan (ISP) goals, and will facilitate participation in employment and integrated community activities.

Visit <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/technology-fund> for useful information, including:

- Guidance for what the funding can be used to purchase and how to access the fund.
- A recording of the April 6th information forum on the Technology Fund. The forum was supported by both ASL and Spanish interpreters.
- The request form.
- A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document based on questions asked during the Forum.

A library of information will soon be added to the website, including accessible apps for travel, safety, work, and learning; training tools for individuals, families, and provider agencies; and other helpful technology resources.

Request Process

1. Before making a request for funding, research what technology you might be interested in and how it could benefit you.
2. Complete the [request form](#) to request a purchase through the Technology Fund.
 - a. The form is available in English or Spanish. Select your language in the first question.
 - b. Please remember that the technology request needs to align with one or more goals in your ISP.
 - c. The request form may be submitted online or sent to your social caseworker. If the form is submitted online, once completed a window will open with a confirmation message thanking you for the submission.
3. A Tech Review Committee will review requests on a quarterly basis. The first review will occur in June 2022. Applicants will be notified of the determination shortly after.

Research Project

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College will engage in a research project on use of the Technology Fund in order to understand individuals' experiences with their purchased technology. This will help the State to think about how to address technology needs and supports in the future.

The next Tech Fund Informational Forum will be hosted in July 2022

Your Feedback is Needed for a Survey about Transportation Options in Rhode Island

The [Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council](#) is conducting a survey about the following publicly-funded transportation services in our state:

- RI Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA) Fixed Route and Flex Bus
- The Ride Program- RIPTA ADA Paratransit and contracted services for the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Non-Emergency Medical (NEMT) and Elderly Transportation Program (ETP), which are currently provided by MTM
- Local Van Services provided by Cities and Towns
- Rhode Island's Commuter Rail and Train Service

The information you provide will help the Coordinating Council better understand how publicly-funded transportation services meet the needs of ALL Rhode Islanders and identify areas for improvement in our state.

[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)

About the Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council is charged with better integrating and improving transportation programs that support individuals in need of specialized transportation assistance. It was created by the Rhode Island General Assembly in RI Gen. Laws § 39-18.1-5, which established a coordinating council consisting of state agencies responsible for meeting the needs of low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

The following agencies are currently represented on the Council: RI Dept. of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH); RI Dept. of Health (RIDOH); RI Dept. of Human Services (DHS); RI Division of Statewide Planning; RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS); RI Office of Healthy Aging (OHA); RI Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS); RI Office of Veterans Services; RI Public Transit Authority (RIPTA); and RI Dept. of Transportation (RIDOT).

This survey is open to everyone.

Please share the link to the survey with anyone you know who uses any of these transportation options.

The link is <https://tinyurl.com/HSTCCSurvey>

Caseload Estimating Conference

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is now part of the State's Caseload Estimating Conference, which is a budgeting exercise to discuss projected budgeting needs for the next fiscal year. This helps DD to inform the State budgeting process of the particular needs of DD participants and keep them up-to-date on what is happening in the Division.

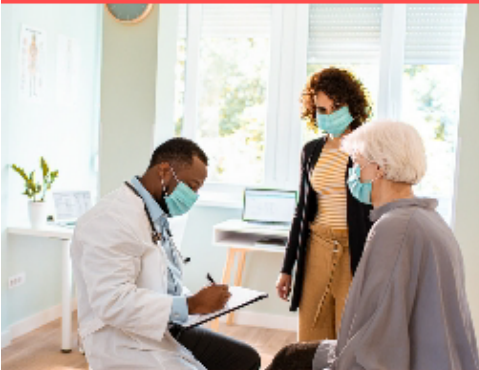
Materials will be available on the Office of Management and Budget website at <https://omb.ri.gov/budget-office/revenues-and-caseload>.

The COVID Public Health Emergency Has Been Extended

On Wednesday, April 13, 2022, the Biden administration renewed the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) for another 90 days. This will extend pandemic policies and flexibilities that the Division has put in place. States will have 60 days notice before the PHE ends.

BHDDH continues to work in collaboration with the RI Medicaid office and the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to make some of the flexibilities during COVID permanent, including the ability for self-directed participants to hire family and guardians and telehealth.

The CDC has approved a 2nd COVID-19 booster for anyone over age 50. Do you need help getting information or scheduling an appointment for a vaccination or booster?



We can help you get the information you need to decide when, how and where to get a vaccination or booster.

We can help you arrange an appointment at a pharmacy, clinic or drive thru site to get your vaccination or booster. If going to one of these sites is very difficult for you, it is possible to arrange to be vaccinated in the comfort of your home.

If you need assistance or have questions about getting access, scheduling an appointment or finding transportation for a vaccine or booster shot, you can call 401-216-9660 or email vaxhelp@AccessibleRI.org Then we will call back to assist you.



Research Study of New HCBS Outcome Measures Launched **Participants with Disabilities Needed!**

Getting services at home or in the community is important for people with disabilities. To make those services better, we need to know if and how the services are working. We are testing measures that include questions about how well Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) are helping people live the lives they want. We need your help to make sure the measures provide valuable information.

The Research and Training Center on HCBS Outcome Measurement (RTC/OM) at the [Institute on Community Integration](#) has developed measures that include questions about how well Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) are helping people with a variety of disabilities live the lives they want.

In this research study, interviewers will meet over videoconference (Zoom) with people with disabilities, or in person, to ask questions about their services and important areas of their lives (e.g., social connectedness; meaningful activities). Each person taking part will be interviewed at three separate times over a year. Everyone interviewed will receive a gift card.

RTC/OM is recruiting participants for interviews right now! In order to participate, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
 - **Have a disability and receive services or supports** due to your disability.
 - Provide consent for participation in the research study (or guardian consents).
 - Be willing to take part in a 60-90 minute interview.
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ICI is also recruiting research study participants who know someone with a disability. In this part of the research study, we will meet over video conference to talk with you and ask questions about the experiences of someone you know with a disability to determine how well you believe you can answer questions about that person. We may record the interview.

To take part, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- **Know someone well** who has a disability and receives services or supports for the disability (Physical, Mental health, Intellectual and developmental, Age-related, or Acquired Brain injury/TBI)
- Provide consent.
- Be willing to take part in a 60-90 minute interview(s).

Everyone we interview will get a gift card per interview.

If you are interested in being a participant with a disability or a participant who knows someone with a disability, or if you have any questions please contact: Matt Roberts at rtcom@umn.edu or 612-624-1489.

For more information about this research project, [watch this video](#).

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
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>.

COVID-19 Information

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/>
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

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

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

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, Comm 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, Prgm Perf	462-0192	Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov
Tracy Levesque	Clinical Administrator	462-0209	Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov
Gerard (Jay) MacKay	Associate Administrator	462-5279	Gerard.Mackay@bhddh.ri.gov
Jacqueline Reilly	Programming Services Officer	462-0126	Jacqueline.Reilly@bhddh.ri.gov

Case Management Units

East Providence/Pawtucket/Central Falls region

Marguerite Belisle	Casework Supervisor	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

Northern RI/West Bay/Kent Region

Janice Bijesse	Casework Supervisor	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

South County/West Bay/Kent Region

Meredith MacDonald	Casework Supervisor	462-1329	Meredith.Macdonald@bhddh.ri.gov
Lauree Champagne	Social Caseworker II	462-2728	Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov
Tim Cronin	Social Caseworker II	462-1721	Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov
Jennifer Gouveia	Social Caseworker II	462-0098	Jennifer.Gouveia@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

Providence/West Bay/Kent Region

Kelly Petersen	Casework Supervisor	462-3402	Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov
JoAnn DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov
Meaghan Jencks	Social Caseworker II	462-2113	Meaghan.Jencks@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
Vacancy	Social Caseworker II	462-2563	

Eligibility Unit

Karen Lowell	Eligibility Supervisor	462-2209	Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov
Marisa Abbruzzi	Social Caseworker II (RICLAS)	462-6099	Marisa.Abbuzzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Christine Harding	Eligibility Caseworker	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	SIS Supervisor	462-2628	Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov
Wendy Cormier	SIS Caseworker	462-1302	Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov
Kristen Miga	SIS Caseworker	462-0449	Kristen.Miga@bhddh.ri.gov
Judy Smith	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov
Jamie Fitzgibbons	Social Caseworker II	462-2510	Start date 5/8/22

Transition Unit

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

Support Staff

Stephanie Andreozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Lori Vandall	Clerk Typist - medical leave	462-6086	Lori.Vandall@bhddh.ri.gov



Get Ready for Rhode Island's 2022 Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference!

Mark your calendars now and join us as we
Reach for the Stars!



This FREE virtual event
will take place on
Thursday, June 16th and
Friday, June 17th