Consent Decree Status Hearing

A Consent Decree Status Hearing was held on Thursday, April 27. The following documents have been posted to the DD website under Initiatives – Consent Decree.

- the court monitor's report for March 2023
- the presentation given at the status hearing on the rate study

You can also find Consent Decree court orders here.

The next Consent Decree status hearing will be held in August 2023.

DD Caseload Estimating Conference

The Division of Developmental Disabilities presented at the Caseload Estimating Conference on Monday, April 24th. The full conference is available to watch here on Capitol TV on Demand. The DD testimony begins about 1:16:00 in the video.

COVID Public Health Emergency Ending May 11

The COVID-19 public health emergency declaration will end on May 11.

What is the Public Health Emergency (PHE)?

The PHE was declared in 2020 by the federal government to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PHE provided additional funding and allowed States to do some new things to help deal with the impact of COVID.

What happens to DD services when the PHE ends?

- Flexibilities for parents and guardians to serve as paid employees through self-direction will remain for 6 months after the PHE ends, until November 11, 2023. Rhode Island is working to make this permanent.
- Telehealth services will permanently remain. Telehealth is when a provider delivers services by smartphone or computer.
- Increased funding under the PHE for SLA will continue until the implementation of new rates.

DD News 04/28/2023

The 90-Day Challenge:

How to Retain Direct Support Professionals from Day One Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Click here to register

The first 90 days are a crucial period when new DSPs are still adjusting to their roles and may be at risk of burnout or turnover. This webinar will explore practical steps that agencies and people who self-direct their services can take to address this challenge and ensure DSPs stay engaged and committed to their work.

First, Barbara Kleist, Program Director at the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), will share her expertise on this topic, drawing from ICI's interactive online training resources for people who self-direct their services. Next, Andrew Whalen, a person who self-directs his services, and three DSPs (Alicia Cole, Britney Eley, and William Harold) will share their perspectives on best practices to engage and retain DSPs.

By the end of this session, attendees will gain new strategies to boost DSP engagement and support early in their employment—and improve retention in turn.

Visit the Rhode Island Statewide Workforce Initiative Community Hub to stay informed, access resources, and connect with one another: https://riswi.org/

Fitting the Pieces Together: Assistive Technology **Solutions for Brain Injury and Employment** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 3:00 PM Click here to register

Brain injury can cause temporary or long-term cognitive, emotional, and physical challenges, impacting a person's ability to think, learn, remember, move, act, and feel. Each brain injury is as unique as the person who sustains the injury and may interfere with their ability to find and maintain work. Brain injury is also a "hidden disability;" challenges go unseen, discounted, or forgotten, which also impacts job performance. TBI can create the need for social and emotional supports within and outside of work. Individuals with brain injury can be successful at starting or returning to work with the right support, preparation, and alignment of abilities and skills to employment opportunities.

Assistive technology (AT) plays a critical role in employment success. Low and high-tech options and resources are abundant, but it is important to have an AT navigator at the helm to guide best practice and application for these supports. Learn how AT programs assess specific sensory, physical, social, emotional, and cognitive challenges. The process for analyzing, determining, and providing support before work begins, or during job retention, to individuals, employment staff and businesses across the US will be shared. Case examples of how and when AT is applied to help individuals with brain injury will be shared and reviewed. Resources and program information will also be disseminated.

Transit Planning 4 All Virtual Town Halls Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Session 1: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Session 2: 6:00-8:00 PM

Click here to register by May 3

The ACL-funded Transit Planning 4 All (TP4A) program is hosting two virtual town halls to identify unmet and emergent transportation accessibility barriers, obstacles, and needs for people with disabilities and older adults across the nation.

People with disabilities, older adults, and caregivers are encouraged to share their lived experiences around transportation access and inclusion in transit planning and operations. Staff and volunteers with transit agencies, regional planning organizations, government agencies, and human service agencies also are welcome to share their experiences.

Both sessions will be held on Tuesday, May 9 — one at 10:00 AM–12:00 PM and the other at 6:00–8:00 PM. The sessions will be identical, so please select ONE of the two sessions. Registration should be completed by May 3, 2023.

An ASL interpreter and captioning will be provided. If any additional accommodations are needed, email lee@ctaa.org regarding how we can support your Town Hall participation.

State Workforce Initative Advisory Group Meeting Wednesday, June 7 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM Click Here to Register

The next meeting for the Advisory Group will be on June 7. Please register in advance with the link above. People with I/DD and family members are encouraged to join.

If you can't make it to the meeting, you will receive a recording and meeting materials. We'll send an agenda and meeting materials to current members and new members who register.

Save the Date – Next DD Community Forum Tuesday, June 20 from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM Click Here to Register

Get the latest news from the Division of Developmental Disabilities at the RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH).



IMPROving Employment Outcomes with IMPROV

<u>IMPROving Employment Outcomes with IMPROV</u> is a podcast that talks about the importance of helping people with disabilities connect to meaningful activities within their community. This connection to the community helps the person feel a sense of belonging within the community. Additionally, the speakers talk about using innovative strategies such as improv and connecting to comedy as a tool to boost self-confidence and other skills to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The podcast is offered by Sierra Royster, Director of Innovation at the <u>Association of Programs</u> <u>for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)</u> and Michael Beers, the Youth Transition Coordinator at <u>Summit Independent Living</u> in Missoula, Montana.

RI Health & Human Services Workforce Summit: The Road Ahead Tuesday, June 6 from 8:30 AM - 12:15 PM Registration starts at 8:00 AM RI Nursing Education Center, 350 Eddy St, Providence Click Here to Register

As we continue to collaboratively develop solutions that address Rhode Island's health and human services workforce challenges, let's celebrate accomplishments from the first-year planning process and outline the vision for The Road Ahead. Light refreshments & parking validation will be provided.

Summit Overview:

Executive Briefing (8:30 AM - 10:00 AM)

- Year-One Progress Report
- Vision for the Year Ahead: Attract, Train, & Retain
- Featured Speakers: Perspectives from Industry Leaders

Interactive Session (10:15 AM - 12:15 PM)

- Live & Dynamic Health Workforce Data Session (EOHHS Data Ecosystem)
- Panel Discussion: Centering Equity in RI's Health & Human Services Workforce Initiatives

Additional details will be announced soon!

Note: Only one individual may register per webform submission. Space is limited, and this registration form will close once we meet capacity. If you would like to participate, register ASAP!

Next steps:

- Meeting materials, parking instructions, and any additional information will be sent to registrants via email as the event approaches. Please keep an eye out for relevant correspondence.
- Please submit any inquiries to Aryana Huskey at <u>aryana.huskey.ctr@ohhs.ri.gov</u>

Rhode Islander to speak at the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID)

The DD Council's Self-Employment Project was asked to recommend someone to be a speaker this Monday, May 1, 2023 from 1:30 pm-2:30 pm for the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID).

Alton Stuckey, RI business owner, "Alton Stuckey Portraits and Beyond", will be representing RI and the only entrepreneur on the call.

The full Committee meeting officially starts at approximately 12:25 pm with the Direct Support Professional Session, then **Employment Session at 1:35 pm involving Alton**, then Community Living Session at 2:45 pm and lastly Federal Support Programs Session at 3:55 pm.

The DD Council's Self Employment Program was asked by Amy Gonzalez, Senior Advisor, federal Administration on Disabilities (AoD) and the national Disability Technical Assistance Center (DETAC) to have one of RI's entrepreneur's share their story and information about their business with the Committee. Alton's presentation will show his creative works of art and include recommendations for assisting more people with disabilities to become business owners. This discussion will help develop a general framework for the preparation of the PCPID Report to the President of the United States.

Included below is a **link to register** to attend this presentation and hear Alton's comments. This is such a great opportunity for Alton, who is an incredibly talented artist, as well as RI to get some national attention. Please try to attend the meeting and support Alton!

Meeting Registration Link:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_jjKOBx7ARW-EiJdzKgamWg [zoomgov.com]

For more information on the PCPID or to view the Committee's reports and membership, see https://acl.gov/programs/empowering-advocacy/presidents-committee-people.

The PCPID aims to provide advice and assistance to the President of the U.S. and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on a broad range of topics that impact people with intellectual disabilities as well as the field of intellectual disabilities. The foundation of this mission is a goal to improve the quality of life experienced by people with intellectual disabilities by upholding their full citizenship rights, independence, self-determination, and lifelong participation in their communities.

The PCPID is interested in comments or feedback from the community. If you would like to share your thoughts, use the form at https://acl.gov/form/pcpid.

Report Suspected Abuse

Mandated Reporting

Reporting suspected occurrences of abuse, neglect, and mistreatment of individuals with developmental disabilities

To report abuse and serious incidents call the QA hotline at (401) 462-2629

The Quality Assurance (QA) Unit at BHDDH operates a 24 hour hotline, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Staff respond to reported incidents of abuse, neglect, mistreatment and financial exploitation.

For More Information on DD Initiatives

Consent Decree: see https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/consent-decree Conflict Free Case Management: see the **EOHHS CFCM website** or **DD Initiatives-CFCM**

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.

Contacting DD Staff

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter.

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM 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.

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. 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 Call 911 if there is risk of immediate danger.

Division of Developmental Disabilities - All Staff Contacts

 Main Phone #:
 (401) 462-3421
 TDD:
 (401) 462-3226
 Website:
 https://bhddh.ri.gov/
 To report abuse/neglect:

 Fax:
 (401) 462-2775
 Spanish Line:
 (401) 462-3014
 BH Link:
 (401) 414-5465
 (401) 462-2629

| , | 401) 402-2773 | Spanish Line. | (401) 402-3014 Bit Liii | K. (401) 414 | -3403 (401) 402 2023 |
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| | | | | | |



RI's 2023 Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference

Thursday, May 11th on Zoom/ Friday, May 12th at the Providence Marriott

Check out our Conference Page for more info: www.advocatesinaction.org/togetheragain





Day 1 of "Together Again" will take place virtually over Zoom on Thursday, May 11th, from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. (There will be a one-hour lunch break from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.)

There's NO COST to attend the first day of the conference, thanks to support from the RI DDD. Your free registration includes Workshop Presentations, General Sessions, Music, Contests, and more!

The Registration Deadline for the Virtual Conference Day is Tuesday, May 9th. Go to advocatesinaction.org/togetheragain_day to complete the Registration Form and reserve your spot to join us on Zoom!

Day 2 of "Together Again" will held IN-PERSON at the Providence Marriott Downtown on Friday, May 12th, from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm!

Tickets for the Dinner Dance cost a reduced price of \$30 Per Person, thanks to support from the RI DDD. Your ticket will include a banquet dinner, and an evening of dancing, games and fun, featuring live music from *Mark Cutler and the Men of Great Courage*!

The Registration Deadline for the Dinner Dance is Friday, May 5th, but space is limited. Go to advocatesinaction.org/togetheragain_dinnerdance to purchase your ticket(s).



Contact us with any with any questions, comments or requests for information about RI's 2023 Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference.

Email Us at: AinA@advocatesinaction.org

Call Us at: 1-877-532-5543

Community of Practice in Autism RI May Meeting

Autism Included: An Atypical Approach to Intervention



PRESENTED BY THE AUTISM INCLUDED

Stephanie Izzi, Ph.D., Co-Founder and Head of Project Development

Join researcher, speech-language pathologist, and autistic self-advocate Dr. Stephanie Izzi to learn about an autistic-led approach to inclusive education. Autism Included has re-envisioned early childhood education by designing strategic frameworks for families, schools, and communities. The approach centers on the ethics and research supported by the neurodiversity movement. Dr. Izzi will speak about going beyond evidence-based practice to science-and-ethics-based practice to support the unique communication, social-emotional, and educational needs of autistic learners. Neurodevelopmental research, practical strategies and tools, and culture change will be discussed from an

In-Person Meeting!

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 4:00-6:00 PM Rhode Island College

Advance registration is required using the link below:

http://bit.ly/38DRVJN

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with building location and required parking permit.

Professional Development:

autistic perspective.

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

To be eligible for CEUs you MUST:

- Sign In/Out no more than 15 minutes after start/before end of meeting.
- Request CEUs at sign in.
- General Letters of Attendance available at sign out.

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 <u>esollecito@ric.edu</u> or 401–456-2764.

For questions about the Community of Practice or this meeting, contact Paul LaCava at placava@ric.edu or 401-456-4735.





Registration information is also available on the Sherlock Center website at www.sherlockcenter.org.

LUNCH AND LEARN: Working While Disabled—Work Incentives Sessions

Working with Benefits - Yes, You Can! May 18, 2023, 12-1 pm

SSDI Overview: June 7, 2023, 12-1 pm

SSI Overview: July 19, 2023, 12-1 pm

Work Pays! An Introduction to YOUTH June 21, 2023, 12-1 pm



ALL SESSIONS will be offered on Zoom with subtitles in English.

REGISTER ONLINE at https://bit.ly/2KkUCVQ

The Sherlock Center provides Work Incentive Information and Benefits Counseling services to SSI and SSDI beneficiaries and those that support them (family, guardian, rep payee, professionals). These sessions will be of value to anyone looking for a basic introduction to disability-related work incentives and/or has related questions. The Work and Benefits Introduction is for those starting to think about working and have general questions. The SSI or SSDI sessions provide details about the specific work incentives and other related information. All sessions provide an opportunity for you to ask questions about the following topics:

- Ticket to Work
- SSI or SSDI Work Incentives
- Resources about Work Incentive Information
- Access to Benefits Counseling
- Working and Impact on Health Insurance Medicaid/Medicare
- Other questions related to benefits and working

Upon registration please share your questions.

NOTE: These sessions will not address how to apply for SSI or SSDI benefits.

TIP: Unsure if you receive SSI or SSDI? You can confirm which benefit you have at https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/

Presented by Certified Work Incentives Counselors.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED! Advance registration is required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the session. You can access the session by computer, mobile device or listen using a cell or landline phone.

Accommodation requests or registration questions: Contact Elaine Sollecito at esollecito@ric.edu, 401-456-2764.

Session questions: Contact Vicki Ferrara at <u>vferrara@ric.edu</u>, 401-456-8092 or Joshua Hughes at <u>jhughes@ric.edu</u>, 401-456-4734.









JOB & CAREER FAIR

This is a FREE EVENT

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Open to Mt. Hope High School
Highlander Charter School and
any students in the East Bay,
as well as community members

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Panel of recent High School,
College students and grads
Open Q&A

Calling all Businesses:

Sign up now for a table and showcase your business to students and community members. Businesses can opt into an optional career panel to engage in Q&A sessions with students at 4:30 pm.

If you are interested please contact Suzanne Munroe at info@eastbaychambern org by end of business Friday, April 28th.

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Expo Format with Businesses

at tables in gym area for possible:

Informational interviews on

the spot

Job shadow opportunities

Job Applications

Internships Apprenticeships



MAY 11th THURSDAY

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Highlander Charter School 360 Market Street Warren, RI 02885

When this inesses and students win/win!









For more information please contact:

Andrea D. Fairman, PhD, OTR/L, ATP

Phone: 401-598-4765

Email: Andrea.Fairman@jwu.edu

Location: 138 Matthewson St. Providence, RI 02903

What will this program include?

- Assessment of your sensation, vision, movement, strength, coordination, and cognition for driving and community mobility.
- Assessment and practice of behind the wheel skills in our driving simulator.
- For first time drivers or persons who want to return to driving after stopping due to illness or injury

Johnson & Wales University is providing these evaluations and services <u>free of charge</u> in an academic setting, where occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) students will conduct the assessments and provide services under the supervision of licensed faculty members as part of a training program. Your treating healthcare provider may use the Driver's Assessment and other clinical information to make a recommendation to state driver's licensing authorities about your fitness to drive.

Mobility and Clinical Driving Evaluations

Are you or your family concerned about your driving or how you get around the community?

Come for an assessment!

How can this benefit you?

Enhance driving skills.

- Receive recommendations for car
- modifications to increase safety and confidence while driving.
 Receive resources for community
- mobility.



Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program

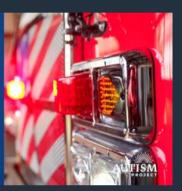


ROLL CALL VIDEOS

STRATEGIES TO BETTER ENGAGE WITH AUTISTIC PEOPLE AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Introduction to Autism

The Autism Project: First Responder Training Series



Supporting an Autistic Person During a Traffic Stop

The Autism Project: First Responder Training Series



Supporting an Autistic Person During an Emergency

The Autism
Project: First
Responder
Training Series



Self-Advocate and Family Insights

The Autism Project: First Responder Training Series



ROLL CALL VIDEOS were created to inform public safety personnel on strategies to better engage with autistic people and their caregivers during emergencies that are often stressful for all.

Each video is short and to the point to inform staff during a ROLL CALL or short meeting.

https://bit.ly/rollcallvideos





