



## Save the Date – Next DD Community Forum

Tuesday, September 19 from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)



Join BHDDH for the Fall DD Community Forum on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:30 PM to get the latest news from the BHDDH Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Everyone must register in advance. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with your unique login details to join the forum.

When you register, you can enter your questions or comments about the RI DD System. Director Kevin Savage and the DD team will answer 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. [Click Here to find recordings of past forums.](#)

An ASL interpreter will be present at this event. For other accommodation requests, please email [MichelleWhite@AdvocatesinAction.org](mailto:MichelleWhite@AdvocatesinAction.org). If you have any questions or need assistance registering, call Advocates in Action toll-free: 1-877-532-5543, or email [aina@AdvocatesinAction.org](mailto:aina@AdvocatesinAction.org).

## Can youth still in school receive adult DD services?

Yes. Individuals eligible for DD services can begin receiving services at age 18 even if they are still receiving school-funded services. The DD funding package is reduced, however. Youth still in school receive a funding package with 50% of the typical flexible budget. Youth must also transition out of any children's Medicaid services into adult Medicaid services.

## Whole Life Shared Living Arrangements

During COVID, individuals living in shared living arrangements (SLA) could choose to receive all their day and employment services from their SLA home provider under a service called Enhanced SLA. Enhanced SLA has ended with the end of COVID and transitioned into a new service called Whole Life Shared Living Arrangement (WLSLA). Under WLSLA, the individual chooses to receive all community-based supports, including the traditional day services, from the SLA home provider. The home provider receives a higher stipend for providing the additional services. Through the Employment Add-On budget, the individual may choose to have the home provider also provide employment supports or may select an agency to provide employment supports.

# Employment Add-On Budget

Employment supports are not included in the new funding packages. Instead, employment will be funded through an add-on budget. New plan submissions can include the add-on budget. Existing plans can begin using the add-on employment budget for plan changes beginning October 1. With the add-on budget, individuals will no longer have to reduce their community supports in order to get supports to find and keep a job. There are currently 5 services available on the add-on budget.

1. **Job Development** is for help finding a job. Because a job search is an intensive, focused activity, it has a limit of 200 hours per year. Job Development must be provided by certified staff. It is recommended that individuals spend about the same amount of hours each week in job development and job search activities as the weekly hours they want to work.
2. **Job Coaching** is for help learning how to do a new job. It can also be used to learn new tasks if the duties of an existing job change or if someone is promoted. Job Coaching is done at the job site during the individual's shift. It does not include transportation to or from the place of employment. Job Coaching is meant to be a temporary service that fades out as the individual learns the job. Job Coaching must be provided by certified staff.
3. **Job Retention** is support to help someone keep a job. Job Retention is provided after Job Coaching has ended. The provider will check in with the individual and employer regularly to make sure everything is going well, to discuss any changes to the job or issues the person might be having, and will provide assistance or limited job coaching as needed. If significant job coaching is needed, the provider can return to Job Coaching as a service rather than Job Retention. Job Retention must be provided by certified staff.
4. **Group Supported Employment** can include aspects of job development, job coaching, and job retention but is provided to two or more individuals rather than one-to-one. Staff providing group supported employment must be certified.
5. **Personal Supports in the Workplace** is similar to Community-Based Supports but is provided at work. The personal supports are generally needed in any setting. This includes supports such as personal care or supervision required for legal reasons. This service is included under the Add-On Budget so that individuals who require personal support don't have to reduce their supports for other activities in order to work.

There will be another service under the Add-On Budget called Discovery. It must be provided by a professional who has been trained and certified in Discovery. Discovery is a new service for Rhode Island and will be rolled out when service standards and billing procedures are finalized. BHDDH is also working on training and certification options for the Discovery service.

## Employment Add-On Budget Request

The Employment Add-On Budget request is done on a separate page on the purchase order. For more on how to submit a Budget Request see the ***Guide to Employment Add-On Budget Requests*** on the BHDDH website at <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/forms-policies-and-brochures/brochures>.

# Conflict-Free Case Management Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, September 28

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Zoom

[Click Here to Register](#)

The link to register for the Zoom virtual meetings is [CFCM Stakeholder Meeting 9/28/23](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## Additional Upcoming Stakeholder Meetings

- **October 2023:** Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- **November 2023:** Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
- **December 2023:** Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

## View Previous Community Meetings

- August 31, 2023: State's implementation of CFCM
  - View the [Presentation](#)
  - View the [Recording](#)

## Power the Future

On August 19, United Way launched **Power the Future**, a program to prepare youth for jobs of the future. The BHDDH Employment Unit cohosted a table with the Sherlock Center to help increase awareness of the Direct Support Professional (DSP) career and workforce development for youth and their families. There was strong interest from participants.

For more information or to invite BHDDH to attend an event, email Employment Administrator Elvys Ruiz at [elvys.ruiz@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:elvys.ruiz@bhddh.ri.gov).



DSP volunteers talk with students at the Power the the Future event.

## Watch the Recording of the RIPIN Webinar: Employment Services for Individuals that Self Direct

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, knowledgeable presenters from various Rhode Island organizations shared information about employment services available for individuals who self-direct. This webinar is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to explore their employment options and how to access services. [Click Here to watch the recording of the webinar.](#)

Here's an overview of the presenters and the topics covered:

- Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH) - Jay MacKay, Associate Administrator II, Supported Employment, provides information on what employment services are available to individuals, how to access employment services, and what funding is available to pay for these services.
- Office of Rehabilitation Services - Barbara Mulligan, Assistant Administrator ~ Transition and Pre-ETS, discusses employment services available to consumers with disabilities that Self Direct. These services are individualized to each consumer and can include Job exploration assessments, work-based learning opportunities, job development, job coaching, and/or training.
- RI Developmental Disabilities Council - Sue Babin, Consultant, discusses training and support for entrepreneurs. Self-employment is a viable option for those self-directing their services.
- Access Point RI - Rory Carmody, Director of Workforce Development, discusses the collaboration with Bally/Twin River and ORS (Office of Rehabilitation Services), BHDDH, and the Department of Labor & Training with the newly established Project Search- an evidence-based employment training for adults with disabilities.

## Disability News You Can Use Podcast Episode 5 - RIPIN's New Self-Directed Supports Program



Join Deanne Gagne and Andrew McQuaide as they discuss topics impacting Rhode Island's Disability Community and share practical ways you can use information from each episode in your life. This month, join them for a very special co-produced episode of Disability News You Can Use with RIPIN's Susan Donovan and Sharon Kochan and learn more about their new Self-Directed Supports Program (SDSP). Sponsored by Advocates in Action RI.

Listen now on your favorite platform! Search for "Disability News You Can Use" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart, Stitcher, and Amazon Music. [Disability News You Can Use \[podcasters.spotify.com\]](https://podcasters.spotify.com)



**RIPIN Community Information Sessions (CIS)**  
**Resources from the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities**  
**Tuesday, September 26 at 6:00 PM**  
[Click Here to Register by September 25](#)

RIPIN will be joined by Crystal Cerullo, Family Supports Specialist at the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities, to discuss their resources, including the Self-Directed Support Network monthly meetings and email lists, Family Employment Awareness Training (FEAT), Person-Centered thinking training, and their Lunch and Learn workshops on work incentives. Plus, learn more about working with benefits planning and the resources that are housed on their website for those who self-direct their services.

This is the first in a series of RIPIN's Community Information Sessions (CIS). CIS is a unique opportunity to connect with experts in the field, gain valuable insights, and discover resources that can make a meaningful impact on your journey of self-directed support.

Whether you are an individual who self-directs services, a family member, or a caregiver, the CIS sessions are designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools needed to make informed decisions and achieve greater independence.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact RIPIN at [selfdirectedsupport@ripin.org](mailto:selfdirectedsupport@ripin.org).

RIPIN is committed to providing universal access to all events. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs. Please contact [communicationsteam@ripin.org](mailto:communicationsteam@ripin.org) to request disability accommodations (e.g., sign language interpreters, alternative formats).

Founded in 1991, RIPIN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps thousands of Rhode Islanders each year with health care, special education, and healthy aging. RIPIN uses a model of peer professional support—more than three-fourths of RIPIN's staff are caregivers of a loved one with special health care or special education needs. For more information about RIPIN and its mission, please visit the organization's website at [www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org).





# Webinar on Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

2:30-4:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Join [Resources for Integrated Care](#) (RIC) for a webinar on leveraging person-centered approaches to improve behavioral health condition management in people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Learn about prioritizing person-centered, holistic approaches to care coordination and ways health plans can bridge gaps in existing systems by creating interdisciplinary care teams, integrating community-based organizations, and promoting family and caregiver education and support.

This webinar is intended for a wide range of stakeholders who provide care to dually eligible beneficiaries, including health care providers, social workers, caregivers, and families.

By the end of this webinar, participants should be able to:

- Recognize the impact that siloed systems of care have on effective care coordination.
- Apply person-centered approaches to identify behavioral health conditions in individuals with I/DD.
- Recall holistic care coordination strategies.
- Identify the role of community-based organizations in addressing social determinants of health and strengthening provider networks.

Featured speakers:

- **Andrea Witwer, PhD**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Ohio State University; Associate Director, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders, and Director of Training, Nisonger Center. Dr. Witwer is also involved with the new ACL-funded project called “The Link Center: Bridging I/DD and Mental Health Systems” and is a principal investigator for ACL’s Ohio I/DD and Mental Health National Training Initiative.
- **Olivia Ayers, LMHC, LPC**, Clinical Director, Elevate, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

The webinar will have real-time captions (CART). A recording will be available approximately one hour after the webinar. Click the registration link to view.

If you have questions ahead of the live event, submit them through the registration form. Afterward, email [RIC@lewin.com](mailto:RIC@lewin.com).



## **Assistive Technology Conference of New England**

### **Thursday & Friday, November 16-17**

### **Crowne Plaza, Warwick**

[Click Here to Register](#)

The Assistive Technology Conference of New England, hosted by [TechACCESS of RI](#), is dedicated to technology, people with disabilities, families and professionals.

Since 1988, Rhode Island's annual conference on assistive technology has offered state-of-the-art workshops, information and exhibits on the technologies that enhance and change the lives of persons with disabilities of all ages. Attended each year by hundreds from Rhode Island, New England, and beyond, the conference focuses on uses of technology in education, communication, employment, recreation, home, and independent living. The Bringing Access to Life Expo is a feature of the ATCNE added in 2015. The Expo features entrepreneurs with disabilities, and offers conference attendees an opportunity to purchase products created by our guests.

You can view General Information about the conference [here](#). Early Bird Rates below will apply through September 30th.

## **Hello, It's Me: New App for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

The app was created for the IDD community to bring people closer together and provide an inclusive place to interact and be yourself! [Hello, It's Me](#) strives to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness in people with Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities.

During COVID, people became isolated from their friends and it disrupted their normal routines. This was particularly hard for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Hello, It's Me is for anyone who would like to make a friend, meet new people, talk about shared interests, and form relationships.

Traditional dating apps may not be safe for some folks with IDD. Hello, It's Me allows folks with IDD to practice skills through story-based learning opportunities while practicing those skills through the dating/friendship section.

[Check it out here.](#)



## International Day of Sign Languages is September 23



The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is an organization that supports the deaf community.



The WFD is challenging everyone to celebrate International Day of Sign Languages on Saturday, September 23.



Sign languages are important because they give people the chance to communicate with each other.



The WFD is challenging public places to shine a blue light on September 23 to celebrate sign languages.



You can join the celebration by looking for the shining blue light in your community and visiting the WFD website to learn more: [www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org)



Thank you to all sign language users for protecting everyone's right to communicate.



## Sign-Up Today for the Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry



The weather in Rhode Island changes fast.



Sometimes dangerous storms like  
tornados and hurricanes form.



Storms can damage the community.



It is important to have a safety plan in  
case of a strong storm.



To start your safety plan sign-up for the  
Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency  
Registry.



The registry lets police and firefighters  
know how to help you during a storm.



Visit the Rhode Island Department of  
Health website [using this link to learn  
more about the registry and to sign-up.](#)

## 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](#)

RI DSP State Workforce Initiative: see <https://riswi.org/> or [DD Initiatives-SWI](#)

## 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

## Contacting DD Staff

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter.

Monday-Friday  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
call **(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.

## 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](http://www.bhlink.org).

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 a risk of immediate danger.

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text **988** or chat [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)



## Division of Developmental Disabilities - All Staff Contacts

**Main Phone #:** (401) 462-3421  
**Fax:** (401) 462-2775

**TDD:** (401) 462-3226  
**Spanish Line:** (401) 462-3014

**Website:** <https://bhddh.ri.gov/>  
**BH Link:** (401) 414-5465

**To report abuse/neglect:**  
**(401) 462-2629**

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Laurie	Rossi	Implementation Aide	462-2563	<a href="mailto:Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov">Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

# SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS NETWORK

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

## ONLINE MEETING

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Dialogue with Anne LeClerc, Associate Director of Program Performance,  
Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH):**

Learn about changes in services and individual budgets

(Invite your Direct Support Professionals to join)

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.

### AGENDA

7:00 – 7:15	Introductions & Updates
7:15 – 8:15	Dialogue with Anne LeClerc, BHDDH. Topic: Changes in services & individual budgets
8:15 – 8:30	Questions and Closing Remarks

**This session will be recorded.**

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

Please RSVP using the link above. Click the link or cut and paste it 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 Crystal Cerullo, Sherlock Center on Disabilities:

Email: [ccerullo@ric.edu](mailto:ccerullo@ric.edu)

Voice: 401-456-8915 TTY: 711



## Registration OPEN! RIAPSE Statewide Conference 2023

# Creating Connections

*It is time to reconnect!* Attending this conference will be a terrific opportunity to network, expand your knowledge, and contribute toward building a more inclusive workforce in Rhode Island.

**Who should attend:** people with disabilities, family members, businesses, employment professionals (e.g. job developers, job coaches), educators, administrators, and anyone interested in advancing competitive employment for persons with disabilities.

### Event Details

**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2023  
**Time:** 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
**RIAPSE After Hours:** 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
**Venue:** Radisson Airport Hotel,  
Warwick, RI  
**Professional Development:**  
CESP and CRC Pending  
  
**Fees:** APSE Member: \$35.00  
Non-Member: \$45.00  
Scholarships: Limited #

**Registration Closes:** September 21, 2023

For questions contact [riapse@apse.org](mailto:riapse@apse.org)

### Conference Program

#### Opening Key Note:

Amy Gonzalez, AMG Consulting, A National consultant with proven expertise in the disability public policy field.

#### Breakout Sessions:

- Breaking the Benefits Barrier
- Creating a Life You Want through Work
- Wellness in the Workplace

#### Closing Plenary:

Employment First Champions Panel

TO  
REGISTER  
CLICK HERE



To learn about Vendor & Sponsor opportunities click [HERE](#)



# PHOTO ID BUS PASS

## Need a RIPTA Photo ID Bus Pass?



RIPTA's Customer Service staff regularly travel to rural and urban communities throughout the state to provide reduced fare bus passes to **qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities**. Look out for us at these locations where we will be processing photo identification bus passes, accepting bus pass applications, and answering your transit questions.

### 2023 Community Site Visits

8/9	William Donovan Manor   19 Chapel St., Newport   10am - 12pm
8/19	PVD Mayor's Senior Day   1 Sabin St., Providence   11am - 2pm
8/31	West Warwick Senior Center   145 Washington St.   10am - 12pm
9/29	Lincoln Senior Center   150 Jenckes Hill Rd., Lincoln   10am - 1pm

## Can't make it to one of our site visits?

Visit our Photo ID Office at RIPTA Headquarters  
(705 Elmwood Ave., Providence)  
Monday - Friday from 8am - 4pm  
(closed 12pm - 1pm).

Or **apply online** at [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare)



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

[RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare) | 401-784-9500 x2012

## SELF-EMPLOYMENT ONLINE Classes for People with Disabilities, Families and Community Agencies

**NEXT CLASS STARTING September 12, 2023**



Do you know a person with a disability or other individual who has a hobby or idea for a possible business or who needs more support for an existing small business? If so, our **FREE ONLINE ZOOM Business Classes** can help the person to learn all about self-employment and available resources for their business idea and financial future! Traditional employment in jobs may not be the best option for some people with disabilities as well as people without disabilities. Small business ownership is another option and great choice to do work that has *real meaning* for the person. It is something people can control themselves, and to sell a product or a service they really love. There are over 100 people with disabilities in RI and many others who have started their own businesses in the last few years.

Here's what Michael Coyne, business owner of "*Red, White and Brew Café*" in Warwick, RI has to say:

### WHY CHOOSE SELF-EMPLOYMENT?

1. I love being my own "BOSS", meeting new people and spending my time working on something I really enjoy every day!
2. I decide my own flexible work schedule and hours.
3. The Business Classes helped me to learn skills for problem solving, communication, marketing, and self-advocacy. I met other great people with disabilities who also own their own businesses. I received a grant to buy the materials/supplies I needed for my business.
4. I have assistance through my personal support network, my Business Team and RIDDC who are there to help me with my business.
5. I am no longer "*volunteering*" my time at a job, but instead I have my own business making money and I now have an income!



The RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC), in partnership with SBA and others offers a **FREE Business Development Series of 8 Classes, ONLINE through ZOOM Meetings**. The first Class is **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 from 12:45 pm-2:30 pm** and others scheduled every week. We want to assist people to learn the right business skills and access resources to become profitable RI small business owners! Mini-grants up to \$1000.00 available to people completing classes and starting their businesses.

The Classes provide business advice, resources and ongoing peer and staff support to participants, families and staff and contact with experienced Business Advisors. They know how to work with people to develop good business plans, marketing ideas, and set goals the person can achieve in the industry he/she launches. The Series includes: 1. Is Entrepreneurship Right for You?, 2. Steps to Start a Small Business, 3. Identifying Your Target Market, 4. Creating an "*Elevator Pitch*" about Your Service/Product(s), 5. Writing a Good Business Plan, 6. Finances, Bookkeeping, & Community Resources, 7. Marketing, and 8. Using Social Media to Promote your Business.

**To Register for this Class or For More Information Call Claudia Lowe at 738-3960 or Sue Babin at 523-2300. (Participation Is Limited!)**

*This project is funded by DLT's and the Governor's Workforce Board's (GWB) "Real Jobs RI" initiative.*

