



Volume 1
January 19
2024

DD News and Updates Newsletter



New year!
New look!
Information you can trust!

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Survey Feedback! We listened!

We surveyed the community on our Newsletter and Website late last year and we made some changes to make sharing information easier. In this newsletter you will find the same news and updates, just in a new style.



Know Your Rights

During 2024, BHDDH will share information with you about your human rights. New information will be shared every month. There will be Q&A sessions, flyers, workbooks, and more. Stay tuned to find out more!

What's Happened in January



Martin Luther King (MLK) Day

Monday, January 17th was Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) Day. MLK Day is a reminder of how powerful a dream can be. Dr. King worked hard to bring people together, believing everyone deserved the same human rights and chance at happiness. Learn more about Dr. King and all his great work by visiting [The King Center \(website\)](https://www.thekingcenter.org/).

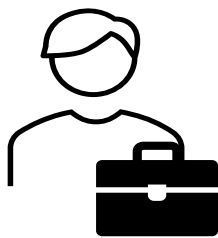


International Braille Day

"International World Braille Day is celebrated yearly in recognition of the birth of Louis Braille, born on January 4th, 1809. World Braille Day was created in 2019 by the United Nations General Assembly and serves as the commencement event for Braille Literacy Month." (Mango, 2024) For more go to <https://www.perkins.org/celebrating-world-braille-day/>

DD Updates

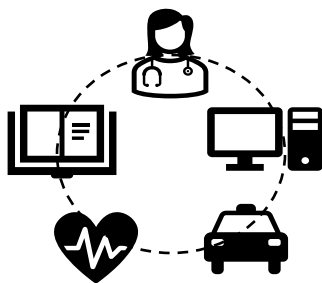
Employment Benefits



On January 1st minimum wage in Rhode Island increased from \$13.00 to \$14.00 an hour. Your EERF (Employment and Earnings Form) will need to be updated for anyone working. You will need to include the required 30 days of paystubs reflecting the new minimum wage increase. For more information, visit the [BHDDH Employment and Earnings Reporting Requirements webpage](#).

If an Employer has not increased an employee's rate of pay to the new minimum wage, you can access the [Department of Labor and Training's \(DLT\) website to file a wage complaint](#). For more questions, please contact Gerard "Jay" MacKay, Associate Administrator II, Supported Employment: **Email:** Gerard.MacKay@bhddh.ri.gov **Phone:** 401-462-5279

Goods and Services



DD is working to create guidance for individuals who are interested in or are currently self-directing their services. Focusing on areas of Goods & Services, Requirements for Employment in Self-Direction and Service Brokerage. Once the guidance work is completed, a self-direction manual will be created and made available.

As of today, the [Technical Bulletin: Allowable Goods & Services](#) has been updated and is located on the [DD website](#) under [Policies](#).

[A Goods & Services Brochure](#) and [Request Form](#) is also available on the DD website under the [Self-Direction tab](#). As of 2/1/24, requests for Goods & Services should be reflected on the Goods & Services Request form and submitted with your annual ISP. Your DDD Social Caseworker will review the requests and either approve, deny with reason, or request additional information. If you have questions regarding a request, please contact your DD Social Caseworker.

BHDDH Staff Update



Janice Bijesse, Casework Supervisor II, is retiring after many years of state service. Her last day will be on Friday, 1/19/26. She has been a devoted champion of people with disabilities, at BHDDH and DCYF, and has advocated for improved practices and mentored staff throughout her career. She will be greatly missed at BHDDH and by many people in the community.

Community News

The Arc Center for Future Planning

There are many decisions you make every day. Some of the decisions are small, like what you want to have for breakfast. Other decisions are big, like the goals you want to reach. With so many decisions to make, it can become hard to figure out which choices are the best choices to make.

The Arc Center for Future Planning is a great resource to help you make decisions. Visit the [Arc's Supporting Daily & Major Life Decisions webpage](#) to learn more. On this webpage you will find information about:

- Making decisions
- Support making decisions
- Planning for your future
- Guardianship



ACL Updates: People with Disabilities and Clinical Trials



The ACL has been working hard to increase representation for those with disabilities. **Representation** means showing people with differences in more places so they are seen and included. When representation is increased this means people who were not included in places or groups before become included.

One way the ACL has been trying to increase representation for people with disabilities is in clinical trials. **Clinical Trials** are research studies in medicine that help doctors find new treatments. It is important for people with disabilities to be included in clinical trials. When they are included, doctors will be better able to find treatments that work best for people with and without disabilities.

If you are interested in learning more about this great work, visit the [ACL website](#).

Report Suspected Abuse

QA Hotline 401-462-2629

Mandated Reporting

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

To **report abuse and serious incidents** call the BHDDH Quality Assurance (QA) Unit **hotline at (401) 462-2629**. The hotline is open 24-hour hotline, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Staff respond to reported incidents of abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and financial exploitation.

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.

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



For More Information on DD Initiatives

Newsletters: sign up and view old newsletters on our [News and Updates webpage](#)

Consent Decree: <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/consent-decree>

Conflict Free Case Management (CFCM): [EOHHS CFCM website](#) or [DD Initiatives-CFCM](#)

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

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Contacting DDD Staff

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter. Send general questions to

BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov.

Please do not email critical issues.

Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014

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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ELEANOR SLATER HOSPITAL ZAMBARANO CAMPUS IS HIRING!

We offer:

- Competitive pay
- Personal/ Vacation/
Sick Leave
- Health Insurance
- Group life Insurance
- Deferred
compensation 457(b)
- Short-term disability
insurance

... and much more!



Check out our jobs!*



**Check frequently as
postings change daily*

**Located in Pascoag,
RI, we are hiring:**

- **RN's**
- **CNA's**
- **Health Care
Operations**



SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT PROGRAM



VIRTUAL EVENTS

2024

JAN 30	Community Information Session Benefits Planning and Work Incentives presented by the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
FEB 27	Self-Direction Connection Online community of practice for consumers, family members/caregivers, and professionals
MAR 5	Fiscal Intermediary Panel Who are they? What do they do? How do you connect?
MAR 26	Community Information Session Advocates in Action: Why I chose Self-Direction
APR 30	Employment Success Meet some individuals self-directing and hear about their employment journey



selfdirectedsupport@ripin.org



ripin.org/selfdirectedsupport



The Link Center invites you to participate in its Shared Learning Groups virtual gathering series.

These Shared Learning Groups are an opportunity to dive into important topics and tap into your expertise and experiences related to people with cognitive disabilities, including I/DD, brain injury and others, and MH conditions. These meetings will be led by members of our Steering Committee and project partners.

Please join us for our next Shared Learning Groups as we discuss
"Supports for Trauma".

Live Captioning and ASL Interpretation will be provided during all live webinars.

There are four sessions on the same topic for different target audiences. Please register for the session most relevant to you.

Registration is required and is limited to 300 participants for each session.

January 23, 2024

Direct Support Professionals: 1:00-2:30p EST

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6KMeW0OoQw6eNrnRwqxmXQ

Clinical Professionals: 3:00-4:30p EST

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cpr0y6NTGa4ahAiI4I7vg

January 24, 2024

Families of people with cognitive disabilities, including I/DD, brain injury and others, and MH conditions: 1:00-2:30p EST

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZkAt-fWuR82bnWuHxJEIEQ

People with cognitive disabilities, including I/DD, brain injury and others, and MH conditions: 3:00-4:30p EST

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u2etTVnqTIGfGiRCg7zIsg

Upcoming quarterly Shared Learning Groups topics:

April 2024: Supporting Someone through a Transition | **August 2024:** Supporting the Whole Person

This project is supported, in part by grant number 90DDMH0001-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy

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

ONLINE MEETING
Wednesday, January 24, 2024
7:00 – 8:30 PM

**Q & A with
The Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and
Hospitals (BHDDH):**

Learn about Conflict Free Case Management (CFCM)

(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 | Q & A with BHDDH
Topic: Conflict-Free Case Management (CFCM)
Ask questions, get updates, and learn more about it |
| 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

Voice: 401-456-8915 TTY: 711

Working While Disabled—Work Incentives Sessions

Registration Now Open! Work Incentives sessions for SSI and SSDI Beneficiaries

**Work Pays! An Introduction to YOUTH SSI
Work Incentives**
January 17, 2024, 12-1 pm

SSI Overview:
January 31, 2024, 12-1 pm



*ALL sessions are 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

When you register, please share your questions.

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

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2024

Social Security has announced a 3.2% COLA (cost of living adjustment) for 2024.
You can view new allowance amounts at <https://bit.ly/45ZaFji>

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: 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.

Questions or Accommodations: Contact Vanessa Hollands at vhollands@ric.edu, 401-456-8072.

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



Community of Practice (CoP) in Autism in Rhode Island

Listening to Autistic Adults: Strengths + Supports = Success!



Our panel will highlight how strengths and supports promoted their success in school and community and discuss barriers, what worked and didn't in PK-12 and college settings.



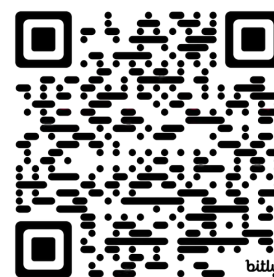
4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024



On Zoom



Register at <http://bit.ly/38DRVJN> or use the QR code at right



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with Zoom information. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please indicate your request on the registration form as soon as possible. For registration questions, contact Vanessa Hollands at vhollands@ric.edu or call 401-456-8072, TTY via RI Relay: 711.

Continuing Education Credits (2.0 credit hours) from NASW-RI and RIMHCA will be available pending approval. To be eligible, you MUST join using your unique Zoom link provided upon registering; sign in with first and last names; and participate the duration of the webinar. Dialing in by telephone will not be accepted as proof of attendance.

PRESENTERS



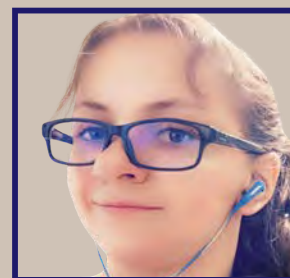
Conor
O'Brien



Ondrea
Robinson



Malcom
Streitfeld



Emily
King

Paul V. Sherlock Center

On Disabilities / Rhode Island College

Paul V. Sherlock Center

On Disabilities / Rhode Island College

FAMILY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS TRAINING (FEAT)

ONLINE SERIES USING ZOOM

Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, 6 and 8, 2024

The Sherlock Center invites families and their young adults with developmental disabilities (**14 to 22 years of age**) and the professionals who support them to attend this **FREE** series about school-to-employment and everything in between.

Attendees are encouraged to attend all sessions of this four-part series, but it is not required. Each session will be a live, interactive training using Zoom. Participants are strongly encouraged to actively engage during the training series.

SESSION 1: JAN. 30 5 to 6:30 p.m.	BUILDING THE DREAM OF EMPLOYMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to employment in Rhode Island• Panel of youth successfully employed in Rhode Island
SESSION 2: FEB. 1 5 to 6:30 p.m.	PLANNING THE TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of the family in planning for employment• School role in planning for employment (Transition IEP)
SESSION 3: FEB. 6 5 to 6:30 p.m.	POSSIBILITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supported and customized employment• Outside-the-box employment possibilities
SESSION 4: FEB. 8 5 to 6:30 p.m.	ACCESSING ADULT SUPPORTS FOR EMPLOYMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office of Rehabilitation Services• Division of Developmental Disabilities• Self-employment

ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:

- Training materials and resources.
- Opportunity to network with families, employees, and entrepreneurs.
- Knowledge of state, federal and community resources that support employment.

Save your spot
for these

free sessions!

Register today at
<https://bit.ly/featri>



This training is conducted in English; however, ASL or language interpreter services may be requested. Make your request known in the registration form or by contacting Vanessa Hollands at vhollands@ric.edu or Crystal Cerullo at ccerullo@ric.edu as soon as possible.

Phone: 401-456-8072

Fax: 401-456-8150

TTY via RI Relay: 711 or

800-745-5555

Spanish via RI Relay: 711 or

866-355-9214

Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series

A Person-Centered Approach to Career Planning, Job Development and Retention



In-Person Training

All sessions will be held in person at the Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Providence. See SME Training Schedule for details.

ACRE Certificate

To earn an ACRE Certificate, learners must attend an orientation session, 12 instructor-led modules, three mentor/fieldwork sessions and successfully complete fieldwork assignments. SME Training Schedule is below.

The Sherlock Center offers two paths to earn an ACRE Certificate. The recommended path is to register for the full ACRE series, which allow learners to complete the required modules and fieldwork assignments within nine months.

The alternative path is to build an ACRE Certificate by completing three SME mini-series and required fieldwork assignments within a 24-month period. Complete details are available on the SME Training page of the Sherlock Center website www.sherlockcenter.org.

Learner Technology Requirements for Online Mentor/Fieldwork Sessions

Learners will participate in instructor-led sessions using Zoom. To participate, learners will need a computer, laptop or tablet with reliable internet access with sufficient bandwidth, and a camera. It is recommended that learners have dedicated time and space when attending sessions.

Learner Time Commitment

Each training module is 3.5 hours. Learners are also required to participate remotely in an orientation session (1.5 hours) and three mentor/fieldwork sessions (1.5 hours each), in addition to satisfactory completion of fieldwork assignments.

To support course completion, learners are expected to review provided materials, begin fieldwork during the course, and meet the projected assignment due dates. Learners are encouraged to access one-on-one fieldwork support offered through the Sherlock Center.

Organizations are encouraged to pair the SME student with an experienced employment staff as a workplace mentor.

REGISTRATION

Register Online: <http://bit.ly/2Lt4vTP>

Registration and training schedule are also available on the Sherlock Center website www.sherlockcenter.org. Register by **January 30, 2024**.

Fees: Sessions are offered free of charge to participants working for a RI organization/school, including Self-Directed Supports staff/representatives.

Requests & Questions: If you need a reasonable accommodation (e.g. ASL Interpreter, large print), please make your request known when you register. For registration questions, email Vanessa Hollands at vhollands@ric.edu 401-456-2764. For training questions, email Vicki Ferrara at vferrara@ric.edu.



Build an ACRE! SESSION MODULES

Module 1: Foundations in Community Employment Services and Supports

Module 2: Work Incentives to Support Employment and Retention

Module 3: Vocational Assessment I - Getting to Know the Job Seeker

Module 4: Vocational Assessment II - Person-Centered Employment Planning - the process

Module 5: Vocational Assessment III - Strategies for Community Exploration & Individualized Job Search Planning

Module 6: Employment Law, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Disability Disclosure

Module 7: Job Development I - Job Search Practices to Support Meaningful Employment

Module 8: Job Development II - Employer Assessment and Individualized Approach to a Job Match

Module 9: Job Development III - Employer Relationships and Negotiations

Module 10: Job Retention and Coaching I - Foundations in Job Retention Success

Module 11: Job Retention and Coaching II - Teaching the Job - Task Analysis and Systematic Instruction

Module 12: Job Retention and Coaching III - Fading Support, Quality Services and Career Development

