



Newsletter

Volume 9
June 7, 2024



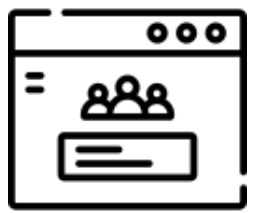
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New Consent Decree Report!

The Consent Decree (CD) requires that The Division share the progress and changes made in compliance with the CD. You can [find the newest CD report online.](#)



DD Community Forum 6/18/24

The next DD Community Forum is on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm. The forum will be online using Zoom. [To join, please register before June 18th.](#)

DDD Updates

Independent Facilitation and Conflict-Free Case Management

We will be rolling out a monthly update on all things related to Conflict-Free Case Management (CFCM) and the new Independent Facilitation (IF) services. Every month we will include important updates and details regarding the progress of CFCM and the new IF service. The most recent update and change we must share, is that IF service will now be CFCM provided by the Division.

What does this mean?

This means that Independent Facilitation (IF) will be part of the CFCM resources. IF is what we are calling CFCM run by BHDDH to supplement the private CFCM agencies that will begin offering services this summer.

I thought Independent Facilitation was not Conflict-Free Case Management. How is it now the same?

IF came about from a Consent Decree court order for DD services, while CFCM is the result of federal rules for all Medicaid long-term services. DD services are part of RI's Medicaid long-term services. There were many similarities between the Consent Decree and Medicaid rules, but there were also some differences. It took a lot of planning and discussion to merge the two programs. We now have a plan to use Independent Facilitation to supplement the CFCM roll out and align the required planning and monitoring activities.

How will this work?

DDD is hiring 16 new Social Case Workers to take on this IF/CFCM role within BHDDH. The Social Case Worker IFs will work with participants who get services through an agency. Participants who self-direct will work with Independent Plan Writers and other professionals who choose to become IFs as contractors in the community.

Can I keep my plan writer?

If your plan is written through a provider agency, the IF will now take the lead to write the plan with you and those who support you. If you self-direct, you may be able to keep your current plan writer. It will depend on whether your plan writer becomes an Independent Facilitator (IF). IFs are being recruited from current independent plan writers working with people who self-direct. Those who choose to become community IFs will continue to work with people who self-direct. However, plan writers who work for a licensed DD provider cannot be IFs.

DDD Updates

Pride Month Resources for LGBTQ people with I/DD

Pride month is an opportunity for the community at large to embrace, understand and learn from and about the LGBTQ community. "According to research published in 2012, [...] 36% of women in the LGBTQ community and 30% of men in the community also self-identify as people with [an intellectual and/or Developmental Disability]". We, here at The Division, have put together a list of resources for the I/DD community that can help our understanding of the large intersection in our community.

- [Supporting LGBTQ Young People with Disabilities created by the Trevor Project](#)
- [LGBTQ+ People with Disabilities](#)
- [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity \(SOGI\) Equity: Partners and Additional Resources](#)
- [LGBTQ People with Disabilities media guide](#)
- [Understanding Disability in the LGBTQ+ Community resource guide](#)

BHDDH Your Life, Your Rights Program



The focus of the Your Life, Your Rights Program this month is relationships. Everyone has the right to have healthy relationships. Relationships can be with family, friends, dating partners, and more.

Relationships can bring a lot of joy to your life. When we have relationships, we often feel less lonely because we have people to talk to and do things with. Relationships also give us a chance to learn about the world and ourselves.

On the next page of this newsletter you will find a copy of the Your Life, Your Rights Relationships Flyer. This flyer is a cheat sheet to your relationship rights.

If you would like to share your feedback on the Your Life, Your Rights Program, fill out our online [Rights Program Online Survey](#).





Your Life, Your Rights Relationships

Everyone has the right to have relationships. Relationships can be with family, friends, dating partners, and more. Here are your rights to relationships:



Have different types of relationships



Start new relationships



End relationships at any time



Be treated with dignity and respect



Not be abused or hurt in relationships



Have privacy when you want it



Say "no" to things you don't want to do



Do things you want to do



Share your thoughts and interests



Have romantic relationships and date



Marry the person you love



Become a parent to a child or pet

Community News

Explaining the HCBS & Olmstead Requirements on the DD system



The 1999 Olmstead Decision made it illegal for people with disabilities to be excluded from the community (United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, n.d.). With Olmstead, it made sure that people with disabilities receive the basic human right to work, live, and participate in the community like everyone else. (U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, n.d.; Disability Rights Washington, 2019).

Since this important law and change, states across the United States have implemented new requirements called the Final Rule, published in 2014 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This Final Rule enhances and supports Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for the I/DD Community. Many states are still working on becoming compliant with the Final Rule.

Where does Rhode Island stand with compliance with the Final Rule and Olmstead?

The Rhode Island Senate on May 21, 2024, passed a bill that will provide funding in support of Olmstead and enhance many community-based health and human services. The goal of this funding is to enhance inclusion of people with disabilities in the community. To learn more about the details of the proposed budget please visit [Developmental Disabilities News website](#).

Privacy in Relationships

As you learned on the last page, you have the right to privacy in relationships. Privacy in relationships can mean many different things. For example, you may want to spend time alone sometimes or not talk about certain things with others. Privacy in a relationship can also be wanting to be alone with someone you are romantic with. For a fun video about your right to privacy in romantic relationships, check out the [YouTube video called "Just the Two of Us."](#)



Community News

Accessibility Tip



The airline company, Virgin Atlantic, is making air travel more accessible. Virgin Atlantic partnered with Guide Dogs on a new program. This program gives all flight crew training on helping people with visual disabilities. The training will include:

- Tips to approach a person
- How to guide a person around small, busy spaces
- Helping a person find their seat
- Best places on the plane for guide dogs to rest



The goal is of this training is to make it easier for people with visual disabilities to travel. To learn more, read the [Virgin Atlantic news article](#).

Inspiration: We See You!

The possibilities are endless when we dare to dream and work towards our goals! If you are looking for some inspiration, check out the success stories listed below:



[Michael Coyne and Red, White & Brew \(website story\)](#)

WPRI, a local news station, wrote a great story about Michael Coyne. In this story, Michael talks about his goal to get a job and how it led him to opening his own coffee shop.



[Lloyd Martin and the London Marathon \(website story\)](#)

The Good News Network, and online news station, shared a great story about Lloyd Martin. Lloyd is an athlete with down syndrome. Lloyd recently finished the London Marathon. He was the youngest person to ever finish the marathon.

Community News

Upcoming Events

Event 1: Self-Direction Connection: Mocktail Premiere Party

This is a social event held by Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) for participants who self-direct and their support staff . To attend, RIPIN requests that you register in advance.

Register: [Visit the RIPIN website](#)

Location: RIPIN, 300 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 300, Warwick, RI 02888

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Event 2: Conversation & Connection

This is a social event hosted by RIPIN specifically for parents and caregivers. This is an opportunity to connect with other individuals who support self-directed participants. There will be games, foods and other activities centered around connections and shared experiences.

Register: RIPIN requests that you [register by June 11 if you want to attend.](#)

Location: RIPIN, 300 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02888

Date and Time: June 18, 2024 from 5:30-7:00 PM

Event 3: Work and Benefits Introduction

This is an event held by the Sherlock Center. It is for people starting to think about working and have general questions.

Register: [Register for Working with Benefits online.](#)

Location: Zoom

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 26, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:00pm

Event 4: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Overview

This event is held by the Sherlock Center. It will focus on SSI.

Register: [Register for the SSI Overview online.](#)

Location: Zoom

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 from 12:00 - 1:00pm

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

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014

Division of Developmental Disabilities - All Staff Contacts 2/16/2024

Main Phone #: (401) 462-3421 **TDD:** (401) 462-3226 **Website:** <https://bhddh.ri.gov/>
Fax: (401) 462-2775 **Spanish Line:** (401) 462-3014 **BH Link:** (401) 414-5465
To report abuse/neglect: (401) 462-2629

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
Jackie	Camilloni	Coordinator, Self Direction	462-6608	Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov
Brenda	DuHamel	Associate Director, Admin Services	462-3010	Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov
Cindy	Fusco	Interdepartmental Project Manager	462-6689	Cynthia.Fusco@bhddh.ri.gov
Robin	Gannon	Clinical Training Specialist	462-6691	Robin.Gannon@bhddh.ri.gov
Melissa	Greenlief	Administrator, Community Services	462-2459	Melissa.Greenlief@bhddh.ri.gov
Susan	Hayward	Administrator, Youth in Transition	462-2519	Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov
Peter	Joly	Principal Training Specialist	462-6638	Peter.Joly@bhddh.ri.gov
Anne	LeClerc	Associate Director, Prog Performance	462-0192	Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov
Tracy	Levesque	Associate Director, Clinical	462-0209	Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov
Gerard (Jay)	MacKay	Associate Administrator, Employment	462-5279	Gerard.Mackay@bhddh.ri.gov
Johanna	Mercado	Coordinator, Communications	462-6646	Johanna.Mercado@bhddh.ri.gov
Natalie	Munoz	Chief Implementation Aide	462-3016	Natalie.Munoz@bhddh.ri.gov
Amethys	Nieves	Associate Admin, Communications	462-6629	Amethys.Nieves@bhddh.ri.gov
Kelly	Petersen	Chief of Training & Staff Development	462-6592	Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov
Jacqueline	Reilly	Programming Services Officer	462-0126	Jacqueline.Reilly@bhddh.ri.gov
Elvys	Ruiz	Administrator III, Employment	462-3857	Elvys.Ruiz@bhddh.ri.gov
Steven	Seay	Coordinator, Integrated Comm Svcs	462-6609	Steven.Seay@bhddh.ri.gov

CASE MANAGEMENT UNITS

Marguerite	Belisle	Casework Supervisor II	462-0714	Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov
Amie	Adams	Social Caseworker II	462-2480	Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov
GinaMarie	Debartolo	Social Caseworker II	462-3402	GinaMarie.Debartolo@bhddh.ri.gov
Amber	Matson	Social Caseworker II	462-1555	Amber.Matson@bhddh.ri.gov
Suzanne	Porter	Social Caseworker II	462-1972	Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov
Kaitlin	Sarkees	Social Caseworker II	462-4075	Kaitlin.Sarkees@bhddh.ri.gov
Heather	Soares	Social Caseworker II	462-6097	Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov
Souphalek	Muriel	Casework Supervisor II	462-2512	Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov
Mary	Cameron	Social Caseworker II	462-1307	Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov
Lauree	Champagne	Social Caseworker II	462-2728	Lauree.Champagne@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
Judy	Smith	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	Judith.Smith@bhddh.ri.gov
Vacant				

Mary Beth	Stevens	Casework Supervisor II	462-2438	Marybeth.Stevens@bhddh.ri.gov
Marisa	Abbruzzi	Social Caseworker II (RICLAS)	462-6099	Marisa.Abbuzzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Timothy	Cronin	Social Caseworker II	462-1721	Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov
Jennifer	Gouveia	Social Caseworker II	462-0098	Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov
Celestina	Okai	Social Caseworker II (RICLAS)	462-3896	Celestina.Okai@bhddh.ri.gov
Erin	Simonelli	Social Caseworker II	462-2502	Erin.Simonelli@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
Stacey	Perry	Casework Supervisor II	462-3402	Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov
JoAnn	DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov
Katrina	Ferry	Social Caseworker II	462-2529	Katrina.Ferry@bhddh.ri.gov
Heidy	Henriquez	Social Caseworker II	462-3022	Heidy.Henriquez@bhddh.ri.gov
Crystal	Morel	Social Caseworker II	462-1329	Crystal.Morel@bhddh.ri.gov
Vacant				
Yolande	Ramos	Social Caseworker II	462-1059	Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov
ELIGIBILITY UNIT				
Karen	Lowell	Casework Supervisor II	462-2209	Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov
Lori	Lombardi-Burns	PASRR	462-0089	Lori.Lombardiburns@bhddh.ri.gov
Jill	Murphy	Social Caseworker II	462-2409	Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov
Kim	Wright	Information Aide	462-2584	Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov
SIS UNIT				
Donna	Standish	Casework Supervisor II	462-2628	Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov
Stephanie	Andreozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Wendy	Cormier	Social Caseworker II	462-1302	Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov
Jamie	Fitzgibbons	Social Caseworker II	462-2510	Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov
Meaghan	Jencks	Social Caseworker II	462-2113	Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov
Vacant				
TRANSITION UNIT				
Susan	Hayward	Administrator, YIT	462-2519	Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov
Carolee	Leach	Professional Svics Coordinator	462-1723	Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov
Laurie	Rossi	Implementation Aide	462-2563	Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov

ONECRANSTON HEZ PRESENTS

CRANSTON FARMERS MARKET

EVERY THURSDAY

JUNE 20-AUGUST 15
5-6:30PM
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

Free and open to Cranston residents only, while supplies last. Residents are encouraged to bring their own bag.

BAIN TRACK
135 GANSETT AVE,
CRANSTON



GOT A GREEN
THUMB?

GREEN JOBS 101

CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

intro to gardening

plant care and planting

retail skills

work readiness

customer service and more!

Join us in the greenhouse and retail shop at the Maher Center for a personalized, hands-on training program.

Explore your interests and learn at your own pace...in a place where different ways of seeing the world are not only accommodations, but celebrated

For More Info or to Register

opportunityzone@mahercenter.org



THE JAMES L. MAHER CENTER

906 Acquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI |

401.846-4600



life to its fullest

THE JAMES L. MAHER CENTER

INTRO SKILLS FOR CULINARY JOBS

Serve Safe Prep Included

Tuesdays and Wednesday Weekdays
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. job prep class

ROLLING ADMISSION

- Adapted to individual needs and abilities
- Learn food safety, prep skills, serving, cooking, customer service and more
- No culinary experience needed



THE JAMES L. MAHER CENTER

For More Info or to Register
opportunityzone@mahercenter.org

Join us as we celebrate
our 30th anniversary!



You're invited to

An Evening at Roger Williams Park Zoo

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 20, 2024

We are celebrating our 30th anniversary and our 2024 Access for All Abilities Mini Grant recipients with an ice cream social!

This year's mini grant recipients are:

- Gnome Surf
- Newport Art Museum
- Providence Public Library
- Refugee Dream Center

Agenda

- 5:30 to 6 p.m.: Guests arrive
- 6 to 6:45 p.m.: Presentation and mini grant awards
- 6:45 to 8:30 p.m.: Ice cream social and guests have free access to explore the zoo

Roger Williams Park Zoo will be closed to the public for this free event. Please note that the zoo does not rent wheelchairs or strollers during evening events.

Only registered guests can be admitted, so please be sure to register everyone in your party.

Learn more and register: https://bit.ly/SC_Zoo