



DD News and Updates

# Newsletter

Volume 16  
September 27,  
2024



## Shared Resources

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- Ask for Help
- Stay Informed

Website: [www.bhddh.ri.gov](http://www.bhddh.ri.gov)

Email: [BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov)

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014

# Division Updates

## Conflict-Free Case Management (CFCM)

The Division is starting to use CFCM. Here are a few important updates you should know:

- Three out of four certified CFCM agencies began taking referrals in September.
- The fourth agency will start in October.
- Participants will get notices about CFCM starting, but you don't need to do anything until you are contacted.

This process of moving everyone to case management will happen over time, and you don't need to take any action.

## DD Community Forum

BHDDH has a virtual DD Community Forums every three months. These forums are free and open to anyone who wants to join. Our last DD Community Forum was on September 17, 2024.

The video of the Forum can be found on the [Advocates in Action \(AinA\) website](#). You can also find it on the [AinA Facebook page](#).

Our next DD Community Forum will be on **December 10, 2024**:

- Event Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024
- Event Time: 3:00-4:30 pm
- Event Location: Online using Zoom
- Event Registration: [Tuesday, December 10th Community Forum registration page](#)

At the forums, you can hear news and updates from Director Kevin Savage and other team members from The Division. It's also a great chance for BHDDH to hear from the you, the community.

The forums are on Zoom and hosted by Advocates in Action. You can join online or call in. All forums are recorded, and there are American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.

For details about the [2024 DD Community Forums, please visit the BHDDH website](#).

# Things to Know

Sign-Up to Vote Today



To vote in this year's election, you must register. **Register** means to sign-up.

**Registering to vote** is like signing up for a special club that lets you have a say in important decisions. It's how we make sure our voices and opinions count when choosing leaders or deciding on new rules.

You can register to vote online, by mail, or in person. No matter how you register, you must do so by Sunday, October 6, 2024.

If you do not register to vote, you will not be allowed to vote. Learn more about voting dates and how to register by visiting these websites:

1. [Rhode Island Department of State, Register to Vote webpage](#)
2. [Vote.gov, Register to vote in Rhode Island webpage](#)



# Your Life, Your Rights

## Voting Rights

### Know Your Rights

Everyone has the right to vote. To vote in the United States of America (USA), you must be:



A USA citizen



At least age 18



A resident in your State



Registered to vote in your state

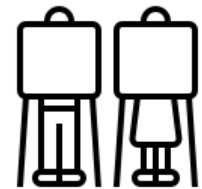
### Your Voting Rights



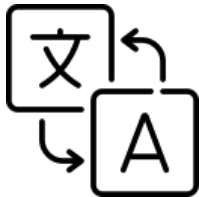
Vote for the person you want to vote for



Vote by mail instead of in person



Vote in person before Election Day



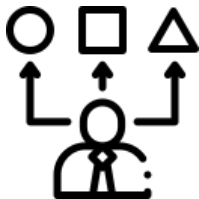
Get voting info in another language



Bring someone with you to help you vote



Be able to get in and out of voting places



Have voting options that meet your needs



Not be bullied or pressured to vote



Vote if you are not found on the list

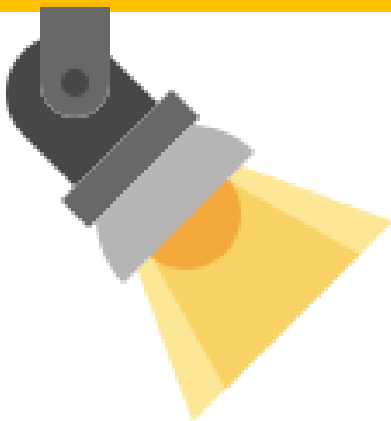
The [State of Rhode Island Board of Elections](https://www.bhddh.ri.gov) can help you if you have trouble voting.

# Community News

## Community News

Date	Event
Available to watch now	<a href="#">Webcast: The State of Aging &amp; Disability Services in America</a> National Core Indicators — Aging and Disabilities Survey (NCI-AD) has a webinar on the state of person-centered planning and self-direction, Quality of services, and unmet needs Access to healthcare.
Oct 22	<a href="#">Register for this event: The Self-Direction "Partner Showcase"</a> In this Partner Showcase, Advocates in Action (AinA) and the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities will share the resources, programs, and advocacy they offer, and how they can help you navigate the complexities of self-direction.
Nov 8	<a href="#">In Person: The First Annual Self-Directed Support Conference!</a> This event will share information about self-direction. People who go will learn how to make self-direction work for them. They will also meet new people and learn about success stories from those who self-direct. The event will take place from 9 am to 3 pm at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. Registration is required in advance.

## Participant Highlight



Living Innovation shares with us a story from Michael O’Sullivan, a parent, who talks about how important it is to find the right Shared Living Provider for his daughter Heather, who has an I/DD. He believes that finding the right match helps her grow and do her best.

The full story is included at the end of this Newsletter.

*The articles were developed by Living Innovations, a service of Mosaic. Living Innovations provides Shared Living Arrangements (SLA) in Rhode Island.*

# Community News

## The Sherlock Center Needs Your Help!



The Sherlock Center wants to learn from the community. They would like examples from the community to add to their Supported Meaningful Employment (SME) course and Family Employment Awareness Training (FEAT).

The Sherlock Center would like stories about:

- Employment program brochure or fact sheet
- A video or pictorial resume. A **pictorial resume** uses pictures and graphics to show a person's skills and experiences.
- Consumer stories . The Sherlock Center will work with you to collect pictures/videos and other information to create a story (fee for story available).
  - Customized employment – created, carved, resource within a business, business within a business
  - Job supports for complex needs
  - Youth transition – work experience leading to employment
  - Self-employment
  - Non-traditional SE job or non-traditional industry
  - Training program to employment

If this sounds like something you want to do, contact **Gerard (Jay) MacKay**, the Associate Administrator II at the Division for Department of, Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals at [Gerard.MacKay@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:Gerard.MacKay@bhddh.ri.gov).

# 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](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](http://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](mailto:BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov).

Please do not email critical issues.

Website: [www.bhddh.ri.gov](http://www.bhddh.ri.gov)

Email: [BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov)

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014



## Division of Developmental Disabilities Staff Contacts

<b>Main Phone:</b> (401) 462-3421	<b>Website:</b> <a href="https://bhddh.ri.gov/">https://bhddh.ri.gov/</a>
<b>Fax Phone:</b> (401) 462-2775	<b>Behavioral Health Link (BH Link):</b> (401) 414-5465
<b>Spanish Phone:</b> (401) 462-3014	<b>Report Abuse:</b> (401) 462-2629
<b>TDD:</b> (401) 462-3226	

### Administrative Team

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Kevin Savage	Director	462-0581	<a href="mailto:Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov">Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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### Eligibility Unit

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Jill Murphy	Social Caseworker II	462-2409	<a href="mailto:Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov">Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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### SIS Unit

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### Residential

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## Transition Unit

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Carolee Leach	Professional Services Coordinator	462-1723	<a href="mailto:Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov">Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Laurie Rossi	Implementation Aide	462-2563	<a href="mailto:Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov">Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

## Community Services

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# Empowerment Through Technology

Join us for a free two-session event focusing on innovative technology for individuals with disabilities.

- The morning presentation will showcase what's new and exciting in technology.
- The afternoon hands-on workshop will support participants with their use of assistive devices.

Participants can register for one or both sessions, and space is limited.

**Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024**  
**Rhode Island College**

**10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Session 1: Unleashing Potential –  
Assistive Technology for Independence

**1:30 – 4 p.m.**

Session 2: Breaking Barriers, Building  
Bridges – A Tech-Enabled Future

**Learn more and register**

[https://bit.ly/SC\\_Tech](https://bit.ly/SC_Tech)



# FREE DENTAL CLINIC

Oct 5-6, 2024 | RIMOM.org

335R Prairie Ave | Providence Community Health Centers



Line opens 5:45 AM  
First Come, First Served  
No Early Arrivals

## SERVICES PROVIDED AT CLINIC

- Cleanings
- X-Rays
- Fillings
- Root canal treatment on front teeth only
- Tooth extractions
- Oral health instructions
- Partial dentures

### PLEASE NOTE:

- There's no childcare supervision at RIMOM.
- Children from 12 to 18 years old **MUST** be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- No services provided for children under 12.

## SERVICES NOT (X) PROVIDED

- X Root canals on back (molar) teeth
- X Extractions of impacted wisdom teeth
- X Full dentures
- X Small denture repairs
- X Caps (crowns)
- X Tooth whitening

## PREMIER SPONSORS 2024



PATIENTS ARE SEEN UNTIL THE CLINIC REACHES CAPACITY

# CLÍNICA DENTAL GRATUITA

## oct. 5-6, 2024 | RIMOM.org

335R Prairie Ave | Providence Community Health Centers



LÍNEA ABIERTA 5:45 am  
PRIMERO VENIDO PRIMERO SERVIDO  
NO HAY ARRIBOS ANTICIPADOS

### SERVICIOS PROPORCIONADOS EN CLINIC

- Limpiezas
- Rayos X
- Rellenos
- Tratamiento del conducto radicular (solo dientes frontales)
- Extracciones de dientes
- Instrucciones de salud bucal
- Dentaduras postizas parciales

### NOTA DE ARRENDAMIENTO:

- No hay cuidado de niños o supervisión en RIMOM
- Niños de 12 a 18 años viejo DEBE estar acompañado por un padre / tutor.
- No se ofrecen servicios para niños menores de 12 años

### LA CLÍNICA NO OFRECE (X) ESTOS SERVICIOS

- X Endodoncias en los dientes posteriores (molares)
- X Extracciones de muelas del juicio impactadas
- X Dentaduras postizas completas
- X Pequeñas reparaciones de dentaduras
- X Coronas
- X Blanqueamiento dental

### PATROCINADORES PREMIER 2024



LOS PACIENTES SON ATENDIDOS HASTA LA CLÍNICA ALCANZA CAPACIDAD

# RIPIN SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT CONFERENCE

Friday, November 8, 2024 | 09:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**DISCOVER. CONNECT. THRIVE.**



## WHAT TO EXPECT:

Attend three breakout sessions of your choice, covering topics such as:

- Employment Support and Success Stories
- Finding and retaining staff
- Identifying meaningful community activities and connections
- Supported Decision-Making as an alternative to guardianship
- Blending Self-Directed Support with Traditional Services
- Goods and Services Process

Pre-registration is required.



REGISTER HERE

If you require an interpreter or other auxiliary devices for participation please email or call Jane DeMelo at [JDeMelo@ripin.org](mailto:JDeMelo@ripin.org) or (401) 270-0101 x124 no later than 10/25/24.



This free conference is designed to increase knowledge and awareness of self-directed services in Rhode Island for eligible individuals and their families, caregivers, and/or allies.

## PLUS:

- Visit our informative exhibitor showcase featuring relevant organizations
- Enjoy a free lunch while hearing from a panel of peer mentors
- Opportunities to connect with others doing self-direction
- Raffle prizes to wrap-up the day

[ripin.org/selfdirectedsupport](https://ripin.org/selfdirectedsupport)

[selfdirectedsupport@ripin.org](mailto:selfdirectedsupport@ripin.org)

# SOPORTE AUTODIRIGIDO DE RIPIN CONFERENCIA

Viernes 8 de Noviembre de 2024 | 09:00 - 3:00

DESCUBRA. CONÉCTESE. PROSPERE.



## QUÉ ESPERAR:

Asista a tres sesiones de trabajo de su elección, que cubrirán temas como:

- Apoyo al empleo y casos de éxito
- Encontrar y retener personal
- Identificar actividades y conexiones comunitarias significativas
- Toma de decisiones con apoyo como alternativa a la tutela
- Combinando el apoyo autodirigido con los servicios tradicionales
- Proceso de Bienes y Servicios

Es necesaria una preinscripción.



Si necesita un intérprete u otros dispositivos auxiliares para participar, envíe un correo electrónico o llame a Olga Hulse a [OHulse@ripin.org](mailto:OHulse@ripin.org) o (401) 270-0101 x212 a más tardar el 25/10/24.

REGÍSTRATE AQUÍ



Esta conferencia gratuita está diseñada para aumentar el conocimiento y la conciencia sobre los servicios autodirigidos en Rhode Island para personas elegibles y sus familias, cuidadores y/o aliados.

## MÁS:

- Visite nuestra vitrina informativa de expositores que presenta organizaciones relevantes
- Disfrute de un almuerzo gratuito mientras escucha a un panel de mentores pares.
- Oportunidades para conectarse con otros que realizan autodirección.
- Sorteo de premios para cerrar el día



[ripin.org/selfdirectedsupport](https://ripin.org/selfdirectedsupport)



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## Shared Living Arrangements: Finding the Right Providers for a Loved One is Key: Part 1



Michael O’Sullivan’s oldest daughter Heather—whose doctor early on diagnosed her with I/DD—moved in with him and his wife after Heather’s biological mother, who had cared for her during the previous 20 years, had died.

“After Heather lived with us for a while, we realized she was behind in a lot of things. She hadn’t had good, special education schooling among other things, and she couldn’t just nest in our home where she was uncomfortable and unhappy,”

Michael said. “We had enrolled her in a couple of social activities where she had some form of interaction with others, but we needed to make a transition to an environment where she could optimize her skills and become proud of herself.”

Michael was also concerned Heather was in her 50s, and he was in his 70s. “I thought, ‘what’s going to happen to her when I pass away?’ Many people may say ‘her sister or her brother can make that decision, because they’ll be responsible for taking care of him or her.’ I thought of that scenario and believed that was a tremendous burden to put on another one of my children,” he said.

Then Michael and his wife looked into 24/7 residential Shared Living Arrangements (SLAs). An SLA provides the most personalized level of 24/7 care. It is a home- and community-based support service where a person with an intellectual or developmental disability lives with a qualified and nurturing SLA provider in the provider’s home. Specifically designed around the individual’s needs and wants, the SLA provider helps the person with I/DD become an active member of the household and his or her community. The SLA provider also helps the person with daily activities such as meals, transportation and personal care.

## Shared Living Arrangements: Finding the Right Providers for a Loved One is Key: Part 2

“We went to one of the largest and most experienced SLA providers in the state. They had us meet with providers to determine if they would be the right match for Heather and the right match for them. After a couple of meetings with other providers, we wanted to meet with more,” said Michael.

“They suggested we meet with Eric and Jay Cruz, who were approved SLA providers. I was struck by the loving way they treated people. Soon afterward, I realized I wasn’t necessarily looking for just an organization, a structured, nourishing environment or three square meals a day—I was looking for love for my daughter—and that’s what Eric and Jay offered.”

According to Jay, “At first when Heather moved in with us, she was a bit shy, and we’re very social people. We host parties at our house, and on Christmas, we have 20 to 30 people here. They all love Heather and are interested in what she’s doing with her dancing—she loves ballroom dancing and is now learning how to line dance—and they see what’s she doing on Facebook.”

“Dancing is definitely her passion—she loves to dance. She loves it when she’s staging her showcases or competing against all kinds of people,” said Eric. “If she could dance every single day, she would.”

“Heather will communicate to us what she wants to do or try, and we say, ‘okay, you should do it.’ We encourage her to be own authentic self,” added Jay. “We understand everyone is a little bit different, and she’s a little shy, but you can see she’s getting into her groove, starting to be herself and is becoming comfortable in her own skin.”

What’s O’Sullivan’s best advice for parents facing the same decision for a loved one with I/DD? “I would say somewhere down the line, that adult child of yours is going to have to make a transition. It’s going to be just as traumatic if they go to a brother or sister, but it will be less traumatic for the entire family if you make that decision ahead of time—especially as you get older and your ability to take care of that child gets pushed to the limit. Be proactive and make the decision if a shared living arrangement is best for your child, then go to a place such as Living Innovations to find the right provider family for your child to join as an equal member of the household.








*This article was developed by Living Innovations, a service of Mosaic. Living Innovations provides Shared Living Arrangements (SLAs) in Rhode Island.*

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