



# Newsletter

Volume 16  
October 11,  
2024



## Inside This Issue

- Division & State Updates
- Things to Know
- Employment Rights
- Life Tips
- Community News & Events
- Reporting Abuse
- BHDDH Staff Contact List
- Shared Resources

### Things to look for this month!

- Make sure you are ready to Vote in November!
- [Community Events:](#)
  - [Bowen's Wharf Seafood festival](#)
  - [New England Witches Guide Halloween Parade & Festival](#)
  - [WaterFire Providence](#)

# Division Updates

## Conflict-Free Case Management (CFCM) and Independent Facilitation (IF)

The new CFCM agencies have gotten 613 referrals to start working with participants.

The Division started sending referred participants letters about CFCM and IF. The letter shared updates about CFCM and IF, next steps, and resources to learn more.

As a reminder, the CFCM or IF will work with a participant and other people they choose. The CFCM or IF will work with the participant to:

- Share info about the community and job services they can get.
- Tell them about new resources and opportunities they can get from the Division.
- Help them use their individual budget to get the services they want.
- Help them write their Individual Service Plan (ISP).
- Check-in with them to make sure they are happy with their progress and ISP.

The CFCM or IF service will not impact the person's budget. It is a service provided by the Division's work with the Consent Decree. It is also a Medicaid rule.

If you are a participant who got this letter, please note that you do not have to do anything right now. Your new CFCM or IF will contact you in the next few months. Until then, please contact your Division Social Case Worker if you have questions.

A copy of this letter is included at the end of this newsletter.



# State Update: CCBHCs

## Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) Explained

### What are CCBHC's in Rhode Island?

[Rhode Island's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics \(CCBHCs\)](#) are special clinics that offer a wide range of mental health and substance use services. These clinics help anyone who comes in, no matter their age, diagnosis, or insurance status.

### Key points of CCBHCs:

- **24/7 Crisis Support:** They provide help around the clock, including mobile teams that can come to you in an emergency.
- **Comprehensive Services:** They offer services like screening, diagnosis, risk assessment, psychiatric rehabilitation, primary care screening, case management, and more.
- **Inclusive Care:** CCBHCs offer person- and family-centered treatment planning, mental health care for veterans, and peer family support.



### Locations in Rhode Island:

- [Community Care Alliance](#) (Woonsocket)
- [Family Service of Rhode Island](#) (Providence)
- [Gateway Healthcare](#) (Pawtucket, Johnston, and South County)
- [Newport Mental Health](#) (Newport)
- [The Providence Center](#) (Providence)
- [Thrive Behavioral Health](#) (Warwick)

If you need more information or want to make an appointment, you can visit the website of a nearby CCBHC or call 988 for help.

# State Update: CCBHC Launch

## Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) in Rhode Island Press Conference

On October 10, 2024, Governor Dan McKee held a press conference. It was about [Rhode Island being chosen for a federal program for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics \(CCBHCs\)](#). This program will help the state create a new system for mental health care that serves everyone, no matter how much money they have.

Several important people across many state agencies and providers attended the press conference on CCBHCs in Rhode Island today including:

- [Governor Dan McKee](#)
- [Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi](#)
- [EOHHS Secretary Richard Charest](#)
- [Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals \(BHDDH\) Richard Leclerc](#)

To read more about those who support this plan: [Press Release: Legislative investments in behavioral health care system highlighted](#)



### Key Points:

- **Federal Demonstration Program:** Rhode Island is one of 10 states chosen for this program. It will let the state get more Medicaid money for services at CCBHCs.
- **Funding:** The state expects to get about \$15 million more in federal money for 2024 and \$26 million for 2025.
- **Goals:** The program aims to make it easier to get mental health and substance use treatment, reduce hospital stays, and provide quick help for those with serious mental health or addiction problems.

Governor McKee said that this plan is part of the [Rhode Island 2030 Plan](#). The goal is to create a health system that offers affordable and easy-to-access services to improve health for everyone in Rhode Island.

# Things to Know

## October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This is a day to both celebrate the gifts of workers with disabilities, and a day to raise awareness.

More and more people with disabilities are joining the workforce. According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(2024\)](#), in 2023 about 22.5% of people with a disability were working. More people with a disability worked in 2023 than any other year since 2008! Workers with disabilities work hard service jobs, and many run their own businesses.

As more workers join the workforce, we should take some time to appreciate this. Workers with disabilities help make our workplaces stronger in many ways, including:

- Making our workplaces open to different ideas and ways of doing things.
- Having teams of great workers that stay at a company for a while.
- Bringing customers joy so they leave with good experiences.

This October, let's get out there and thank our workers with disabilities for all that they do. While we are at, let's also find ways to support other people with disabilities find their best job.

[Learn more about NDEAM and ways to celebrate by visiting the U.S. Department of Labor website.](#)

## BHDDH Your Life, Your Rights Program

What better way to celebrate NDEAM this October than learning what your rights are as an employee?



The focus of this month's Your Life, Your Rights Program is on employment rights. You will learn about your right to a safe workplace, privacy, fair treatment, and more. This is an important topic. Work can be a great place for us to learn new things, meet new people, and feel inspired. To help us do our best and get the best from our work, our rights must be safe.

For a fact sheet on your employment rights, check-out page 6 of this newsletter.

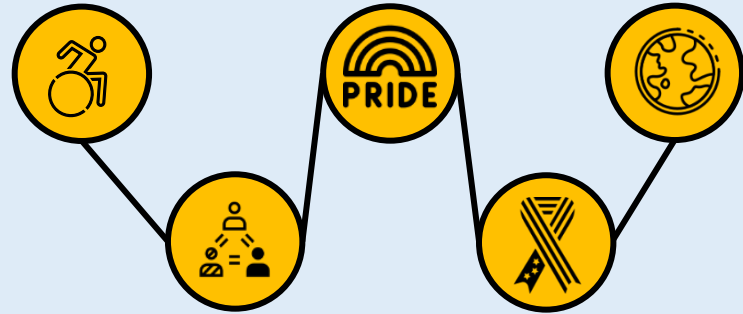


# Your Life, Your Rights Employment Rights

## Know Your Rights

Everyone has the right to choose their job, feel safe at work, and be treated well. This is true for all workers, including workers who:

- Have a disability
- Are of any race, ethnicity, or gender
- Are part of the LGBTQ+ Community
- Are veterans
- Are migrant workers



## Your Employment Rights



Fair treatment no matter who you are



Earn the same money as others doing the same work



Make changes to the job to help you succeed



Have access to info about your rights



Keep some info about yourself private



Take time out of work when needed



Work in a safe place where you will not get hurt or sick



Join with coworkers to make the workplace better



Report broken rights and not get in trouble

If you think your boss is violating your rights, call the U.S. Department of Labor by phone at 1-866-487-2365. There is help in over 200 languages.

# Life Tips

## Accessibility Tip



All of us have times when things in the community make it hard for us to do something. For example, let's imagine we go to a new restaurant. As we take our seat, someone gives us a menu. We pick up the menu only to realize we can't read it. This may be because the restaurant is too dark, the menu is too small, or we have a visual disability and can't see. This is why accessibility is so important. We all have the right go out and enjoy things in our community no matter what our disability is.

So, what are some accessibility tips that could help us in this example? Here is a short list:

- Check if the restaurant has an online menu.
- Try a visual assistance app.
- Bring a magnifying glass and/or flashlight.
- Ask if there are accessible menus, like Braille or large print.

[This list comes from Veronica With Four Eyes on Veroniiiica.com](#). Veronica With Four Eyes is an online blog that shares tips and other info about low vision and assistive technology.

## Dose of Inspiration

Ever think about the happiest moment in your life? Hundreds of people around the world are being asked this very question by traveler Michael Zervos. For some people, their happiest moment was getting a new job that let them take care of their family better. For others, it was a random act of kindness returned.

To learn about Micheal's work and to get inspired, visit the:

- [World at Large webpage](#)
- [Good News Network webpage](#)



# Community News

## DSP Services While in Hospital

Rhode Island can now pay for certain personal care services, like help from Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), when someone is in the hospital. But there are some rules:

- The person's care plan must say they need DSP help in the hospital.
- The DSP services must already be in the person's care plan. You can't add new services just because they're in the hospital.
- The DSP services must be for things the hospital doesn't do. For example:
  - The hospital should make sure the person takes their medicine, so DSPs don't need to help with that.
  - The hospital provides meals, so DSPs don't need to help with cooking.
  - But, if the person can't talk and needs help communicating with hospital staff, a DSP can help with that.

Everything above simply means, that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) can now get paid for helping someone in a hospital.

## New Programs Added to Social Engagement Innovations Hub

The [Commit to Connect](#) initiative, along with [engAGED](#), has added 27 new programs to the [Social Engagement Innovations Hub](#). Now, there are over 100 programs available to help organizations connect people socially.

The Innovations Hub is a searchable database that shares successful programs and services to combat social isolation and loneliness. Each program summary includes details on partners involved, outcomes, lessons learned, resources needed and contact information. New programs include:

- **Sportable Wellness Initiatives (WINS):** Offers virtual and in-person wellness programs for people with disabilities in Richmond, Virginia.
- **Changing the Rhythm of Aging:** An annual event in Towson, Maryland, featuring activities like drum circles, tai chi, and healthy meals.
- **GENuine Connections:** An online space in New York City for older adults and teens to participate in workshops and build community.

For more, visit the Innovations Hub or contact Commit to Connect at [info@committoconnect.org](mailto:info@committoconnect.org).



# Community News

## Social Security Implements Changes To SSI Program

The Social Security Administration is making changes to how they calculate benefits for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This will make it easier for people to get benefits and will reduce the amount of reporting people need to do. These changes include:

- Not counting food assistance from friends or family when deciding benefits. This means about 90,000 people will get an extra \$131 per month.
- Updating the rental subsidy policy to be the same across the country. This will give about 41,000 people an extra \$132 per month.
- Making it easier to qualify as a public assistance household, which could help more people get SSI and reduce the need to report changes.

About 7.5 million Americans get SSI each month. The maximum federal benefit is \$943 for individuals and \$1,415 for couples. These updates aim to simplify the rules and help more people access SSI benefits. To read the article in full go to: [Social Security Implements Changes To SSI Program - Disability Scoop](#)

## Documentary Worth Watching



The new Hulu documentary, "[Patrice: The Movie](#)," tells the story of a woman named Patrice who fights for marriage equality within the disability community.

In the film, Patrice and her partner Garry face many challenges, including losing benefits if they get married. When Patrice's wheelchair van breaks down, she can't get it fixed because she can't have more than \$2,000 in her bank account due to her disability benefits.

There are some options to help people save money, like [ABLE accounts](#) and [PASS accounts](#). These accounts let people with disabilities save money without losing their benefits.

In Rhode Island, there's also a new law called Ticket to Work that removes income limits for Medicaid, so people can work without losing their support. These options don't solve all the problems, but they can help people manage their finances better.

To watch the documentary on Hulu: [New Hulu documentary 'Patrice: The Movie'](#)

# Community News

## Rhode Island Frontline Supervisor Competency Set

The Rhode Island Training and Professional Development Workgroup is planning to approve the National Frontline Supervisor (FLS) Competencies with some small changes. These guidelines were created in 2013 by the Institute on Community Integration and helped by national partners like ANCOR and NADSP.

These guidelines are not required by any state agency but are meant to help improve the FLS job. They are suggested to help supervisors of direct support professionals (DSPs) do their jobs better.

Each guideline has statements about what FLSs need to know and be able to do to be good at their jobs. This document helps FLSs meet job standards by setting clear expectations and providing a basis for performance reviews.

If you are an FLS or want to become one, these guidelines can help you plan and track your training and experience. They can guide you in deciding what knowledge and skills to focus on next.

Go to [BHDDH's statewide workforce initiative site](#) to view the Full competencies.

## To provide Comments & Feedback on Rhode Island Frontline Supervisor Competency Set

The Training and Professional Development Workgroup was formed in May 2023 to set training standards for Frontline Supervisors (FLS). It includes representatives from state agencies, service providers, higher education, advocacy groups, and customers.

If you want to share your thoughts about the Rhode Island Frontline Supervisor Competencies, please email: [dlt.gwbinfo@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:dlt.gwbinfo@dlt.ri.gov). In your email subject line, write: **Public Comment-FLS Competencies**.

Your comments will be shared with the Workgroup members. Note, they can only confirm they received your email but can't reply to you directly.

**The public comment period ends on December 2, 2024.** A flyer with full details is included at the end of this newsletter.

# Community Events

## Calendar of Free Events

Date	Time	Location	Event
Tues, 10/15	8:30am - 12pm	Crown Plaza 801 Greenwich Avenue Warwick, RI 02886	<a href="#"><u>Disabilities Hiring Resource Symposium for Employers</u></a> Join this event to learn about strategies, tools, and resources to hire people with disabilities.
Thurs, 10/17	10am -12:30pm, 1:30pm – 4pm	Rhode Island College	<a href="#"><u>Empowerment Through Technology</u></a> Join Sherlock Center for this two-part event about technology.
Thurs, 10/17	3-4:30pm	Online using Zoom	<a href="#"><u>Right to Counsel: What It Is and What It Isn't – A Community Discussion</u></a> Join the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) to learn about your right to counsel.
Tues, 10/22	6pm	Online using Zoom	<a href="#"><u>Partner Showcase</u></a> Join RIPIN to learn about resources from Advocates in Action (AinA) and Sherlock Center.
Wed, 10/23	12-1pm	Online using Zoom	<a href="#"><u>Working With Benefits - Yes, You Can!</u></a> Join Sherlock Center to learn about work incentives while on SSI or SSDI.
Wed, 10/30	4-6pm	Rhode Island College	<a href="#"><u>Context Blindness: What It Is and How You Can Help</u></a> Join Sherlock Center to learn what color blindness is and 5 ways to help.
Wed, 11/6	12-1pm	Online using Zoom	<a href="#"><u>Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Overview</u></a> Join Sherlock Center to learn how you can work even if you get SSDI.

# Community Events Cont.

## Calendar of Free Events

Date	Time	Location	Event
Fri, 11/8	9 am - 3 pm	Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI	<a href="#">RIPIN Self-Directed Support Conference</a> Join RIPIN for the first ever Self-Directed Support Conference. Learn what self-direction is and how you can get involved..
Wed, 11/20	12-1pm	Online using Zoom	<a href="#">Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Overview</a> Join Sherlock Center to learn how you can work even if you get SSI.
Tues, 12/3	6-7pm	Online	<a href="#">Peer Mentor Panel</a> Join RIPIN to learn more about Advocates in Action's peer mentor training program.



# 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 webpage](#)

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	

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Erin Hagopian	Social Caseworker II	864-2854	<a href="mailto:erin.hagopian@bhddh.ri.gov">erin.hagopian@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

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Glenn Vario	Social Caseworker II	529-0720	<a href="mailto:glenn.vario@bhddh.ri.gov">glenn.vario@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Yolande Ramos</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II</b>	462-1059	<a href="mailto:Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov">Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Melissa Brazil	Social Caseworker II	864-0045	<a href="mailto:melissa.brazil@bhddh.ri.gov">melissa.brazil@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Cassandra Killingham	Social Caseworker II	864-3728	<a href="mailto:cassandra.killingham@bhddh.ri.gov">cassandra.killingham@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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Joellyn Pari	Social Caseworker II	864-2965	<a href="mailto:joellyn.pari@bhddh.ri.gov">joellyn.pari@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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### Transition Unit

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<b>Susan Hayward</b>	<b>Administrator, Youth in Transition</b>	<b>462-2519</b>	<a href="mailto:Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov">Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
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Elvys Ruiz	Administrator III, Employment	462-3857	<a href="mailto:Elvys.Ruiz@bhddh.ri.gov">Elvys.Ruiz@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Gerard (Jay) MacKay	Associate Administrator, Employment	462-5279	<a href="mailto:Gerard.Mackay@bhddh.ri.gov">Gerard.Mackay@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Steven Seay	Coordinator, Integrated Comm Services	462-6609	<a href="mailto:Steven.Seay@bhddh.ri.gov">Steven.Seay@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### Communications and Training

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
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Amethys Nieves	Associate Admin, Communications	462-6629	<a href="mailto:Amethys.Nieves@bhddh.ri.gov">Amethys.Nieves@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Kelly Petersen</b>	<b>Chief of Training &amp; Staff Development</b>	<b>462-6592</b>	<a href="mailto:Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov">Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Robin Gannon	Clinical Training Specialist	462-6691	<a href="mailto:Robin.Gannon@bhddh.ri.gov">Robin.Gannon@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Peter Joly	Principal Training Specialist	462-6638	<a href="mailto:Peter.Joly@bhddh.ri.gov">Peter.Joly@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Christine Allenson	Programming Services Officer	462-0126	<a href="mailto:christine.allenson@bhddh.ri.gov">christine.allenson@bhddh.ri.gov</a>





STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals  
**DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
6 Harrington Road  
Cranston, RI 02920-3080

TEL: (401) 462-3421  
FAX: (401) 462-2775

September 2024

Dear DD Participant,

You are receiving this letter because the Division has identified you as someone who will receive the new Conflict-Free Case Management (CFCM) or Independent Facilitation (IF) support. This letter will tell you about the next steps, and who you can reach out to if you have any questions.

A new person called a Conflict-Free Case Manager or an Independent Facilitator will work with you and your guardian if you have one. This person will:

1. Share information with you about the community services and job services you can get.
2. Tell you about the new resources and opportunities you can get from the Division.
3. Help you use your individual budget to get the services you want.
4. Help you with your Individual Service Plan (ISP) to be sure that it reflects your interests, goals, and preferences.
5. Check in with you to make sure you are happy with your progress and your ISP.

Working with a Conflict-Free Case Manager or an Independent Facilitator will not impact your budget. This service is being provided as part of the Division's work with the Consent Decree and to follow Medicaid requirements.

You do not need to do anything right now. Your new CFCM or IF will contact you in the next few months to schedule time so you can get to know each other. Until then, if you have any questions, you can still contact your DD Social Case Worker.

Sincerely,

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

- 
- Learn more about Independent Facilitation on the BHDDH webpage at <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/services-adults/independent-facilitation>
  - Learn more about the Consent Decree on the BHDDH webpage at <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/consent-decree-reports-hearings>
  - Learn more about conflict free case management on the EOHHS webpage at [Conflict-Free Case Management | Executive Office of Health and Human Services \(ri.gov\)](https://ehhs.ri.gov/Conflict-Free-Case-Management)



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TEL: (401) 462-3421  
FAX: (401) 462-2775

Septiembre 2024

Estimado/a participante de DD,

Está recibiendo esta carta porque la División lo ha identificado como alguien que recibirá el nuevo apoyo de Gestión de Casos Libre de Conflictos (CFCM, por sus siglas en inglés) o Facilitación Independiente (IF). Esta carta le informará sobre los próximos pasos y con quién puede comunicarse si tiene alguna pregunta.

Una nueva persona llamada Gestor de Casos Libre de Conflictos o Facilitador Independiente trabajará con usted y su tutor, si tiene uno. Esta persona:

1. Compartirá información con usted sobre los servicios comunitarios y los servicios de empleo que puede obtener.
2. Le informará sobre los nuevos recursos y oportunidades que puede obtener de la División.
3. Le ayudará a usar su presupuesto individual para obtener los servicios que desea.
4. Le ayudará con su Plan de Servicio Individual (ISP) para asegurarse de que refleje sus intereses, metas y preferencias.
5. Se comunicará con usted para asegurarse de que se siente feliz con su progreso y con su ISP.

Trabajar con un Gestor de Casos Libre de Conflictos o un Facilitador Independiente no afectará su presupuesto. Este servicio se proporciona como parte del trabajo de la División con el Decreto de Consentimiento y para cumplir con los requisitos de Medicaid.

No necesita hacer nada en este momento. Su nuevo CFCM o IF se pondrá en contacto con usted en los próximos meses para programar una hora y que puedan conocerse. Hasta entonces, si tiene alguna pregunta, aún puede comunicarse con su Trabajador Social de DD.

Sinceramente,

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals  
División de Discapacidades del Desarrollo

- 
- Obtenga más información sobre la Facilitación Independiente en la página web de BHDDH en <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/services-adults/independent-facilitation>
  - Obtenga más información sobre el Decreto de Consentimiento en la página web de BHDDH en <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/consent-decree-reports-hearings>
  - Obtenga más información sobre la Gestión de Casos Libre de Conflictos en la página web de EOHHS en [Conflict-Free Case Management | Executive Office of Health and Human Services \(ri.gov\)](https://ehhs.ri.gov/Conflict-Free-Case-Management-Executive-Office-of-Health-and-Human-Services)

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



### NEXT CLASS STARTING October 2024

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. Traditional employment in full or part-time jobs may not be the best option for some people with 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 be able 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 few grants from the Project and the Fogarty Foundation 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 a steady income!



The RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) offers a FREE Business Development Series of 8 Classes, ONLINE through ZOOM Meetings. The new Series will start early October 2024 and scheduled every Tuesday for 9 weeks. Classes will assist people to learn the right business skills and access resources to become profitable RI small business owners! Mini-grants up to \$1000.00 are available to people completing classes, homework and starting their businesses from DLT funding and the John E. Fogarty Foundation.

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.*





**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 together, sharing resources, information, and ideas to better support 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  
**“Navigating Risky Behaviors”.**

As people with mental health disabilities and IDD, brain injuries, or other cognitive differences, we are often punished for engaging in what many people call "risky behaviors" like self-injury, perceived aggression, and inappropriate conduct. When we are punished for these things rather than understood and supported, it is more likely we will continue to do things that hurt ourselves or others. This topic will discuss ways people can support those with lived experience to reduce harm while allowing everyone to keep their autonomy.

**Live Captioning and ASL Interpretation will be provided during all live webinars.  
Registration is required.**

There are four sessions on the same topic for different target audiences. Please register for the session most relevant to you, or whichever best fits into your schedule.

<b><u>October 22, 2024</u></b>	<b><u>October 23, 2024</u></b>
<p><b>Direct Support Professionals: 1:00-2:30p EST</b></p> <p>Register in advance for this webinar: <a href="https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YIXw0NbAS3Kw1TOiACoxbw">https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YIXw0NbAS3Kw1TOiACoxbw</a></p>	<p><b>Families of people with lived experience: 1:00-2:30p EST</b></p> <p>Register in advance for this webinar: <a href="https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zEI_2IsEQA2z35wzvOR6WA">https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zEI_2IsEQA2z35wzvOR6WA</a></p>
<p><b>Clinical Professionals: 3:00-4:30p EST</b></p> <p>Register in advance for this webinar: <a href="https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p8Wr6lQ4TfaUgTvio3rqBQ">https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p8Wr6lQ4TfaUgTvio3rqBQ</a></p>	<p><b>People with lived experience: 3:00-4:30p EST</b></p> <p>Register in advance for this webinar: <a href="https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MQ6XDgXmR6q8RyC5I7x1Ug">https://nasddd.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MQ6XDgXmR6q8RyC5I7x1Ug</a></p>

Upcoming quarterly Shared Learning Groups topics:

- January 2025:** Moving Through the Justice System
- April 2025:** Developing Regulation and Coping Skills
- July 2025:** Building Systems Partnerships

*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.*



## Instructions for Submitting Comment and Feedback On DRAFT Front Line Supervisor Competencies

The Training and Professional Development Workgroup was formed in May 2023 with the responsibility to identify and implement competency-based training standards for Frontline Supervisors (FLS), among other duties. The workgroup is comprised of representatives from state agencies, service providers, higher education, advocacy, and customers.

After months of review and discussion; the Workgroup is preparing to endorse the National Frontline Supervisor (FLS) Competencies with some minor revisions. The eleven FLS competency areas were developed as a part of a study at the Institute on Community Integration in 2013 and informed by national partners including ANCOR, NASDDDS, NADSP, and the National Leadership Consortium.

Before taking any further action; the Workgroup is making the draft Competencies Document available to the community for review, feedback, and input.

**Stakeholders, interested parties, and members of the provider community interested in providing comment regarding the document are encouraged to email:**

[dlt.gwbinfo@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:dlt.gwbinfo@dlt.ri.gov)

We ask that you please indicate that you are submitting Public Comment in the subject line [Example: PUBLIC COMMENT – FLS COMPETENCIES]. Your comments will be shared with members of the Training and Professional Development Workgroup. **(NOTE: Other than confirmation of receipt we are unable to respond directly to submissions)**

Please note that you may also provide comment via US Mail:

*Public Comment - Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training  
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 72-3  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSSES December 2, 2024**