



DD News and Updates

Newsletter

Volume 20
November 22,
2024

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**Please note, all state offices are closed on Thanksgiving!
Thursday, November 28, 2024**

Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014

Community News

1st Annual Self-Directed Support Conference



The Division attended the **1st Annual Self-Directed Support Conference** in Rhode Island organized by Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) on **Friday, November 8, 2024**. The conference aimed to help people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), their families, and their support workers. It provided resources, training, and support on how to make good decisions about services and be more independent.



Community News


Knowing Your Rights When Stopped by Police

If you have an Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) and the police stop you, it's important to know your rights to stay safe and respected. Here are some key points:

- **Right to Remain Silent:**
 - You can choose not to talk or answer questions about what you're doing or where you're going. If you want to stay silent, clearly say, "I want to remain silent."
- **Right to Say No to Searches:**
 - You don't have to agree to let the police search you or your things. But remember, police might still search if they think they have a good reason.
- **Right to a Lawyer:**
 - If you get arrested, you can ask for a lawyer. If you can't afford one, the government will provide one for you. It's best to wait for your lawyer before answering any questions.
- **Right to Make a Phone Call:**
 - If you're arrested, you can make a local phone call. Calls to a lawyer are private, but other calls might be listened to by the police.
- **Stay Calm and Follow Directions:**
 - Try to stay calm, avoid sudden movements, and keep your hands where police can see them. Follow simple requests like showing your ID but avoid arguing or fighting back.

To learn more, visit the [Division's website](#).

Participant Highlight: SLA



[Living Innovations](#) has shared a new story about Shared Living Arrangements (SLA). These stories are being shared to give people an idea about SLA and how it can work for them. The story is about Katherine. Katherine's choice to live in a Shared Living arrangement provided her independence. Find the full story at the end of this newsletter.



Your Life, Your Rights

Being Stopped by Police

Every person living in America has rights. This is true no matter if the person is a citizen or not. Some of these rights protect people when they work with law enforcement, including police.

Your rights when you are stopped by police include:



Get info in ways you understand and can use



Be given accommodations if you need them



Stay quiet even if you are asked questions



Say no to having yourself or your things searched



Get a lawyer even if you can not afford one



Not sign anything without your lawyer there



Record the meeting you have with the officer



Make a phone call if you are arrested



File a complaint for broken rights and bad treatment

Community Events

Calendar of Free Events

Date	Time	Location	Event
Mon, 11/25	12:30 pm	Online using Zoom	Pop-up Story Hour from Best Life RI Best Life RI is hosting a Pop-up story hour highlighting the story, Julie Davis.
Tues, 12/3	6-7pm	Online	Peer Mentor Panel Join RIPIN to learn more about Advocates in Action's peer mentor training program.
Tues, 12/10	3-4:30pm	Online using Zoom	Tuesday, December 10th Community Forum registration page Join us for the last DD Community Forum of 2024.

Thanksgiving



All State Offices are closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 28, 2024.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities, its partners and participants wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Go to this link for [Thanksgiving activities for adults](#).

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 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.

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 Staff Contacts

Main Phone: (401) 462-3421	Website: https://bhddh.ri.gov/
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Administrative Team

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DD Community Forum

Tuesday December 10, 2024

Sign up today for the next DD Community Forum on Tuesday,
December 10, 2024

What You Need to Know: The last DD Community Forum of 2024

Event Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Event Time: 3:00-4:30 pm

Event Location: Online using Zoom

Event Registration: [Visit the DD website](#) or scan the QR code



A Shared Living Story

Katherine - Shared living - It's My Choice!

Katherine wanted to live in Shared Living, but her father insisted on a group home. So began the struggle between Katherine and her father. Her mother, with whom she had always lived had suddenly passed away and Katherine's options were extremely limited. A staff member from her day program, Suzy stepped up to offer emergency respite and Katherine's remarkable journey with Shared Living Arrangements (SLA) began. Her father who lived in Texas came to Rhode Island to settle his daughter. He only knew about group homes and that is where he wanted Katherine to live. Katherine had other ideas. She knew about group homes, and she knew she did not want to live in one. She wanted to live with Suzy. Her father, seeing her determination, finally relented and supported his daughter's choice. He stated that "it was like giving his daughter away in marriage without knowing the family." That was remedied quickly as he got to know Suzy, the person his daughter chose to live with.

This was 15 years ago! Katherine has become part of Suzy's family while becoming closer to her family in Texas. She has visited her father in Texas and reconnected with her brother and his family too. She even threw her own 40th birthday party! Katherine is well known in her Jamestown community. Most impressively she presented at a national conference about the ability to choose where she lived and to choose Shared Living.

We salute this thriving and loving Shared Living Arrangement and Katherine's determination to make her own choices!

This story was shared by Living Innovations. For more information about shared living, and more stories of success please visit [the Living Innovations website](#).



TJ Maxx Selling Apparel Created By Neurodiverse Artists

by Shaun Heasley | November 14, 2024



Apparel from Spectrum Designs, a nonprofit that employs people with autism, is available at hundreds of TJ Maxx locations across the nation. (Spectrum Designs)

Article Summary:

TJ Maxx is partnering with Spectrum Designs to offer a collection of apparel designed and created by individuals on the autism spectrum. The collection includes t-shirts with unique designs by neurodiverse artists, printed and packaged by Spectrum Designs' employees, most of whom are on the spectrum.

To read the complete story [Sign up for Disability Scoop's free email newsletter](#) to get the latest developmental disability news sent straight to your inbox.