



DD News and Updates

# Newsletter

Volume 19  
November 8,  
2024

## Inside This Issue

- National Caregiver Month
- Community Resources and Events
- Reporting Abuse
- BHDDH Staff Contact List
- Shared Resources

November is  
**NATIONAL FAMILY  
CAREGIVERS MONTH**

**#NFCmonth**

**Please note that all state offices are closed on Veteran's Day!  
Monday, November 11, 2024**

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

# Community News

## National Care Giver Month



**National Caregiver Month** is celebrated every November in the U.S. to honor caregivers for their hard work and selflessness.

Here's a quote that speaks to how important caregivers are: "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

Here are some key points to mention:

1. **Appreciation:** Caregivers often balance their own lives with the responsibility of caring for others, like family members or friends.
2. **Support:** It's important to support caregivers all year round. This includes giving them emotional help, financial aid, and time off for rest.
3. **Resources:** There are many resources available for caregivers, such as support groups, counseling services, and educational materials.
4. **Impact:** Caregivers greatly improve the lives of those they care for, offering both help and companionship.
5. **Personal Stories:** Sharing personal stories can help people understand the challenges and rewards of caregiving.

To learn more about National Caregiver month, visit the [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\) website](#).

# Community News

## Division Updates

### Conflict Free Case Management (CFCM)/Independent Facilitation (IF):

680 people got a referral to CFCM and IF. East Bay Community Action Program is getting ready to start in December. The other three CFCM/IF agencies are currently hiring new staff. These agencies are Westbay Community Action, Child & Family Services, and CareLink. There are still other agencies working to become CFCM/IF providers. BHDDH also has six more positions to fill. Training sessions are continuing each month. BHDDH expects the rate of referrals to CFCM to increase over the next few months.

### Technology Fund:

Applications are still being accepted for the technology fund. This fund helps people getting services buy technology. For more info, and to apply, visit the [Technology Fund webpage](#).

## 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 Lori. Lori lives in SLA where she has learned new skills and gotten closer to her goals. Find the full story at the end of this newsletter.

## Red, White & Brew moves to Warwick



Michael Coyne (left) and his mom, Sheila Coyne (third from left), talk about their coffee shop, Red, White & Brew Coffeehouse, which recently moved to Warwick. Michael, who has a disability, had trouble finding a job a few years ago, so his family opened this business.

Also in the picture are Richard Leclerc, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (second from left), and Kevin Savage, the Director of the Division of Disabilities at BHDDH (fourth from left).

Original article can be found on the [Warwick Beacon](#).



# 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
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.
Tues, 12/10	3-4:30pm	Online using Zoom	<a href="#">Tuesday, December 10th Community Forum registration page</a> Join us for the last DD Community Forum of 2024.

## Veteran's Day



All State Offices are closed on Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities, its partners and participants thank all veterans for their service!

Visit this webpage for a list of free events for Veteran's: [RI Veterans: Did you know?](#)

# 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	

### Administrative Team

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
<b>Kevin Savage</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>462-0581</b>	<a href="mailto:Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov">Kevin.Savage@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Heather Mincey	Assistant Director	462-1218	<a href="mailto:Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov">Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Brenda DuHamel	Associate Director, Admin Services	462-3010	<a href="mailto:Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov">Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Anne LeClerc	Associate Director, Prog Performance	462-0192	<a href="mailto:Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov">Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Tracy Levesque	Associate Director, Clinical and RICLAS	462-0209	<a href="mailto:Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov">Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Christine Botts	Deputy Administrator	462-2766	<a href="mailto:Christine.Botts@bhddh.ri.gov">Christine.Botts@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Cindy Fusco	Interdepartmental Project Manager	462-6689	<a href="mailto:Cynthia.Fusco@bhddh.ri.gov">Cynthia.Fusco@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Natalie Munoz	Chief Implementation Aide	462-3016	<a href="mailto:Natalie.Munoz@bhddh.ri.gov">Natalie.Munoz@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### Eligibility Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
<b>Brenda DuHamel</b>	<b>Associate Director, Admin Services/Elig Sup</b>	<b>462-3010</b>	<a href="mailto:Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov">Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Karen Lowell</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II</b>	<b>462-2209</b>	<a href="mailto:Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov">Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Lori Lombardi- Burns	PASRR	462-0089	<a href="mailto:Lori.Lombardiburns@bhddh.ri.gov">Lori.Lombardiburns@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jill Murphy	Social Caseworker II	462-2409	<a href="mailto:Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov">Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Kim Wright	Information Aide	462-2584	<a href="mailto:Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov">Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### SIS Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
<b>Tracy Levesque</b>	<b>Associate Director, Clinical and RICLAS</b>	<b>462-0209</b>	<a href="mailto:Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov">Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Donna Standish</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II/SIS Sup</b>	<b>462-2628</b>	<a href="mailto:Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov">Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Stephanie Androozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Androozzi@bhddh.ri.gov">Stephanie.Androozzi@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Kerri Cockcroft	Social Caseworker II	462-0449	<a href="mailto:kerri.cockcroft@bhddh.ri.gov">kerri.cockcroft@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Wendy Cormier	Social Caseworker II	462-1302	<a href="mailto:Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov">Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jamie Fitzgibbons	Social Caseworker II	462-2510	<a href="mailto:Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov">Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jessica Rodriguez	Social Caseworker II	462-3233	<a href="mailto:Jessica.Rodriguez@bhddh.ri.gov">Jessica.Rodriguez@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

## Residential

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Tracy Levesque	Associate Director, Clinical and RICLAS	462-0209	<a href="mailto:Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov">Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Melissa Greenlief	Administrator, Community Services	462-2459	<a href="mailto:Melissa.Greenlief@bhddh.ri.gov">Melissa.Greenlief@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

## Case Management Units

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
<b>Brenda DuHamel</b>	<b>Associate Director, Admin Services</b>	<b>462-3010</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov">Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov</a></b>
<b>Marguerite Belisle</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II</b>	<b>462-0714</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov">Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov</a></b>
Amie Adams	Social Caseworker II	462-2480	<a href="mailto:Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov">Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
GinaMarie Debartolo	Social Caseworker II	462-3402	<a href="mailto:GinaMarie.Debartolo@bhddh.ri.gov">GinaMarie.Debartolo@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Amber Matson	Social Caseworker II	462-1555	<a href="mailto:Amber.Matson@bhddh.ri.gov">Amber.Matson@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Suzanne Porter	Social Caseworker II	462-1972	<a href="mailto:Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov">Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Kaitlin Sarkees	Social Caseworker II	462-4075	<a href="mailto:Kaitlin.Sarkees@bhddh.ri.gov">Kaitlin.Sarkees@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Heather Soares	Social Caseworker II	462-6097	<a href="mailto:Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov">Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Souphalek Muriel</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II</b>	<b>462-2512</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov">Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov</a></b>
Mary Cameron	Social Caseworker II	462-1307	<a href="mailto:Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov">Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Lauree Champagne	Social Caseworker II	462-2728	<a href="mailto:Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov">Lauree.Champagne@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Megan Gilbert	Social Caseworker II	462-2524	<a href="mailto:Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov">Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Dayna Hansen	Social Caseworker II	462-2505	<a href="mailto:Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov">Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Judy Coit	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	<a href="mailto:judith.coit@bhddh.ri.gov">judith.coit@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Mary Beth Stevens</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II</b>	<b>462-2438</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Marybeth.Stevens@bhddh.ri.gov">Marybeth.Stevens@bhddh.ri.gov</a></b>
Timothy Cronin	Social Caseworker I	462-1721	<a href="mailto:Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov">Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jennifer Gouveia	Social Caseworker I	462-0098	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov">Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Erin Simonelli	Social Caseworker II	462-2502	<a href="mailto:Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov">Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Lena Sousa	Social Caseworker II	462-1834	<a href="mailto:Lena.Sousa@bhddh.ri.gov">Lena.Sousa@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Joseph Tevyaw	Social Caseworker II	462-2474	<a href="mailto:Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov">Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Stacey Perry</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II</b>	<b>462-3402</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov">Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov</a></b>
JoAnn DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	<a href="mailto:JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov">JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Katrina Ferry	Social Caseworker II	462-2529	<a href="mailto:Katrina.Ferry@bhddh.ri.gov">Katrina.Ferry@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Heidy Henriquez	Social Caseworker II	462-3022	<a href="mailto:Heidy.Henriquez@bhddh.ri.gov">Heidy.Henriquez@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Crystal Morel	Social Caseworker II	462-1329	<a href="mailto:Crystal.Morel@bhddh.ri.gov">Crystal.Morel@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

## Independent Facilitation Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
<b>Meaghan Jencks</b>	<b>Casework Supervisor II</b>	462-2113	<b><a href="mailto:Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov">Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov</a></b>
Alex Blue	Social Caseworker II	864-5403	<a href="mailto:alex.blue@bhddh.ri.gov">alex.blue@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Cayla Cozzo	Social Caseworker II	864-1944	<a href="mailto:cayla.cozzo@bhddh.ri.gov">cayla.cozzo@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Erin Hagopian	Social Caseworker II	864-2854	<a href="mailto:erin.hagopian@bhddh.ri.gov">erin.hagopian@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

Karen Schmid	Social Caseworker II	864-2590	<a href="mailto:karen.schmid@bhddh.ri.gov">karen.schmid@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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>
Erica MacDougall	Social Caseworker II	479-0584	<a href="mailto:erica.macdougall@bhddh.ri.gov">erica.macdougall@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Joellyn Pari	Social Caseworker II	864-2965	<a href="mailto:joellyn.pari@bhddh.ri.gov">joellyn.pari@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Christine Warren	Social Caseworker II	864-0666	<a href="mailto:christine.warren@bhddh.ri.gov">christine.warren@bhddh.ri.gov</a>

### Transition Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
<b>Heather Mincey</b>	<b>Assistant Director</b>	<b>462-1218</b>	<a href="mailto:Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov">Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<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
<b>Heather Mincey</b>	<b>Assistant Director</b>	<b>462-1218</b>	<a href="mailto:Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov">Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
Jackie Camilloni	Coordinator, Self Direction	462-6608	<a href="mailto:Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov">Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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
<b>Anne LeClerc</b>	<b>Associate Director, Prog Performance</b>	<b>462-0192</b>	<a href="mailto:Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov">Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
<b>Johanna Mercado</b>	<b>Coordinator, Communications</b>	<b>462-6646</b>	<a href="mailto:Johanna.Mercado@bhddh.ri.gov">Johanna.Mercado@bhddh.ri.gov</a>
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>

# A Shared Living Story

## Lori B.

Lori was living in the basement of her stepmother's home after her father had passed away. Her beloved sisters had married, and Lori remained at home with her bed placed near the washing machine. Though the four sisters all loved each other dearly, three of them had new lives and young children in their care. They did not know how bad Lori's life had become. When the situation became known, the sisters banded together to advocate for Lori to become eligible for BHDDH services. A referral was made to Shared Living and Lori's new life began.

In the 18 years that Lori has chosen to live in a Shared Living Arrangement (SLA), she has picked three different homes. As she acquired new skills and relationships, she was able to request homes that would best meet her changing needs. Her final choice of a home brought her back into a family home. Her sister Patti had some life changes that allowed her to become Lori's shared living provider.

They could not be happier! Patti states, "I love every minute with her". They enjoy traveling together including annual "Sister's Cruises" and vacations in Florida. For more of Lori's story [review the YouTube video of her story.](#)

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





# Lunch & Learn WORKSHOP

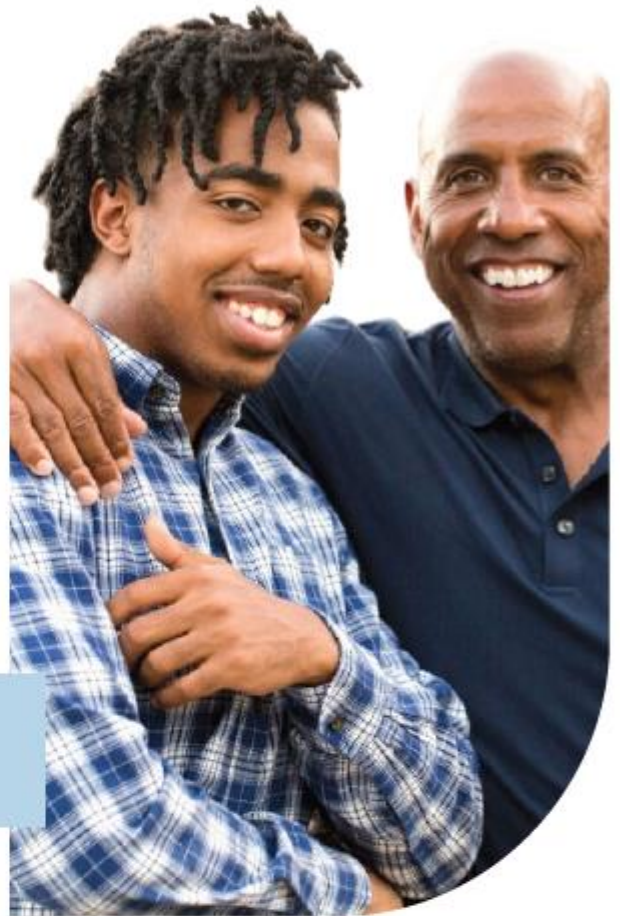
*with the Association for Autism  
and Neurodiversity (AANE)*

for information about AANE's programs and services. The 211 Van will also be present to assist with a variety of resource needs.

AANE helps Autistic and similarly Neurodivergent people build meaningful, connected lives. We provide individuals, families, and professionals with education, community and support, in an inclusive atmosphere of validation and respect. From coaching to support groups and workshops, join AANE's Deputy Director, Janet Barbieri, for a conversation to learn more about the services and supports available to you and your family at AANE. We're here for you!



*ASL interpreter and captions will be available*



WEDNESDAY,

**Nov 20**

**12:00-1:30pm**

**Ocean State Center for Independent Living**  
1944 Warwick Ave., Warwick, RI

Refreshments will be served

Space is limited. **Please register in advance.**

**401-738-1013 x. 29**

**heather.schey@oscil.org**

**Zoom Meeting ID: #872 2748 0787**