



DD News and Updates

Newsletter

Volume 21

January 17, 2025

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**Please note that all state offices are closed on
Monday, January 20, 2025.**

Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014

Community News

Brain Injury Services Redesign Study

Please consider sharing what you think about brain injury services in Rhode Island. Feedback from people with brain injury, family members, caregivers, providers, and other interested individuals is highly encouraged. Please participate by completing the survey below no later than Friday, January 31, 2025. Your input will be used to make recommendations for improvements to services and supports for Rhode Islanders with brain injury.

- [Rhode Island Brain Injury Services Redesign Study](#)

Considere compartir lo que piensa sobre los servicios para lesiones cerebrales en Rhode Island. Se recomienda encarecidamente recibir comentarios de personas con lesión cerebral, familiares, cuidadores, proveedores y otras personas interesadas. Participe completando la encuesta a continuación a más tardar el viernes 31 de enero de 2025. Sus comentarios se utilizarán para hacer recomendaciones para mejorar los servicios y apoyos para los residentes de Rhode Island con lesión cerebral.

- [Estudo de reformulação dos serviços de lesões cerebrais de Rhode Island](#)

DD Community Forum

The Division's last DD Community Forum was on December 10, 2024. For a recap of the event, visit the [Division's Event webpage](#). On this page, you will find a copy of the slides and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handout. You will also find the link to the [recording on the Advocates in Action website](#). The event slides and FAQ handout is also at the end of this newsletter.

BHDDH Your Life, Your Rights Program



The BHDDH [Your Life, Your Rights Program](#) is starting its second year. In 2024, we shared a lot of information. Now, the Division wants to build on it. Get ready for some exciting news in 2025!

Your Life, Your Rights



DD Bill of Rights:

The rights you have when it comes to your DD Services.

Disability Rights:

Laws that protect you as a person with a disability.



Safety Rights:

Your rights to be treated well and feel safe.

Housing Rights:

Your right to fair, safe housing if you rent or own.



Antidiscrimination:

Laws that make sure you get treated fairly and can be happy.

Voting Rights:

Laws to protect your right to vote.



Healthcare Rights:

Your rights to physical and mental health care.

Employment Rights:

Your right to feel safe and be treated well at work.



Relationship Rights:

Your rights to start, end, and be treated well in relationships.

Being Stopped by Police:

Laws that protect you when the police stop you.



Visit the [Your Life, Your Rights website](#) for program details.

Community News

RIPIN Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

RIPIN is taking applications for the 2025 PLTI Program. This program is free and lasts 20-weeks. The program is designed to empower parents, caregivers, and families. They will learn skills to improve the health, safety, and learning of children. They will also learn to become change agents for the next generation.

The program starts with an in-person session on **Saturday, February 22nd**. Then, **weekly sessions** will take place **online from 5pm to 8:30pm**. To learn more and to sign-up, visit the [RIPIN PLTI Program webpage](#).

Sherlock Center Part-Time Job Opening

The Sherlock Center is hiring for a new part-time job. This job is to be a survey interviewer for the National Core Indicators (NCI) Survey. The job is limited and will end in June 2025.

To learn more, visit the [Sherlock Center Career Opportunities website](#). You can apply online.

Advocates in Action 2025 Leadership Series!

Advocates in Action is still taking applications for the 2025 Leadership Series. Advocates in Action describes the Leadership Series as:

An in-depth learning experience that's user-friendly, interactive, informative, and fun! It will be held on Zoom every Wednesday, from 1:00-2:30 pm from February through June of 2025.

The Series was created to empower Rhode Islanders, age 18 and older, who have an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) to:

- Speak up for themselves
- Navigate the DD System
- Connect with the community
- Live life on their own terms, just like everyone else does!

To learn more and to apply, visit the [Advocates in Action 2025 Leadership Series website](#). The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 17th**.

Community News

Shared Living Arrangement (SLA)



SLA is a residential support service option from the Division. With SLA, you will live with another person, couple, or family in a home setting of your choosing. The agency will suggest a great match for you based on your hobbies, interests, and values. You will work with an agency to help you find the best match.

The person you live with will help you with daily activities. This may be help with cooking, transportation, personal care, or more. You will continue to join in other services, like community-based supports. Together, you and the person you live with will create a positive and supportive home.

Deciding where you want to live is a big decision. For a real-life example of what SLA may be like, check-out [Dawn and Maggie's story on YouTube](#). This story is from Community Provider Network of Rhode Island.

Accessibility Tip

A **cyberattack** is when a person or people hack or break into a computer system to damage it. The person or people that do this are **hackers**. Sometimes hackers also steal data from the computer system.

A **scam** is when a person or people try to trick you into giving them something. The person or people that do this are **scammers**. Often scammers want you to give them money. They may also try to get you to give them access to your private information.

To learn how to protect yourself from cyberattacks and scams, visit these resources:

- [4 things you can do to keep yourself cyber safe](#). This is from the U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).
- [Guide to avoiding financial scams](#). This is from USAging.



Community Events

Calendar of Free Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Sign-up
Real Jobs Rhode Island Self-Employment Online Classes	Tuesday, January 21, 2025, and then weekly on Tuesdays for 9 weeks	12:00pm	Online	Visit the Self-Employment Online Classes flyer at the end of this newsletter. To sign-up, call Claudia Lowe at 738-3960 or Sue Babin at 523-2300
Link Center Shared Learning Groups. Topic is “Navigating the Justice System.”	Tuesday, January 21, 2025, OR Wednesday, January 22, 2025	1pm or 3pm on either date	Online	Visit Link Center event webpage to pick a date and sign-up
“Shared Living Arrangements in Rhode Island Series” by Living Innovations	Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 3 other dates from March to June	6-7 p.m.	Online	Visit the Shared Living Arrangements event webpage to sign up
RIPIN “Understanding Work Incentives for Youth in Transition: Work Pays!”	Tuesday, January 28, 2025	6pm	Online using Zoom	Work Pays online sign-up webpage
Sherlock Center “SSI Overview”	Wednesday, February 5, 2025	12pm	Online using Zoom	SSI Overview online sign-up webpage
Elevatus Training. Topic is “What, Wait! You Want Me to Talk About Sexuality?”	Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4 other dates from March to June	3-4pm	Online	Elevatus Training free online workshop sign-up webpage
Sherlock Center “SSDI Overview”	Wednesday, February 26, 2025	12pm	Online using Zoom	SSDI Overview online sign-up webpage

Community Events

Calendar of Free Events Continued

Event	Date	Time	Location	Sign-up
Sherlock Center "Supporting Meaningful Employment Training"	Thursday, March 6 - Thursday, May 15, 2025	Various times	Online	Visit the Sherlock training event webpage to sign-up
Sherlock Center "Work Pays! An Introduction to Youth SSI Work Incentives"	Wednesday, March 19, 2025	12pm	Online using Zoom	Work Pays online sign-up webpage
RIPIN's "Annual Breakfast"	Thursday, May 22, 2025	8-10am	Crowne Plaza, Warwick	Annual Breakfast online sign-up webpage

Community Resources

There are many community resources worth exploring. To get you started in 2025, check-out these local resources:

1. [RIPIN's YouTube Channel](#). RIPIN is a local community agency. They partner with the Division on many projects. A couple RIPIN videos to check out are about self-direction and employment. One video is about [employment services for people who self-direct](#). The other video is about [employment success stories](#).
2. [The Arc Rhode Island](#). This is a local community agency. They share local resources and trainings. They also have a monthly newsletter with disability news and local events.
3. [Warwick Center for the Arts](#). This is a community art center that offers many programs. One program they offer is an Arts Access Program for adults with disabilities.

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

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Division of Developmental Disabilities Staff Contacts

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

Administrative Team

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Eligibility Unit

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Residential

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Independent Facilitation/Case Management Unit

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



NEXT CLASS STARTING January 21, 2025

Do you know a person with a disability or other individual who has a hobby/idea for a possible business or who needs more support for their small business to grow? If so, our **FREE ONLINE ZOOM Business Classes** can help the person learn all about self-employment and available resources in RI. Sometimes traditional employment in community jobs may not be the best option for an individual. Small business ownership is another option to be employed that has *real meaning* for the person and work at their own pace. People can be a business owner, with some support, and sell a product or a service they really love. There are over 100 people with disabilities 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 people and spending my time working on something I really enjoy every day!
2. I decide my own flexible work schedule and hours.
3. Business Classes helped me to learn skills for problem solving, communication, marketing, and self-advocacy.
4. I met other great people with disabilities who also own their own businesses, who are now my friends.
5. I received grants from the Project and Fogarty Foundation to buy the materials/supplies I needed for my business.
6. I have support through my family, my Business Team and RIDDC who are there to help me with my business.
7. I am no longer "volunteering" my time at a job, but instead I have my own business making money with 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 Tuesday January 21 and is 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, and Business Advisors to participants, families, and agency staff. They know how to assist people to develop good business plans, marketing, and set achievable goals in the industry he/she launches. The Series includes: 1. Is Entrepreneurship Right for You? 2. Steps to Start a Business, 3. Target Market, 4. "Elevator Pitch", 5. Writing a Business Plan, 6. Finances, Bookkeeping, & 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.





RI Drivers Permit Prep and Tutoring Class

This class is an ORS supported program for individuals who are active and receiving services through RI ORS. The class is modified to accommodate different learners and taught over a 6 week time frame. The class is kept small to ensure students are receiving adequate support throughout the course. The class follows the RI Drivers Education Curriculum and covers the information in the RI Drivers Manual. The curriculum is broken down and students will build on their knowledge and testing stamina, to prepare for the RI Permit Test.

For more information or to register for the class please reach out to: Marjorie Shortway Pavao, West Bay RI , 401-738-9300 Ext. 1046, mshortway@westbayri.org.



www.westbayri.org

Drivers Education Drivers Permit Prep and Tutoring

Have you thought about getting your RI Drivers Permit but intimidated by taking a class or taking the test? This is the class for you!

This is an ORS supported service for those needing training and tutoring to take the RI Drivers Permit test

Classes to begin in
February 2025

Contact:

Marjorie Shortway Pavao,
West Bay RI

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