



DD News and Updates

Newsletter

Volume 23

February 14, 2025

Inside This Issue

- Division Updates
- Community News
- Community Events
- Community Resources
- Reporting Abuse
- BHDDH Staff Contact List
- Shared Resources



Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014

Division Updates

Your Life, Your Rights

The Division is working to build the [Your Life, Your Rights Program](#). Our goal is to offer webinars you can join to learn more about your rights. This will start around April 2025. We will share more information as we get closer to April. Until then, explore the [Your Life, Your Rights Program Flyer](#) at the end of this newsletter.

While you wait, there are many other resources to help you learn about your rights:

1. [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#).

The ACLU is a nation-wide resource. It is made up of lawyers and volunteers. Together, they fight against abuse and to protect freedom. Visit the ACLU website for a guide about your rights. You may also visit the [ACLU Rhode Island Chapter](#) for local events and resources.

2. [Justice in Aging](#).

Justice in Aging is nation-wide resource. They offer training and tools to support and protect older people. This includes information about elder rights, guardianship, and more.

3. [The National Consumer Voice](#).

The National Consumer Voice supports the rights of people living in long-term care. People living in nursing homes have rights. These rights include the right to be informed, privacy, respect, and more.



Community News: Local

Celebrate Black History Month



There are many ways to celebrate the history and gifts of Black Americans. Explore these websites for ideas on how you can celebrate.

[The Rhode Island Historical Society.](#)

Learn about month-long programs, books, and more.

[The Randall Ashe Story at the Providence Performing Arts Center.](#)

This is a free event celebrating Randall Ashe. The event is Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 12pm.

[African American Museum of Rhode Island.](#) Learn about local events and programs.

[Discover Newport Black History Month Events.](#) Find ways to celebrate in Newport, RI.

Accessibility Tip

Assistive technology is an item, device, system, or service you can use to be more independent. Examples of assistive technology includes:

Item:

- Magnifier
- Adapted eating utensils and plates

Device:

- Hearing aids
- Amplified telephone
- Tablet
- Communication boards

System:

- Smart home system
- Screen reader

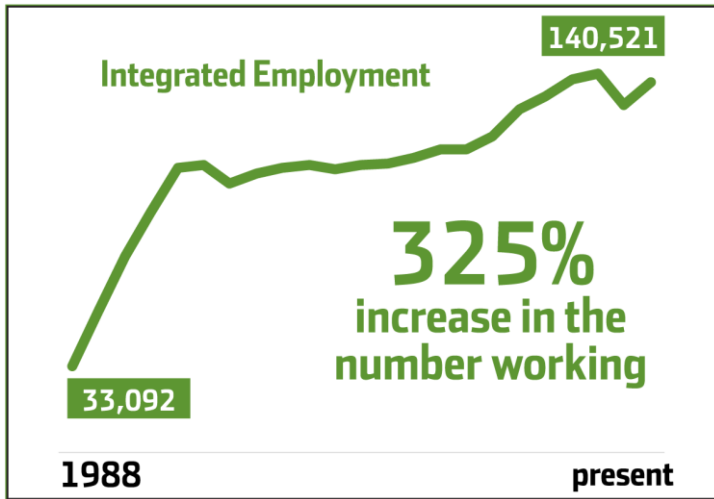
Service:

- Service animal
- Any other service that helps you pick, order, and use an assistive technology tool

Thinking about getting assistive technology but are unsure where to start? Explore the upcoming Assistive Technology Awareness Expo. This event is happening on Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 2-6pm. The event is free and will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick, RI. To learn more and sign up, visit the [TechACCESS of RI sign-up webpage](#).

Community News: National

Institute of Community Inclusion (ICI) on Employment



[The Institute for Community Inclusion \(ICI\)](#) is a national agency. The ICI works with adults with disabilities, their supporters, and providers. This work focuses helping people with disabilities be more included.

One ICI project is about employment. ICI found that from 1988 to today, there has been a 325% raise in the number people with disabilities working.

This means more people with disabilities have joined in their community. It also means more people with disabilities have been able to earn their own money by working.

The Division has also seen a raise in the number of people with disabilities working. Last year, about 174 participants were hired in new jobs. That brings the total number of participants working to 930. To learn more, explore the [Division's 2024 Annual Report](#).

Resource: Disability Belongs



[Disability Belongs](#) is an agency. They work to support fair treatment and opportunities for people with disabilities. The Disability Belongs website is a great resource. It shares top news and resources. They also offer a newsletter you can sign-up for free.

Community Events

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Time	Location	Sign-up
“Shared Living Arrangements in Rhode Island Series” by Living Innovations	Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2025, more dates through March	12-1 pm	Online	Visit the Shared Living Arrangements event webpage to sign up
“Family Leadership Project 2.0” by Best Life RI and Starfire	Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, with monthly sessions to Sept.	6-7pm	Online	Visit the Best Life RI website to sign-up
“Self-Direction Connection” by RIPIN	Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025	6pm	Online using Zoom	RIPIN Self-Direction Connection online sign-up webpage
“SSDI Overview” by Sherlock Center	Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025	12pm	Online using Zoom	SSDI Overview online sign-up webpage
“Self-Directed Supports Network” by Sherlock Center about Shared Living Arrangements (SLA)	Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025	7-8:30pm	Online	Sherlock Self-Directed Supports Network online sign-up website
“Medicaid Oral Health Quality Improvement Virtual Listening Session” by Sherlock Center	Thursday, Feb. 27	10:30-11:30am	Online using Zoom	Sherlock listening session online sign-up webpage
The Arc RI free Zoom session about services offered	Wednesday, March 5, 2025	6pm	Online using Zoom	The Arch RI Zoom session sign-up webpage
"Supporting Meaningful Employment Training" by Sherlock Center	Thursday, March 6 -Thursday, May 15, 2025	Various times	Online	Visit the Sherlock training event webpage to sign-up

Community Resources

Community Events Part 2

Event	Date	Time	Location	Sign-up
“What, Wait! You Want Me to Talk About Sexuality?” by Elevatus Training	Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4 other dates	3-4pm	Online	Elevatus Training free online workshop sign-up webpage
“Work Pays! An Introduction to Youth SSI Work Incentives” by Sherlock Center	Wednesday, March 19, 2025	12pm	Online using Zoom	Work Pays online sign-up webpage
“23rd Annual Imagine Walk & Family Fun Day!” by the Autism Project	Sunday, April 27, 2025	10am	Goddard Memorial State Park	Autism Project Annual Imagine Walk sign-up webpage
“Annual Breakfast” by RIPIN	Thursday, May 22, 2025	8-10am	Crowne Plaza, Warwick	Annual Breakfast online sign-up webpage

Self-Care



Today is Valentine’s Day. While a great time to celebrate the people you love, you should also celebrate yourself! There are many ways you can show yourself some love, like:

- Reading your favorite storybook.
- Getting some fresh air and sitting in the sunlight.
- Working on a new art project, including dance or music.
- Putting down your cellphone and laying down to rest.

There is no wrong way to show yourself love. Always know that you matter and deserve good things.

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 about the Division

Want to find out more about the Division? Visit the [Division's webpage](#). You will find information on services, resources, and more.

To contact Division staff, review the Contact List attached to this newsletter. You can also find a full list of staff on the [Division's Contact Us webpage](#).

You are always welcome to send general questions to BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov. Please do not email critical issues.

The Division is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014



Join us this Spring for the:

Your Life, Your Rights Program

This year, the Division will host weekly one-hour webinars about your rights. The program will run in the Spring and Fall.

The program will be split into two five-week sessions. The first session starts in April, and the second starts in September. Each session will cover different parts of your rights.

The program will be fully online. You can join the Your Life, Your Rights Program for free. You can sign-up for the program online soon.

Follow us on social media for updates on the Your Life, Your Rights Program.



Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

This flyer has been designed using images from Stock.Adobe.com





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

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

Eligibility Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Brenda DuHamel	Associate Director, Admin Services/Elig Sup	462-3010	Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov
Karen Lowell	Casework Supervisor II	462-2209	Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov
Jill Murphy	Social Caseworker II	462-2409	Jill.Murphy@bhddh.ri.gov
Kim Wright	Information Aide	462-2584	Kimberly.Wright@bhddh.ri.gov

SIS Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Tracy Levesque	Associate Director, Clinical and RICLAS	462-0209	Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov
Donna Standish	Casework Supervisor II/SIS Sup	462-2628	Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov
Jamie Fitzgibbons	Social Caseworker II	462-2510	Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov
Jenea Young	Social Caseworker II	462-0449	jenea.young@bhddh.ri.gov
Jessica Rodriguez	Social Caseworker II	462-3233	Jessica.Rodriguez@bhddh.ri.gov
Stephanie Andreozzi	Implementation Aide	462-1859	Stephanie.Andreozzi@bhddh.ri.gov
Wendy Cormier	Social Caseworker II	462-1302	Wendy.Cormier@bhddh.ri.gov

Residential

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Tracy Levesque	Associate Director, Clinical and RICLAS	462-0209	Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov
Melissa Greenlief	Administrator, Community Services	462-2459	Melissa.Greenlief@bhddh.ri.gov

Social Services Units

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Brenda DuHamel	Associate Director, Admin Services	462-3010	Brenda.DuHamel@bhddh.ri.gov
Marguerite Belisle	Casework Supervisor II	462-0714	Marguerite.Belisle@bhddh.ri.gov
Amie Adams	Social Caseworker II	462-2480	Amie.Adams@bhddh.ri.gov
GinaMarie Debartolo	Social Caseworker II	462-3402	GinaMarie.Debartolo@bhddh.ri.gov
Heather Soares	Social Caseworker II	462-6097	Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov
Kaitlin Sarkees	Social Caseworker II	462-4075	Kaitlin.Sarkees@bhddh.ri.gov
Suzanne Porter	Social Caseworker II	462-1972	Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov
Souphalek Muriel	Casework Supervisor II	462-2512	Souphalak.Muriel@bhddh.ri.gov
Dayna Hansen	Social Caseworker II	462-2505	Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov
Judy Coit	Social Caseworker II	462-1327	judith.coit@bhddh.ri.gov
Liana Fontaine	Social Caseworker II	864-7622	liana.fontaine@bhddh.ri.gov
Mary Cameron	Social Caseworker II	462-1307	Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov
Megan Gilbert	Social Caseworker II	462-2524	Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov
Melanie Reyes	Social Caseworker II	864-4872	melanie.reyes@bhddh.ri.gov
Mellissa Parham	Social Caseworker II	864-1103	mellissa.parham@bhddh.ri.gov
Nathaniel Mazza	Social Caseworker II	462-2512	nathaniel.mazza@bhddh.ri.gov
Mary Beth Stevens	Casework Supervisor II	462-2438	Marybeth.Stevens@bhddh.ri.gov
Erin Simonelli	Social Caseworker II	462-2502	Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov
Jennifer Gouveia	Social Caseworker I	462-0098	Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov
Joseph Tevyaw	Social Caseworker II	462-2474	Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov
Lena Sousa	Social Caseworker II	462-1834	Lena.Sousa@bhddh.ri.gov
Timothy Cronin	Social Caseworker I	462-1721	Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov
Stacey Perry	Casework Supervisor II	462-2418	Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov
Crystal Morel	Social Caseworker II	462-1329	Crystal.Morel@bhddh.ri.gov
Heidy Henriquez	Social Caseworker II	462-3022	Heidy.Henriquez@bhddh.ri.gov
JoAnn DiMuccio	Social Caseworker II	462-2523	JoAnn.DiMuccio@bhddh.ri.gov
Katrina Ferry	Social Caseworker II	462-2529	Katrina.Ferry@bhddh.ri.gov

Independent Facilitation/Case Management Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Meaghan Jencks	Casework Supervisor II	462-2113	Meaghan.Jencks@bhddh.ri.gov

Alex Blue	Social Caseworker II	864-5403	alex.blue@bhddh.ri.gov
Cayla Cozzo	Social Caseworker II	864-1944	cayla.cozzo@bhddh.ri.gov
Erin Hagopian	Social Caseworker II	864-2854	erin.hagopian@bhddh.ri.gov
Glenn Vario	Social Caseworker II	529-0720	glenn.vario@bhddh.ri.gov
Karen Schmid	Social Caseworker II	864-2590	karen.schmid@bhddh.ri.gov
Yolande Ramos	Casework Supervisor II	462-1059	Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov
BethAnn Myers	Social Caseworker II	462-1059	bethann.myers@bhddh.ri.gov
Cassandra Killingham	Social Caseworker II	864-3728	cassandra.killingham@bhddh.ri.gov
Christine Warren	Social Caseworker II	864-0666	christine.warren@bhddh.ri.gov
Erica MacDougall	Social Caseworker II	479-0584	erica.macdougall@bhddh.ri.gov
Joellyn Pari	Social Caseworker II	864-2965	joellyn.pari@bhddh.ri.gov
Melissa Brazil	Social Caseworker II	864-0045	melissa.brazil@bhddh.ri.gov

Transition Unit

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Heather Mincey	Assistant Director	462-1218	Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov
Susan Hayward	Administrator, Youth in Transition	462-2519	Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov
Carolee Leach	Professional Services Coordinator	462-1723	Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov
Laurie Rossi	Implementation Aide	462-2563	Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov

Community Services

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Heather Mincey	Assistant Director	462-1218	Heather.Mincey@bhddh.ri.gov
Elvys Ruiz	Administrator III, Employment	462-3857	Elvys.Ruiz@bhddh.ri.gov
Gerard (Jay) MacKay	Associate Administrator, Employment	462-5279	Gerard.Mackay@bhddh.ri.gov
Jackie Camilloni	Coordinator, Self Direction	462-6608	Jackie.Camilloni@bhddh.ri.gov
Steven Seay	Coordinator, Integrated Comm Services	462-6609	Steven.Seay@bhddh.ri.gov

Communications and Training

Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
Anne LeClerc	Associate Director, Prog Performance	462-0192	Anne.LeClerc@bhddh.ri.gov
Johanna Mercado	Coordinator, Communications	462-6646	Johanna.Mercado@bhddh.ri.gov
Amethys Nieves	Associate Admin, Communications	462-6629	Amethys.Nieves@bhddh.ri.gov
Kelly Petersen	Chief of Training, Staff Development and CQI	462-6592	Kelly.Petersen@bhddh.ri.gov
Christine Allenson	Programming Services Officer	462-0126	christine.allenson@bhddh.ri.gov
Peter Joly	Principal Community Development and Training Specialist	462-6638	Peter.Joly@bhddh.ri.gov
Robin Gannon	Clinical Training Specialist	462-6691	Robin.Gannon@bhddh.ri.gov