



DD News and Updates

Newsletter

Volume 28

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You can sign-up to get your own copy of this newsletter for free online.

Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

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Division Updates

Division Website Changes



Over the next year, the Division will make updates to our website. You might have noticed a few changes already. Though the update is not complete, here is a list of the most recent changes:

1. [Assessment Process webpage](#). This page used to be called “Support Intensity Scale (SIS).” This page talks about the assessment tools the Division uses to learn more about you.
2. [The Eligibility and Application webpage](#). This page talks about how to apply for services. The page was updated so the information is easier to read and understand.
3. [Services for Adults webpage](#). This page shares a list of services you can choose from. Some new services were added to the list, and there is a new tool called the DD Service Spotlight Cards you can explore to learn about each service.
4. [Forms, Brochures, and Guides webpage](#). This used to be made up of three webpages: (1) a Forms page, (2) a Brochures & Guides page, and (3) a Policies page. Some of the information has been moved to new provider pages. The rest has been combined to make this new Forms, Brochures, and Guides webpage. You will find flyers, guides, and other handouts you can print.
5. [Reporting Abuse webpage](#). This is a new webpage. It explains abuse, including the different types of abuse. It also shares community resources that people can go to for help.
6. [Provider Tools and Resources webpage](#). This is a new webpage. While anyone can explore the page, it was made for providers. It lists the policies, technical bulletins, and forms providers often use.
7. [Conflict Free Case Managers \(CFCM\) webpage](#). This is a new webpage. Anyone can explore the page, but it was made for CFCM providers. It shares CFCM provider materials, like rubrics, forms, letters, training materials, and the external CFCM provider list.

Division Updates

Sign-up for the Your Life, Your Rights Program

Join the Division's free, weekly online trainings about your rights. You can sign-up for any or all the trainings you are interested in. Use the [program sign-up link](#) to join the program.



Safety Rights: Rights to be treated well and feel safe.

Tuesday, April 29th 10:30am to 12pm



Fair Treatment Rights (Anti-discrimination): Rights to be treated fair.

Tuesday, May 6th 10:30am to 12pm



Healthcare Rights: Rights to physical and mental health care.

Tuesday, May 13th 10:30am to 12pm



Relationship Rights: Rights to different relationships.

Tuesday, May 20th 10:30am to 12pm

Community News

Resources on Safety

We all deserve to feel safe. Like with many skills, we often must start growing our safety skills by learning more about them. In this section, we will share tips and resources about safety.

In a blog post on [The Mobility Resource Blog](#), author Barton Cutter shares tips on staying safe in the community:

1. Be aware of what and who are around you. Try not to be on your phone. Pay attention to where you are.
2. Sit up straight. This helps you notice things around you better. It also makes you look more sure of yourself.
3. Know a safe place you can go. If you are away from home, this may start with an emergency contact list on your phone. It also helps to know the emergency exits.
4. Try to stay calm if you start to feel nervous or stressed. When you are calm you can think better. This can help you get away from danger. Try to count to ten or take five deep breaths.
5. Protect your personal space and safety, even if that means being impolite. Don't stay in a place that makes you uncomfortable. Say what you need.
6. Trust yourself to make the best choice for you in the moment. Once you are away from danger and safe, then you can think about how to do better next time.



Community News

Resources on Safety



People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are hurt or attacked much more often—seven times more—than people without disabilities. This serious problem shows why we need to raise awareness, speak up for their rights, and take action to keep them safe and respected.



In a [toolkit on sexual assault awareness, Elevatus Training](#) shares a library of resources on body safety, like:

1. Handouts that teach about body rights, setting boundaries, and saying “no.”
2. Video lessons on what it means to give someone permission to get in your personal space.
3. Resources on getting help and preventing harm.

We have 4 numbers to share with you that you can call any time, day or night, if you need help staying safe.

1. **BHDDH Quality Assurance (QA)** 401-462-2629. This number is to report abuse.
2. **Day One and Helpline RI** 1-800-494-8100. This number is for help.
3. **Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center (BVAC)** 401-723-3057. This number is for help.
4. **In emergencies call 911.**

Community Resources

How to Advocate for Laws

In our [April 11th newsletter \(page 4; PDF\)](#), we shared details on how to advocate for laws. This is often known as Legislative Advocacy. **Legislative** relates to laws, and **advocacy** means to stick up for yourself or others.

Learning how to advocate for laws can be a helpful skill to learn. With this skill, you can protect your rights and values. Here are a few video resources that may help you as you grow your skills:



- [Advocacy 101: Tips for Legislative Advocates](#) by The Arc of Washington State
- [Voices for Change: Legislative Advocacy in Action](#) by Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- [Advocacy 101: Legislative Advocacy](#) by Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- [The Basics of Legislative Advocacy](#) by Institute for Disability

Accessibility Tip

Music is a powerful art form. It gives you a beat you feel, words you can relate to, and ways to express yourself. Music also helps bring us together, no matter our differences.

There are many businesses working to make music more accessible to people with all abilities. One company is [Drake Music](#). This company focuses on creating new technology and ways to give more people access to music and music making. On their website, they share details on accessible music instruments they are making. These details also share personal stories from people with disabilities that can now create music easier.

Everyone can create and enjoy music. Learn more about the [art musicians with disabilities are creating in the short video about Berklee College of Music](#).



Community Resources

Self-Care

Spring has sprung! The trees are blooming, the flowers growing, and the days are warmer. Spring also brings Mental Health Awareness Month in May.

Mental health is how well your mind is working so you can cope with stress, learn, and do things you enjoy. Some people, events, and things help build our mental health strength. This will be different for everyone and may even change for you depending on the day. Some positive mental health activities you can try this May are:

Spend time outside. Take a break by sitting near a tree and smelling some flowers.

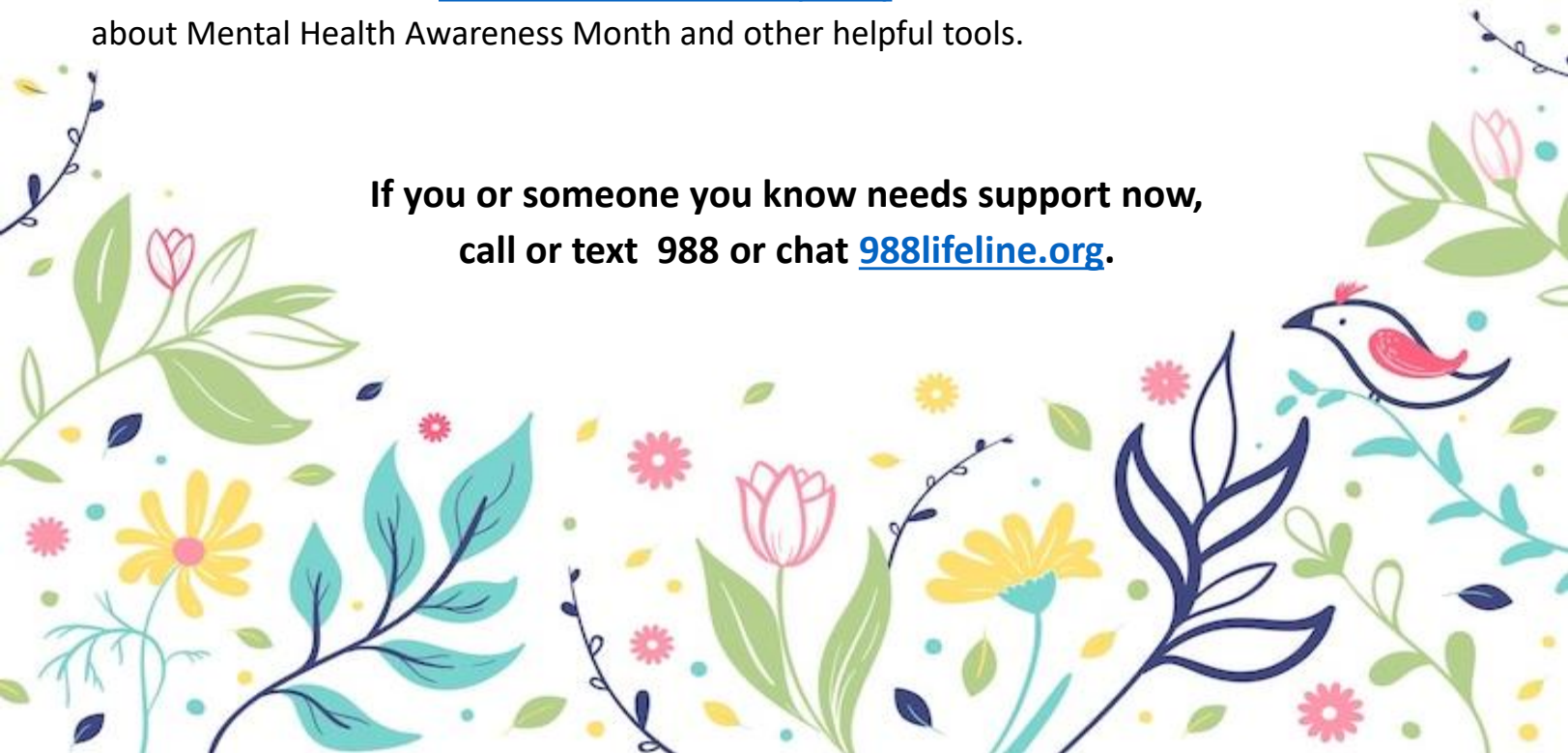
Ask someone how they are doing. Get to know them better and how they have been feeling.

Spend a few minutes writing in your journal. Write about whatever you want.

Do something that gets you moving, like stretching, dancing, or playing.

These ideas come from [Mental Health America \(MHA\)](#). Visit their website to learn more about Mental Health Awareness Month and other helpful tools.

**If you or someone you know needs support now,
call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.**



Community Events

Calendar of Events

Explore upcoming events in your community. Unless noted, these events are free and open to the public. You may have to sign-up a few days before the event to go.

| Event | Date & Time | Location | Sign-up |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| "Self-Directed Toolkit" by RIPIN | Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10 am | Zoom and in-person | Learn more on the RIPIN Self-Directed Toolkit event page . |
| "23rd Annual Imagine Walk & Family Fun Day!" by the Autism Project | Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 10am | Goddard Memorial State Park | Autism Project Annual Imagine Walk sign-up webpage . |
| "SSI Overview" by Sherlock Center | Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 12-1pm | Zoom | SSI Overview online-sign-up . |
| "Family Employment Awareness Training-Youth (FEAT-Y)" by Sherlock Center | Tuesdays and Wednesdays, May 5, 8, 12 and 15 from 4:30-6pm | Zoom | FEAT-Y online-sign-up . |
| "Credentials, Convening, and Collaborations!" by Advancing Employment | Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 2-3pm | Online | Learn more and sign-up on the Advancing Employment website . |
| "Rhode Island's Workforce Development Initiative" by Advancing Employment | Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 2-3pm | Online | Learn more and sign-up on the Advancing Employment website . |
| "2 nd Annual Mental Health Fair" by Providence Schools | Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 4-6pm | 41 Fricker St, Providence | Visit the Providence Schools website . No sign-up needed. |
| "Wellness Fair" by The RI Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School | Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 10am-2pm | 150 Washington St., Providence | Visit the RI Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School website . No sign-up needed. |

Community Events

Calendar of Events Part 2

| Event | Date & Time | Location | Sign-up |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| “Supporting Meaningful Employment: Job Retention and Coaching” by Sherlock Center | Thursday, May 15 to June 12, 2025, at different times | Sherlock Center, Rhode Island College | Sign-up for the Supporting Meaningful Employment series online. |
| “Mental Health Support for Consumers with I/DD” by RIPIN | Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6pm | Zoom | Learn more on the RIPIN Mental Health Support for Consumers with I/DD webpage. |
| “Georgia’s Disability Justice Journey and Employment” by Advancing Employment | Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 2-3pm | Online | Learn more and sign-up on the Advancing Employment website. |
| “SSDI Overview” by Sherlock Center | Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 12-1pm | Zoom | SSDI Overview online sign-up. |
| “Annual Breakfast” by RIPIN | Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 8-10am | Crowne Plaza, Warwick | Annual Breakfast online sign-up webpage |
| “Friendships at Work” by Advancing Employment | Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 2-3pm | Online | Learn more and sign-up on the Advancing Employment website. |
| “Work Pays! An Introduction to Youth SSI Work Incentives” by Sherlock | Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 12-1pm | Zoom | Work Pays online sign-up. |
| “Family Leadership Project 2.0” by Best Life RI and Starfire | TBD monthly sessions through Sept. from 6-7pm | Online | Visit the Best Life RI website to sign-up |

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.



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 |
| Susan Hayward | Administrator, Transition | 462-2519 | Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Tracy Levesque | Associate Director, Clinical and RICLAS | 462-0209 | Tracy.Levesque@bhddh.ri.gov |

Social Caseworker Units

Unit 1

| Name | Job Title | Phone | Email |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| 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 |
| Suzanne Porter | Social Caseworker II | 462-1972 | Suzanne.Porter@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Kaitlin Sarkees | Social Caseworker II | 462-4075 | Kaitlin.Sarkees@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Heather Soares | Social Caseworker II | 462-6097 | Heather.Soares@bhddh.ri.gov |

Unit 2

| Name | Job Title | Phone | Email |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Mary Beth Stevens | Casework Supervisor II | 462-2438 | Marybeth.Stevens@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Timothy Cronin | Social Caseworker II | 462-1721 | Timothy.Cronin@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Jennifer Gouveia | Social Caseworker II | 462-0098 | Jennifer.Gouveia@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Erin Simonelli | Social Caseworker II | 462-2502 | Erin.Simonelli@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Lena Sousa | Social Caseworker II | 462-1834 | Lena.Sousa@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Joseph Tevyaw | Social Caseworker II | 462-2474 | Joseph.Tevyaw@bhddh.ri.gov |

Unit 3

| Name | Job Title | Phone | Email |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Stacey Perry | Casework Supervisor II | 462-2418 | Stacey.Perry@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Mary Cameron | Social Caseworker II | 462-1307 | Mary.Cameron@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Judy Coit | Social Caseworker II | 462-1327 | judith.coit@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 |
| Megan Gilbert | Social Caseworker II | 462-2524 | Megan.Gilbert@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Dayna Hansen | Social Caseworker II | 462-2505 | Dayna.Hansen@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Heidy Henriquez | Social Caseworker II | 462-3022 | heidy.henriquez@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Crystal Morel | Social Caseworker II | 462-1329 | Crystal.Morel@bhddh.ri.gov |

Eligibility Unit

| Name | Job Title | Phone | Email |
|---------------------|--|----------|--|
| Karen Lowell | Caseworker Supervisor II/Elig Sup | 462-2209 | Karen.Lowell@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Louise White | Public Health Nurse Consultant | 462-0089 | Louise.White@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 |
|-----------------------|---|----------|--|
| Donna Standish | Caseworker Supervisor II/SIS Sup | 462-2628 | Donna.Standish@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Meaghan Jencks | Caseworker Supervisor II/SIS Sup | 462-2113 | Meaghan.Jencks@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 |
| Jamie Fitzgibbons | Social Caseworker II | 462-2510 | Jamie.Fitzgibbons@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Jessica Rodriguez | Social Caseworker II | 462-3233 | Jessica.Rodriguez@bhddh.ri.gov |

Transition Unit

| Name | Job Title | Phone | Email |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|
| Susan Hayward | Administrator, YIT | 462-2519 | Susan.Hayward@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Carolee Leach | Prof. Services Coordinator | 462-1723 | Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Laurie Rossi | Implementation Aide | 462-2563 | Laurie.Rossi@bhddh.ri.gov |

Case Management Units

Unit 1

| Name | Job Title | Phone | Email |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Souphalak Muriel | Casework Supervisor II | 462-2512 | Souphalak.Muriel@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 |
| Liana Fontaine | Social Caseworker II | 864-7622 | Liana.Fontaine@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Nathaniel Mazza | Social Caseworker II | 864-6934 | Nathaniel.Mazza@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Mellissa Parham | Social Caseworker II | 864-1103 | Mellissa.Parham@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Melanie Reyes | Social Caseworker II | 864-4872 | Melanie.Reyes@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Karen Schmid | Social Caseworker II | 864-2590 | Karen.Schmid@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Jennea Young | Social Caseworker II | 864-1506 | Jennea.Young@bhddh.ri.gov |

Unit 2

| Name | Job Title | Phone | Email |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------|--|
| Yolande Ramos | Casework Supervisor II | 462-1059 | Yolande.Ramos@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Erin Hagopian | Social Caseworker II | 864-2854 | Erin.Hagopian@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Cassandra Killingham | Social Caseworker II | 864-3728 | Cassandra.Killingham@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Erica MacDougall | Social Caseworker II | 479-0584 | Erica.Macdougall@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Beth-Ann Myers | Social Caseworker II | 864-0198 | Bethann.Myers@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Glenn Vario | Social Caseworker II | 529-0720 | Glenn.Vario@bhddh.ri.gov |
| Christine Warren | Social Caseworker II | 864-0666 | Christine.Warren@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 |

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 |

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 |