



DD News and Updates

Newsletter

Volume 30

June 18, 2025

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The Division is closed 6/19/25

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

Website: www.bhddh.ri.gov

Email: BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

Phone: 401.462.3421

ESPAÑOL: 401.462.3014

Division Updates

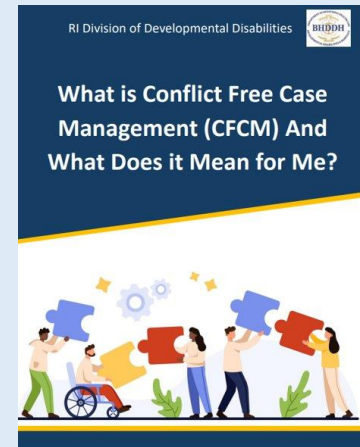
DD Community Forum Recap (part 1)

The last DD Community Forum was Tuesday, June 17th. A copy of the forum recording and slides will be ready in the next few weeks. Until then, here is a forum recap:



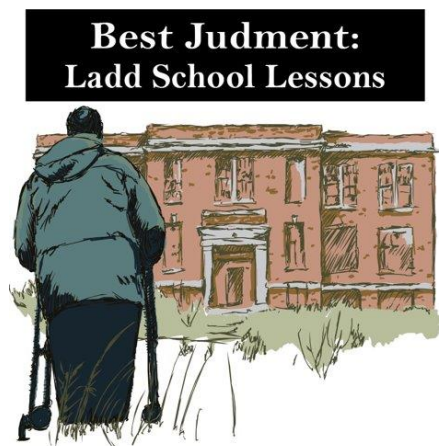
Division updates:

- What's new with the 4 workgroups we first talked about in our [April 4th Newsletter](#). Continue to the next page to learn more about these updates.
- All about the new [Conflict-Free Case Management \(CFCM\) Guidebook](#). You can find this on our [CFCM Services webpage](#).
- How more and more people getting DD services have started working. If you are interested in working, visit our [Employment webpage](#) to learn your options. You can also talk to your case manager to get started.



Advocates in Action updates:

- Free Online Watch Party on "Best Judgment: Ladd School Lessons." The event is Thursday, July 17th, at 7:30pm. You can [sign up for the watch party online](#).



Division Updates

DD Community Forum Recap (part 2)



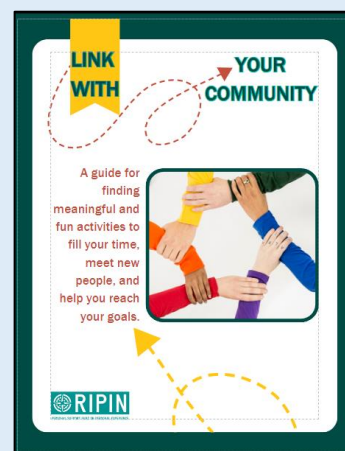
Sherlock Center updates:

- Good changes happening to the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce. DSP pay has gone up and they are staying in their jobs longer. This means more people who need services can get them.
- Two upcoming pilot programs you can join. One is the Self-Direction Staffing Survey Pilot. The second is the Self-Direction Virtual Learning Services Pilot. If you are interested in learning more or joining, visit the [Direct Support Workforce webpage](#) or email riswi@umn.edu.



RIPIN updates:

- The upcoming Scoop, Snack, Chat: A Sweet Social Gathering event. This event is happening on June 26, 2025 from 4 to 6:30 PM at The imPOSSIBLE Dream. You can [sign up for this social event online](#).
- [Self-Directed Support Toolkit](#). This toolkit is free and can be used by anyone! In it, you will find tips, tricks, and tools to manage your day.
- How to get the most out of the [Link With Your Community Guidebook](#). This guidebook is all about finding real places, events, and activities you can do in Rhode Island.



Division Updates

Workgroup Updates

Since we [introduced the workgroups this past April](#), they have been hard at work. The workgroups have been meeting to share ideas and create guidance materials. Some of these materials have already been shared with you, like the CFCM Guidebook. Other materials are expected soon. Here is a short summary on what some of these materials will be about:

- Person-Centered Planning (PCP).
- Goods and Services. This workgroup has many ideas on building more goods and services resources.
- How providers can support people who are aging.



Upcoming DD Community Forums

There are two more DD Community Forums this year. You can sign up for free online any time:

- [Tuesday, September 16, 2025 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm online sign-up](#)
- [Tuesday, December 16, 2025 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm online sign-up](#)



Community News

Celebrate Juneteenth

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This ordered that all slaves be set free. Yet, in the state of Texas, this didn't become a reality until June 19, 1865. This day marked the first celebration of Juneteenth.

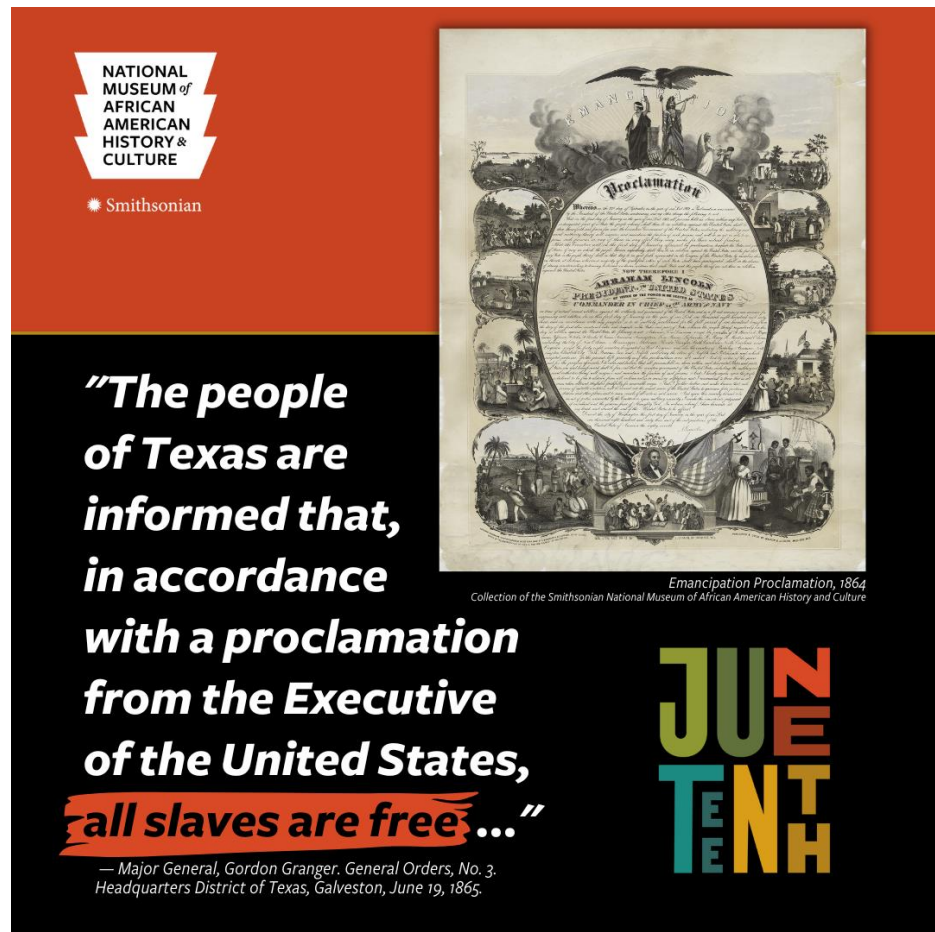
Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. It is celebrated every year on June 19th. Juneteenth honors the accomplishments and history of African Americans. It is a day of learning and action to honor and support freedom for all.

This information is from the [National Museum of African American History & Culture \(NMAAHC\)](#). Visit their website to begin learning more. You will learn the history of the holiday, how it is celebrated today, and more.

To celebrate Juneteenth in Rhode Island, mark your calendar for:

1. [Juneteenth: the price of freedom symposium](#). This is a free event on Thursday, June 19th, from 1-3pm. The event is at Hope High School on 324 Hope Street, Providence, RI.
2. [7th Annual Juneteenth Festival](#). This is a free event on Sunday, June 22nd, from 12-7pm. The event is at Roger Williams Park on 1000 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI.

Both events are organized by [Juneteenth RI](#). Visit their website to learn more about Juneteenth and celebrating African American culture and history.



NATIONAL MUSEUM of AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE
Smithsonian

Emancipation Proclamation, 1864
Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free..."

— Major General, Gordon Granger, General Orders, No. 3, Headquarters District of Texas, Galveston, June 19, 1865.

JUNETEENTH

Community Resources

Opportunities to Get Involved in Local DD Work

There are two opportunities for you get involved in local DD work:

1. **Self-directed services staffing challenges survey.** This is led by Sherlock Center. It is for people who self-direct their services. If you complete the survey, you will get access to a free virtual Learning Series. This series will help you find, choose, and keep great staff. The Survey ends next Friday, June 27th. Learn more on the [survey flyer](#).
2. **RIPIN Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI).** This is for parents or caregivers of adults with disabilities. PLTI is a free, 20-week program to build advocacy and leadership skills. To Learn more and apply, visit the [PLTI webpage](#).

RI Pride

Continue to celebrate your Pride this month (and beyond!).

Whether you are part of the LGBTQIA community or not, Pride is a time to spread love and acceptance. Everyone is different and that is something to honor. Visit websites like [Rhode Island PRIDE](#) or [Queer RI](#) for a list of events and resources.



Accessibility Tip

The Self Advocacy resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) is hosting free, online trainings. These trainings are all about helping companies design accessible tools and resources. Training sessions include:

1. “Overview of Accessible Formats” on June 23rd
2. “Plain Language” on July 8th
3. “Easy Read Text” on July 28th
4. “Easy read Icons” on August 4th
5. “Formatting Basics” on August 18th

To learn more and sign up, visit the [SARTAC website](#).



Community News

Know Your Rights Tip

According to the [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#), a warrant is a signed piece of paper by a judge. The judge uses this piece of paper to give officers permission to search buildings, homes, or arrest people. Warrants signed by a judge are called judicial warrants. There are many types of judicial warrants, including:

1. Search warrant. This warrant allows officers to search a certain place for certain items. The details of the place and items must be on the warrant.
2. Arrest warrant. This warrant allows officers to arrest a specific person. The person's name must be on the warrant.

There are some warrants that do not need to be signed by a judge. For example, judges do not sign warrants of deportation.

Knowing about warrants are important to protecting your rights. For example, if there is ever a time officers go to your home to search your things, but they don't have a warrant, you can tell them "no." Without a warrant signed by a judge, the officers have no right to enter your home.

If the officers do have a warrant, ask them to slip it under your door so you can read it. Here are some ways you can tell if the warrant is official:

1. It has the judge's name and signature is on it.
2. It has your name on it or describes you in detail.
3. It has your address on it.
4. It lists the places that can be searched.
5. It lists the items that can be searched for.
6. It has a date on it for the search or arrest to be made.

This Know Your Rights Tip comes from the [ACLU Know Your Rights book](#), [Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition \(CIRC\)](#), and [Motion Law](#).

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF COLORADO
2017 JUN 23 PM 2:14
JEFFREY P. COLWELL
CLERK
BY: SEP CLK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Colorado

United States of America
v.
John Doe
Defendant

Case No. 2017-06-23-PH-2-14

Signature by a Judge indicates an official document.

ARREST WARRANT

TO: Any authorized law enforcement officer

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay (from a person to be arrested) who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

Indictment Superseding Indictment Information Superseding Information Complaint
 Probation Violation Petition Supervised Release Violation Petition Violation Notice Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:
Illegal Re-entry After Deportation, in Violation of Title 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), (b)(1)

Date: June 27, 2017
City and state: Denver, Colorado

Scott T. Vachek, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

Return
This warrant was received on date 6-27-2017 and the person was arrested on date 6-28-2017
at (city and state) Denver, Colorado
Date: 6-28-2017
Arresting officer's signature
Tara Brind, Immigration Officer
Printed name and title

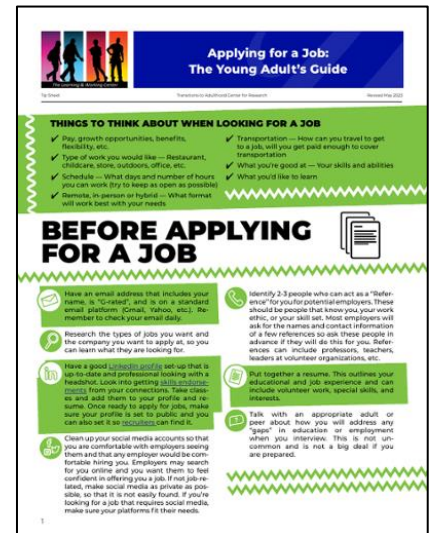
Community News

Young Adult Tool for Applying for Jobs

The University of Massachusetts (UMass) Medical School made a guide for young adults. This guide is about applying for a job. The guide shares information about:

- Getting ready to apply for jobs, like setting up an email.
- Places to go to search for jobs online and in-person.
- Filling out job applications and what to do after you apply.
- Resource list on applying for jobs.

Visit the [UMass website](#) for a copy of the [Applying for a Job: The Young Adults Guide](#). The [guide is also available in Spanish](#).



Searching for Truth

The world is a big place! This is a scary and exiting fact for many reasons. One reason is because it gives us chances to try and learn new things we may have never experienced before. These new things can be thoughts, ideas, activities, places, and more. We may feel confused or uncomfortable with new things. That is okay and often leads us to growing and improving ourself.

As you learn about something new, you will come across many opinions and stories about the new experience. Not everything you come across will be true, especially if you are exploring online articles and resources. Here are some tips to help you search for truth:

- Don't just accept information you get. Is the person or website you got the information from trustworthy?
- Be curious. Are there other ways to think about the information? Find articles or videos where different viewpoints are shared about the same topic.
- Stay calm. It is normal to feel things like excited or worried after learning something. But it is not okay for a piece of information to use words and phrases to make you feel a strong emotion without teaching you anything.

Learn more on the [UN Refugee Agency website](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



Community Resources

Self-Care

There are going to be moments where we feel disappointed by others. For example, we may:

- Share an idea or opinion that gets rejected.
- Feel let down by someone for saying or doing something we think is wrong.
- Witness someone being harmful and unkind to others.
- Not agree with what people in power decide to do.

These are challenging situations to be in, and we may even end up feeling powerless. It is true that there are limits to what we can do and changes we can make overnight. But we are not powerless. There are small things we can do each day to push our mission forward and create the world we want to be in. Here are examples to prove it:

1. [Designer turned justice advocate \(a Good News Network article\)](#).

Deanna Van Buren is an architect with her own company. She used her skills to start a new program for people that are in jail. The program includes workshops where women in jail design furniture that then gets built by men who used to be in jail. This is Deanna's way to create a replacement for our prison system.

2. [Community member turned hero \(a Good News Network article\)](#).

Saji Valasseril is a community member turned hero. Saji's hometown has a river many people visit. There have been accidents on the river where people drowned. Saji didn't want this to happen to anyone anymore, so he started a swimming club. In the swimming club, Saji teaches people of all ages, races, genders, and abilities to swim. This is Saji's way to create a safer community.

We all have a circle of influence. This means we have the power to make small changes around us. If there is something you believe in, something you want to improve, start making it happen. Start small and believe in yourself.

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org). If you are a member of the LGBTQ+ community, you can also visit the [Trevor Project](#).

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
"Introduction to Person-Centered Thinking" by Sherlock Center	Monday and Wednesday June 23 and 25 4-5:30pm	Zoom	Person-Centered Thinking event page.
"Juneteenth: The Price of Freedom Symposium" by Juneteenth RI	Thursday, June 19 th , from 1-3pm.	Hope High School on 324 Hope Street, Providence	Freedom Symposium event details.
"7 th Annual Juneteenth Festival" by Juneteenth RI	Sunday, June 22 nd , from 12-7pm	Roger Williams Park on 1000 Elmwood Ave, Providence	Juneteenth Festival details.
"Scoop, Snack, Chat: A Sweet Social Gathering" by RIPIN	Wednesday, June 26, 2025, 4pm-6:30pm	imPOSSIBLE Dream, Warwick	Sign-up on the Scoop, Snack, Chat webpage.
Supporting Families Best Practice Series "Bridging Aging and Disability" by National Collaborative for Supporting Families	Wednesday, June 26, 2025, 2pm	Zoom	Supporting Families Best Practice Series online sign-up.
"3 rd Annual Resource Fair & Backpack Drive" by the Arc Rhode Island	Friday, August 22, 2025 11am-3pm	The imPOSSIBLE Dream, Warwick	Backpack Drive event flyer.

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.