Work Opportunities Unlimited (WOU) Invites You to Learn About Their Services

Work Opportunities Unlimited (WOU) is inviting you to attend a 1-hour presentation, via Zoom, of the BHDDH services we are offering throughout Rhode Island. The focus of the presentation will be on Supported Employment and how that service is being provided both in the community and remotely. WOU representatives will be available to answer questions following the presentation.

Please choose one of the two September dates below.

**September 3rd, 2020: 10:00am**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88384791793 [us02web.zoom.us]
Meeting ID: 883 8479 1793

**September 16th, 2020: 5:00pm**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82555093070 [us02web.zoom.us]
Meeting ID: 825 5509 3070

Thank you and we look forward to “seeing” you in September!

**DD Community Forum Recording Available**

If you missed the DD Community Forum on August 17th, the recording of the Zoom forum can be found on the BHDDH website under Developmental Disabilities, Community Forums, Events & Meetings, at this link https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/community_forums_event.php. Many thanks to RIPIN for hosting the Zoom meeting and making the recordings available to us!

**Self-Directed Services – Fiscal Intermediary Contacts**

**CORRECTION:** In last week’s bulletin, the FI contact for Perspectives was incorrect. Our sincerest apologies for any confusion it caused.

If you are interested in self-directing your services, you can talk with your social caseworker or reach out to the Fiscal Intermediary contacts below to ask questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Intermediaries and Contacts</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fogarty Center</strong></td>
<td>Nancy Lavena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perspectives</td>
<td>Casey Gartland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proability</td>
<td>Katie Sacco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seven Hills</td>
<td>Pat Lindquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trudeau</td>
<td>Cathy D’andrea</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Supporting Meaningful Employment (SME) - FALL 2020

The Supporting Meaningful Employment (SME) Training Series includes Orientation, 12 modules and corresponding field work assignments, and 4 Mentor/Fieldwork Sessions to meet ACRE Certificate requirements. Each module consists of 3 hours of training.

Participants can opt to register for the full SME ACRE approved series or to register for one of the “mini-series” with a focus on a single skill area Vocational Assessment and Employment Planning (VA), Job Development (JD), and Job Retention and Coaching (JRC).

Completion of all 12 modules is strongly encouraged to ensure employment professionals are knowledgeable and skilled in all areas of community employment services. Full details and requirements are provided on the Sherlock Center website.

Complete details including module descriptions, session dates, and a link to the registration form are available from the Sherlock Center website at www.sherlockcenter.org [r20.rs6.net]. Follow the link to “Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series” from the main menu. Registration deadlines vary depending on the session of interest.

Questions & Requests?
If you need help or have questions regarding registration, please contact Elaine Sollecito at esollecito@ric.edu or call (401) 456-2764. If you have questions regarding the training, contact Vicki Ferrara vferrara@ric.edu.

PLAN AHEAD
FOR YOUR FUTURE

Did you know? You can start a new customized employment experience right from home with Looking Upwards or Perspectives Corporation and their partners.

JOIN INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO LEARN MORE!

MONDAY, 9/14
TUESDAY, 9/15
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Register for the Zoom event via eventbrite!
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pcsepp-informational-meeting-tickets-118503644591

A Flyer with full details regarding this opportunity has been attached at the end of this newsletter.
Hope During/Post COVID

COVID hit and turned our lives upside down, life will never be as we knew it, post-COVID. We as a people and as a community of humanity have been forced to take a hard-critical look at how we do things and why we do the things we do.

How can we find hope amid uncertainty, conflict, or loss? When we feel we have lost hope, we may find inspiration in the words and deeds of others. In this selection of poems, hope takes many forms: an open road, an unturned page, a map to another world, an ark, an infant, a long-lost glove that returns to its owner. Using metaphors for hope seems appropriate, as the concept of hope is difficult to describe. It is deeper than simple optimism, and more mysterious, delicate, and elusive. It is a feeling we must develop and cultivate, but like faith, it is also a state with which we are graced.

Hope can foster determination and grit—the ability to bounce back and to remain determined despite failures and setbacks—when we make daily efforts to change and improve what we can control. These poems speak to the importance of hope and resilience.

Uplifting Poems About Hope

Having hope propels us to achieve our dreams and drives us forward toward our pursuits. It also keeps us afloat when everything seems to go wrong, when we feel that we’re drowning. Hope is the light at the end of the tunnel, the northern star by which we navigate our lives through trials and difficulties towards our dreams of a better day. When we lose hope, we are like a rudderless ship being tossed about without direction. Having and finding hope, then, is essential for keeping our dreams upright and continuing to sail in the direction of their attainment.

Source: https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems/life/hope/

Troubles of Life

Life may be hard, and life may be cruel, But people beware, 'cause you're no fool. You make hard decisions, and have many fights, You make few wrongs, but you make more rights. Life is not easy, and it's sure not fair, But hopefully it's bearable, knowing I'm there. You have lack in your faith, and fear in your heart,

Of what's been decided, and you've no part. But you're strong people,
and you make your own path,
Your worries will end,
and you'll suffer no wrath.
Your path is your own,
and yours alone,
You've been given a second chance,
smile and bring cheer,
And dance a happy dance.

Source: https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/a-second-chance-in-life

Endure Like A Tree
To get through life you have to endure as a tree does.
When Mother Nature tries to bring you down,
You will never fall; you will stand your ground.
You will encounter burning flames.
Yes, it will be painful and hard,
But once it's over and done with,
Your bark will grow back stronger than ever.
When your leaves start to slowly leave,
Never fret, there will be more to take their place.
They'll come and go throughout your life,
That's just how it is.
From the time you're a seedling to the time you're mature,
Your roots will always be there to support you.
After many years,
After enduring forest fires and changing leaves,
Your own saplings will fall away to start anew.
Then you'll know not to worry,
They'll grow into tall, strong trees,
Just like those before you.

Source: https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/endure-like-a-tree-to-my-niece-mia

How are you dealing with life during COVID?
Sustaining Emotional and Healthy wellbeing during COVID

Fun activities to engage in
Everybody needs physical activity for good health. However, less than half of U.S adults with serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (mobility disability) report engaging in aerobic physical activity. For those who are active, walking is the most common physical activity. Yet, adults with disabilities report more environmental barriers for walking than those without disabilities. Here are some ways that people with disabilities can stay active and healthy. https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/features/physical-activity-for-all.html
Physical activity plays an important role in maintaining health, well-being, and quality of life.

**Are we prepared for the cold weather?**
What plans or planning have you done or doing to brace for the cold months ahead?

**Disability and Health Emergency Preparedness Tools and Resources**
It is critical to educate and provide training not only to people with disabilities and their caregivers, but also to emergency planners, first responders, and other members of the community who play an important role in making sure that people with disabilities are included in emergency preparedness and response plans. States have developed tools and resources to reach out to community members.

**Resources for People with Disabilities and their Caregivers**
Several states have available brochures, booklets, guides and other materials and tools that people with disabilities and their caregivers can use to prepare for an emergency. [https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html)

**National Registry**
States have used registries to identify and locate people with disabilities by asking them or their caregivers to voluntarily enter information into a registry such as [Smart911[^2]], designed to identify individuals who may require special assistance during emergencies. [Smart911[^2]] is a secure, national database supported by fees paid by public agencies. The services are available to anyone but is especially of value for individuals who self-identify as having special needs. Emergency response personnel use this information to make better decisions and improve response time, and municipalities can sign up for advanced services that enables them to know who lives in their community that might require additional assistance in the case of an emergency. Several Disability and Health programs around the country are now encouraging people with disabilities to sign-up for [Smart911[^2]] or similar registries. [https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergency-monitoring.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergency-monitoring.html)

**Rhode Island**
[Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry (RISNER)[^3]]: This registry is designed to identify individuals who may require special assistance during emergencies, such as people with disabilities, long-term medical conditions, like diabetes, heart disease, and epilepsy, and other special healthcare needs. The information submitted to the RISNER is shared with local and state first responders and emergency management officials. The Department of Health and Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency have worked with [E-911[^4]] to notify first responders when they are responding to a household that may have someone enrolled in the state registry.
Did you get your Flu Shot?

Preparing for the 2020-2021 flu season? Here is what you need to know

Prevent Flu

Everyone 6 months & older should receive a yearly flu vaccine.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

Flu can cause mild to severe illness. Learn the symptoms of flu.

Treatment

Prescription medications called antiviral drugs can be used to treat flu.

Flu activity and Surveillance

Laboratory confirmed flu activity as reported by clinical laboratories remains low.

Additional Resources

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/index.htm

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  1600 Clifton Rd
  Atlanta, GA 30333
- 800-CDC-INFO
  (800-232-4636)
  TTY: (888) 232-6348
- Contact CDC-INFO
Gov. Gina Raimondo says every public-school district in Rhode Island except two has been given the go-ahead to resume in-person classes when schools reopen in September.

The Reimagining RI Education: Reopening Plan Framework is the first step in a series of guidance that RIDE will release to prepare for the next school year. It is consistent with Commissioner Infante-Green’s vision for education in Rhode Island.

For details regarding each school district please visit

https://www.back2schoolri.com/plans-for-a-safe-reopening/

Back to School RI: Health and Safety Guidance to Reopen Rhode Island’s Elementary and Secondary Schools

**Peer-to-Peer and Family-to-Family Panel Members Needed**

We are looking for a few great people to join a peer-to-peer panel or a family-to-family panel to share their stories. We are looking for individuals and family members who were initially apprehensive about working but who are now enjoying the benefits of employment.

BHDDH is collaborating with RIPIN to develop a series of virtual panels where you can share your experience of how you got past the myths, learned the facts, took the leap to employment, and what working means to you. We know others can learn and benefit from hearing from you!

If interested in joining either panel, please contact: Tracey at Tracey.Cunningham@bhddh.ri.gov or (401) 462-3857 or Jay at Gerard.MacKay@bhddh.ri.gov or (401) 462-5279.

**Volunteers Needed for Workgroups to Simplify the DD System**

Five workgroups are being developed to address issues raised by the Court regarding complexity within the administrative requirements and procedures within the DD system. The recommendations stem from ongoing review of services under the Consent Decree. We are looking for individuals receiving services and family members to participate in their choice of one of five workgroups to add their expertise and input into the system reform. Meetings will start in September.

If you are interested in participating in one of these workgroups, please email Cindy Fusco at Cynthia.Fusco@bhddh.ri.gov and indicate your workgroup of choice.

1. **Eligibility Process Workgroup:** This workgroup will look at the process for determining the support needs of each individual and the need to consolidate the application for all pertinent RI services into one process.

2. **Appeals Process Workgroup:** This workgroup will look at the appeals process for individuals as it relates to eligibility, level of need, or funding level, including the L9/S109 process for requesting additional funding.

3. **Individual Budgets and Authority Workgroup:** This workgroup will look at the process and timeline for developing annual individual budgets responsive to individual needs; allowable costs; and flexibility.

4. **Fiscal Workgroup:** This workgroup will look at authorizations’ rates, and billing units.

5. **Contracts Workgroup:** This workgroup will look at the timeline and process by which individuals’ contract with providers, billing procedures, and how to increase individual control over their services and how their budget is spent.
If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, 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. Call 911 if there is risk of immediate danger. Visit the BH Link website at www.bhlink.org or for confidential support and to get connected to care:

CALL (401) 414-LINK (5465) If under 18 CALL: (855) KID(543)-LINK(5465)
Visit the 24-HOUR/7-DAY TRIAGE CENTER at 975 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

Stay Informed with Information on COVID-19

Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 Resources
Hotline (401) 222-8022 or 211 after hours;
Email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov
Website https://health.ri.gov/covid/

Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Information
Website cdc.gov/coronavirus
Includes a link to ASL videos

BHDDH Information on COVID-19’s Impact on DD Services and the DD Community
Website bhddh.ri.gov/COVID

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)
Website https://ripin.org/covid-19-resources/
Call Center (401) 270-0101 or email callcenter@ripin.org

Advocates in Action – for videos and easy to read materials
Website https://www.advocatesinaction.org/
Website offers BrowseAloud, which will read the website to you

Sign Up for Our Email List

If you aren’t receiving email updates and newsletters from the Division, you can sign up on our website. From the main BHDDH page at bhddh.ri.gov, select What’s New, then go to bottom and click on DD Community Newsletter. The link to sign up for the BHDDH Newsletter is directly below the title, as shown in the picture at right.

Contacting the Division

The department is working on a reduced workforce and therefore calls should not be placed directly to your social caseworker. DDD has put 24-hour phone coverage in place with a central business hour phone number and an on-call number for nights and weekends.

If you have a vital need, please call the numbers below. If you have any general questions or concerns, please email them if you can, in order to try to leave the phone lines free for those who need to call. We will do our best to address your questions directly or through future newsletters.
During business hours (Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00), for questions or support  
(401) 462-3421
Para español, llame  
(401) 462-3014

For emerging or imminent care related questions,  
Mon - Fri 4pm-10pm and weekends 8:30am-10pm  
(401) 265-7461

Send general questions to the AskDD email address. Please do not email critical issues.  
BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov

For medical or healthcare related emergencies, call your Primary Care Physician or 911
Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series

A Person-Centered Approach to Career Planning, Job Development and Retention

ACRE Approved

The Supporting Meaningful Employment (SME) Training Series includes Orientation, 12 modules and corresponding field work assignments, and 4 Mentor/Fieldwork Sessions to meet ACRE Certificate requirements. Each module consists of 3 hours of training.

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Completion of all 12 modules is strongly encouraged to ensure employment professionals are knowledgeable and skilled in all areas of community employment services. Full details and requirements are provided on the Sherlock Center website.

OPEN TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND PROVIDER ORGANIZATION STAFF AND SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS STAFF.

REGISTRATION

FEES: Sessions are offered free of charge to participants working in a RI public school district and for a RI organization, which includes Self-Directed Support staff/representatives.

Fees apply for participants working for out-of-state organizations/locations. The full ACRE Series is $500; Mini-Certificate sessions are $200 per certificate. Refunds will only be issued for registrations cancelled at least one week prior to the first session for which you are registered. Registrations are transferable to other members of your organization.

Complete details including module descriptions, session dates, and a link to the registration form are available from the Sherlock Center website at www.sherlockcenter.org. Follow the link to “Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series” from the main menu. Registration deadlines vary depending on the session of interest.

Questions & Requests?
If you need help or have questions regarding registration, please contact Elaine Sollecito at esollecito@ric.edu or call (401) 456-2764. If you have questions regarding the training, contact Vicki Ferrara, vferrara@ric.edu.

If you need a reasonable accommodation (e.g., ASL Interpreter, materials in an alternate format (e.g. large print) or information in a language other than English to fully participate in this event, please indicate your request on the registration form as soon as possible.
### Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series

#### Training Schedule Fall 2020

Registration available from the Sherlock Center website at www.sherlockcenter.org.

### ACRE Certificate Series

**SME ACRE**

Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Instructor-lead training through ZOOM**

Each module consists of two 1.5 hour sessions.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** September 2, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Orientation &amp; Mentor/Fieldwork Session #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>MODULE 1: Foundations in Community Employment Services and Supports</td>
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<td>Oct. 27 and Nov. 10</td>
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<td>MODULE 10: Job Retention and Coaching I - Foundations in Job Retention Success</td>
</tr>
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**MENTOR/FIELDWORK SESSIONS**

Must attend all sessions.

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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Mentor/Fieldwork Session #2 (VA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Mentor/Fieldwork Session #3 (JD/JRC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7, 2021</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Mentor/Fieldwork Session #4 (JD/JRC)</td>
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Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities / RI College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908

Voice: 401-456-8072   |   TTY: Via Relay at 711 or (800) 745-5555   |   www.sherlockcenter.org
**Training Schedule Fall 2020**

**Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 2, 2020

Each Module consists of two 1.5 hour sessions.

### Vocational Assessment Mini Certificate

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### Job Retention & Coaching Mini Certificate

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Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series
Training Schedule Fall 2020
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MAKE-UP MODULES

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<td>Oct. 13 and 15</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 5: Vocational Assessment III- Strategies for Community Exploration &amp; Individualized Job Search Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20 and 22</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 6: Employment Law, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Disability Disclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29 and Nov. 12</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 7: Job Development I - Job Search Practices to Support Meaningful Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19 and Dec. 3</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 8: Job Development II –Employer Assessment and Individualized Approach to a Job Match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 10 and 17</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 9: Job Development III- Employer Relationships and Negotiations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27 and Nov. 10</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 10: Job Retention and Coaching I - Foundations in Job Retention Success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17 and Dec. 1</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 11: Job Retention and Coaching II– Teaching the Job- Task Analysis and Systematic Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 and 15</td>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>MODULE 12: Job Retention and Coaching III- Fading Support, Quality Services and Career Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities / RI College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908  
Voice: 401-456-8072  | TTY: Via RI Relay at 711 or (800) 745-5555  | www.sherlockcenter.org
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