



Vaccine Planning

A Message from Governor Raimondo

There has been a lot of good news on the COVID-19 vaccine front over the last few weeks. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are awaiting FDA approval with about 95% effectiveness. Soon, both vaccines will be fully evaluated by the FDA and our panel of experts here in Rhode Island. We have been planning for this for months. When we have a vaccine that the doctors, researchers, and scientists tell us is safe, we'll be ready to distribute it as quickly as is safely possible. To hear more about RI's vaccine planning, watch [the quick eight-minute video](#).

Right now, we're planning for every scenario and developing different distribution models based on the allocations of vaccine that we expect to come to Rhode Island. We're already working with hospitals and other health care providers to ensure they have the supplies and personnel to receive, store, handle, and administer both versions of the vaccine.

We know that initial supplies of vaccine will be very limited, but that it will be coming soon. From our planning conversations with our federal partners and the manufacturers, it's looking like we could receive roughly 10,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine as early as the middle of this month, and 19,000 doses from Moderna about a week after that. That's not going to flip the switch on COVID-19 in Rhode Island — in a state of 1 million people, 29,000 doses will only go so far, particularly when you consider that every person needs two doses before they're fully vaccinated. But we are ready to hit the ground running and distribute these vaccines as quickly and safely as possible to our health care providers. You can see our draft blueprint for distributing the vaccine here [r20.rs6.net], and we are continuing to consult the CDC and Rhode Island experts in developing this plan.

The vaccine is going to come into Rhode Island over the course of months, not weeks. And we're all going to need two doses. It's tempting to think that once the vaccine arrives, COVID-19 will be a thing of the past. But that's not how it will work. Masks are still going to be part of our lives well into 2021, we're still going to need social distancing, and we're still going to have to be careful about the number of people we're around. If we stay serious about following the rules now, we can all look forward to a time next year when COVID-19 is in the rear-view mirror.

Vaccine Information from the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) website has information about the COVID vaccine.

- [FAQs About COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Different COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- [Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [8 Things to Know about U.S. COVID Vaccination Plans](#)

How do I know which sources of COVID-19 vaccine information are accurate?

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. Learn more about [finding credible vaccine information](#).

“No Wrong Door” Project Seeks Stakeholder Input

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is leading a multi-phase, interagency project to redesign the State’s long-term care system to align with the person-centered principles of “No Wrong Door” (NWD) advanced by the Federal Administration for Community Living.

EOHHS is currently implementing Phase I of this effort. Phase 1 focuses on the goal of enhancing support to help Rhode Islanders understand all options available to them for **Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)** before they apply for services.

The proposed centerpiece of Phase I is to implement a statewide network to provide **Person-Centered Options Counseling (PCOC)** to ensure that every Rhode Islander has help to decide whether LTSS is necessary and, if so, which service options best suit their needs.

You can provide feedback on Phase I implementation activities as well as recommendations for improvement. There are three ways you may provide feedback to EOHHS regarding the Phase I implementation:

- 1) **Webinar:** You are invited to participate in a virtual community meeting to review this project and provide input. See below for details.
- 2) **Survey:** EOHHS will also release a web-based survey to stakeholders for more feedback regarding Phase I activities. EOHHS anticipates emailing a link to this survey after the webinars are complete.
- 3) **Email:** If you are unable to attend the webinar, please provide any other feedback that you may have to OHHS.LTSSNWD@ohhs.ri.gov by December 28, 2020.

**Please register for the Community Meeting using the below link.
Meetings will be conducted via Zoom.**

Stakeholder Group	Date and Time
Consumers, Families, and Caregivers	Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 11am-12pm
Registration Link	
https://nasuad.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QcnyOkppRgK27AZql2cAgw	

What is Person-Centered Options Counseling (PCOC)?

PCOC is an interactive, person-directed decision-support process. PCOC supports individuals to make informed choices about long term settings and programs that are available to them. PCOC is available before or after eligibility for LTSS programs has been determined.

What is LTSS?

LTSS stands for Long-Term Services and Supports. It covers a range of services to help people live more independently by assisting with personal and healthcare needs and activities of daily living. It can also provide social and employment supports. LTSS can be provided at home, in community-based settings, or in facilities such as nursing homes. LTSS is administered across multiple State agencies.

EOHHS will post the following Phase 1 resources for stakeholder feedback. These materials are not available yet but will be posted to the [LTSS No Wrong Door page on the EOHHS website](#) during the week of December 14, 2020.

- a. **Rhode Island’s No Wrong Door System Three Phase Strategic Plan:** Overview of Rhode Island’s strategic plan and planned activities to achieve Rhode Island’s Phase I efforts.
- b. **PCOC Operational Manual:** Provides an overview of PCOC, outlines program standards, and provides tools that will be used to support PCOC in Rhode Island.
- c. **Fact Sheets** regarding RI’s No Wrong Door System Three Phase Strategic Plan and PCOC.
- d. **PowerPoint Presentation** that will be used during the webinar.

Your input is invaluable as a key community partner in Rhode Island.

DSP Survey: How Are You Doing?

After more than eight months since a national emergency was declared due to the COVID-19 pandemic, how are you coping on the job? What do you need? Are you working more hours? The National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), in partnership with the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota, is conducting a survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on direct support professionals. Your responses will help us identify the most effective ways to protect DSPs and the people you support.

[If you provide direct support to people with disabilities, please click here to take the survey. \[z.umn.edu\]](#) Your answers will be anonymous. The survey closes January 4, 2021. National and state-specific results from the survey will be shared widely in March 2021.

A similar survey was conducted by ICI and NADSP in the spring of 2020 and completed by more than 9,000 DSPs. [Those results are available here \[z.umn.edu\]](#). The new survey is for both DSPs who completed the earlier survey and those who did not.

Contact Amy Hewitt at hewit005@umn.edu if you need the survey to be presented in a different language (American Sign Language, Spanish, or other language).

NADSP is a national non-profit whose mission is to elevate the status of direct support professionals by improving practice standards; promoting system reform; and advancing their knowledge, skills, and values. Our vision is a world with a highly qualified and professional direct support workforce that partners with, supports, and empowers people with disabilities to lead a life of their choosing.

The Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota is a designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, part of a national network of similar programs in major universities and teaching hospitals across the country. ICI's collaborative research, training, and information-sharing ensure that people with disabilities are valued by, included in, and contribute to their communities of choice throughout their lifetime.

Enjoy This Weekend!

According to Days of the Year (www.DaysoftheYear.com) every day should be celebrated. Their aim is to bring all of the world's weird, funny, wonderful, unknown and bizarre holidays under one roof, and to create the ultimate guide to celebrating each and every day.



Sat Dec 12th, 2020

Gingerbread Decorating Day



Sun Dec 13th, 2020

Hot Cocoa Day

Small Business Saturday is Virtual – and all December long!

Shop Small Still Going On! Small Business Saturday is a shopping holiday held each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Small Business Saturday's "Shop Small" message encourages consumers to support their local communities and the small business economy. Due to COVID, this year the event has moved online.

Small Business Saturday Shop RI showcases a wide selection of unique services and products all in one convenient location. Please join us in supporting Small Business Owners, Entrepreneurs, Artists, and Crafters online through December.

You can take advantage of SBS Shop RI – All through December!

[Click Here To Shop Virtual SBS Shop RI](#)



Organized by a collaboration of the Small Business Administration, Center for Women and Enterprise, Veterans Business Outreach Center, and the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council.

Understanding Trauma to Support Your Family Member During COVID

Archived Webinar ([YouTube video](#) - 58 minutes) from The Sherlock Center

This webinar is presented by Christine Hathaway, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA. The webinar provides proactive strategies that may help maintain well-being for family caregivers and others in their home as we all settle into fall and winter routines that provide for safety while adding meaning to our lives.

[Click here to watch now](#)

Closed Captioning:

Click "CC" from the menu for closed captioning. For captioning in a language other than English, click "Settings", then "Subtitles/CC" and select a language.

This video is also available from the Sherlock Center's PBSC resource page at <http://www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/pbsresources.html>. [r20.rs6.net]



Visit sherlockcenter.org [r20.rs6.net] to access local and national resources for family caregivers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Words Matter

Recently, BHDDH Director Kathryn Power had the privilege to give the closing remarks at the Words Matter Forum, sponsored by RICARES and the City of Providence. We're sharing her remarks below.

Good Morning everyone and thank you for inviting me to speak today about the significance of the words we choose. **Words play an important role.** They have meaning, and they convey implied thoughts and attitudes beyond their strict definitions. They have the power to build up and tear down, and when not used with careful thought, they can **distort what we really want to say or what we intended to say.**

We know that we would never use words that discourage people with heart disease or cancer from seeking help by couching their disease in negative connotations. But, when we refer to someone with a drug issue as an "addict," a mentally ill person as "crazy," or a person with a disability as a "cripple" **we are using a negative implication.** We are inferring that their lives aren't as valuable and productive as ours, when every life is valuable.

We need to use language that encourages those with substance use conditions to seek help. As others have said, individuals with substance use disorder are less likely to seek help when they think others will look down on them **or see their struggle as the result of bad choices or moral failure.**

This conversation today has shown us that we **do not need to reinvent the wheel.** There are guidelines that are readily available, and we ask that everyone commit to following them. We know it is the right thing to do. It will help individuals living with mental illness, substance use conditions, or those with an intellectual or developmental disability to feel that they can speak up and seek help. I do not think it is an understatement to say that this could make the difference in someone's life.

At the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals, one of the many things we do is work with Regional Prevention Task Force Coalitions, which function as the "feet on the ground" in our communities ensuring that the strategies and programs developed at the federal and state levels reach every city and town.

We have asked that the regional coalitions start by attending today's workshop, and moving forward, BHDDH will work with RICARES to provide training for the regional coalitions on respectful language, and the coalitions will follow up with local media to promote the adoption of the AP guidelines.

We are also encouraging partnerships between the coalitions and Recovery Community Centers to follow up jointly with local media, as a way of promoting wellness, positive behavioral health, community connectedness, hope and recovery. By opening this dialogue, we will be reinforcing what has been discussed here today.

Our Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Services staff members are very cognizant about the language we use to ensure that every Rhode Islander knows we value and place importance on the health and accomplishments of all.

We are committed to making sure there is no discrimination or shame for anyone who may have challenges in their lives. Rather, everyone should have the opportunity to make the choice to seek help without the fear of an implied discriminatory bias.

Thank you again for the opportunity to take part in today's discussion.

[Click here to view the forum: Words Matter: A Conversation About Stigma, Substance Use, and COVID-19.](#)

News from TechACCESS of RI

The Assistive Technology Conference of New England

The Assistive Technology Conference of New England – hosted by TechACCESS of RI – is dedicated to technology, people with disabilities, families and professionals.

Since 1988, Rhode Island’s annual conference on assistive technology has offered state-of-the-art workshops, information and exhibits on the technologies that enhance and change the lives of persons with disabilities of all ages. Attended each year by hundreds from Rhode Island, New England, and beyond, the conference focuses on uses of technology in education, communication, employment, recreation, home, and independent living.

In 2020, TechACCESS made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person conference due to COVID-19. However, they recognized the need for support now more than ever as we struggle with the realities of our new normal. They decided to host a conference consisting of half day sessions spanning 8 sessions over 7 months to allow people the flexibility to participate – from wherever they are!

Please contact TechACCESS at (401) 463-0202 or techaccess@techaccess-ri.org if you need additional information.

- January 18: **Tele-engagement for Individuals Using AAC** (Presented by Nerissa Hall & Hillary Jellison)
- February 2: **Creating An Accessible Workspace: AT Solutions for Higher Education and the Workplace for Individuals with Learning Challenges** (Presented by Mark Surabian)

Also check out our amazing [Exhibitors \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) and [Bringing Access to Life Vendors \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).

Supports to Incorporate Learning with Technology

Check out some of these apps that may help to motivate your child to incorporate their learning with technology:

[Happy Not Perfect \[r20.rs6.net\] \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) is a meditation app which focuses on progress and practice, rather than perfection with daily workouts. It includes mood selection to identify how you are feeling as well as deep breathing and guided meditations and encouraging quotes. Recommended for ages 10+. Platform/console: Android, iPad, iPhone

[IDK? Decision Maker \[r20.rs6.net\] \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) is an app that helps the user make decision by providing formal structure for a pros and cons list. Rated E for Everyone. Platform/console: iPad, iPhone

[NFL Play 60 \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) is an app that combines fitness and healthy lifestyle tips with an interactive runner game. Kids get to choose their avatar. It is filled with encouraging words from the coach and tips for a healthy lifestyle. They can choose from inside or outside play and specify activities to do alone, with a partner, or with a group. Recommended for ages 8+. Platform/console: Android, iPad, iPhone

[Disney Story Realms \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) blends reading books with playing short digital games. Rated E for Everyone. Platform/console: Android, iPad, iPhone

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10th, the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document that proclaims the inalienable rights which everyone is entitled to as a human being. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.

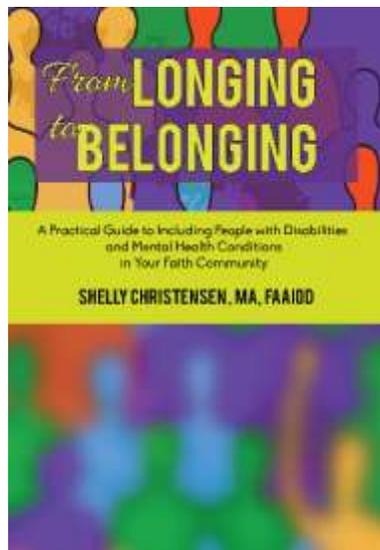
The UDHR serves as the foundational document for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted on December 13, 2006. The CRPD contains no new rights, but helps to explain how modern nations have agreed to interpret the rights of persons with disabilities.

Joint Position Statement of AAIDD and The Arc on Human Rights

All people with IDD are entitled to human and civil rights. Given that all people with IDD are complex human beings with varying attributes and living circumstances, and many experience multiple risk factors for human and civil rights violations, we emphasize that all are entitled to human and civil rights regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, cultural, linguistic, geographic, and spiritual diversity, economic status, severity of disability, intensity of needed supports, or other factors that expose them to increased risk of rights violations.

These rights include the rights to autonomy, dignity, family, justice, life, liberty, equality, self-determination, community participation, property, health, well-being, access to voting, and equality of opportunity and others recognized by law or international declarations, conventions, or standards. All people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities must have the right to supports they need to exercise and ensure their human and civil rights. Local, state, federal, and international governments must strongly enforce all human and civil rights.

From Longing to Belonging



Everyone wants to belong—in their community at large and especially their faith-based community. Nearly 20 percent of people live with a disability or mental health condition, which means so many families—maybe even yours—are dealing with these concerns for their loved ones—or for themselves. The one place everyone should feel like they belong is their house of worship and other faith-based community organizations.

From Longing to Belonging—A Practical Guide to Including People with Disabilities and Mental Health Conditions in Your Faith Community is a book based on Shelly Christensen’s experiences as a leader in the growing field of faith-based inclusion of people with disabilities and mental health conditions, and her work with congregations and other faith-based organizations. It’s practical, inspirational, and above all else, helps faith-based organizations embrace authentic belonging and inclusion for all people.

Available at Barnes & Noble or Amazon.

Silver Linings

Trinity Rep's A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A FREE Online Version

Directed by Curt Columbus

With Joe Wilson, Jr. as Scrooge

STREAMING DECEMBER 17, 2020 – JANUARY 10, 2021

[Register here for free access \(general public\)](#)



Southern New England's favorite holiday tradition continues with an all-new online experience. This free, on-demand video is a wholly unique and thoroughly Trinity Rep take on the Dickens classic that integrates traditional theatrical storytelling with technological possibilities only available with digital production. Ebenezer Scrooge is guided by Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future on a heartwarming journey toward redemption that you can now share with friends and family no matter where they live. Make the spirit of the season come alive with a memorable holiday experience filled with hope.

BONUS CONTENT

[How to Watch FAQ's](#)

[The Making of Christmas](#) – clips, photos, and interviews with some of the creators

[Online Paint Party Video](#): follow along step-by-step instructions from Mermaid Masterpieces to make your own painting inspired by *A Christmas Carol*

[Sensory Friendly Introductory Video](#)

Coming Soon:

Viewer Guide with family activities

Sensory Friendly Guide

Community Sing



Mom's post about dolls with disabilities shows why 'representation matters'

From [Good Morning America](#)

Representation matters.

That's the reason behind one mom's viral post about dolls with disabilities. Her daughter, Ivy, has Down syndrome and now has a doll that looks just like her.

Lindsay Filcik told "Good Morning America" she believes it is important for children with disabilities to see themselves represented in the toys they play with.

Her post has nearly 18,000 likes so far. She wrote in part, "Every single human being deserves to see somebody who looks like them in movies, books, commercials, and toys. Unfortunately for far too long that has not been the case. People of all races, abilities, body types, genders, religions, etc. need to be represented in what we watch, read, and play with. Recently we are seeing steps to remedy this problem in the media and I appreciate that! Representation matters!"

She continued: "Imagine being a child with a disability and all you ever see are typical, able bodied children. What message does that send you about yourself? That you are 'abnormal'. That you are not worthy of being shown to the world. I know you're reading this cringing inside, because of course no child should ever be made to feel that way. Lack of representation also hurts those children who are represented. They grow up with the incredibly skewed perception that everybody looks like them. And anybody who doesn't isn't 'normal' and should be feared. That my friends is how racism and ableism can be perpetuated in our kids without us even realizing it. Representation matters!"

The Grand Rapids, Michigan, mom's post includes two other girls playing with dolls who have disabilities similar to their own.

She wrote, "Look at these beautiful girls. Each one is represented by a doll that looks like them. Ivy has Down syndrome. Her doll looks just like her with almond shaped eyes and a button nose! Our friend Eliza has Spina Bifida. Her doll has forearm crutches (or sticks as Eliza says) & AFOs just like her! Our friend Stella has Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Her doll has a wheelchair just like her! Representation matters! "

Filcik told "GMA" the post has been well received by parents of both disabled and non-disabled kids. "Several parents of children who don't have disabilities told me they are adding a doll with a disability to their kids' Christmas lists," she said. "They had just never thought of it before."



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

Videos <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html>

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 BHDDH, 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.



DD Community Newsletter
SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER

Contacting DD Staff

DDD has put extended 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 on the next page. 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.

401-462-3421

8:30 AM → 4:00 PM

WEEKDAYS DURING BUSINESS HOURS FOR:

- VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS
- QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DD SERVICES

During business hours
(Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00),
for questions or support
(401) 462-3421
Para español, llame
(401) 462-3014

401-265-7461

4:00 PM → 10:00 PM

AFTER HOURS ON WEEKDAYS FOR:

- VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS

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

401-265-7461

8:30 AM → 10:00 PM

ON WEEKENDS FOR:

- VITAL, NON-MEDICAL SUPPORT NEEDS

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

E-MAIL THE DIVISION

BHDDH AskDD @BHDDH.RI.GOV

HELP US KEEP THE PHONE LINES OPEN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLING WITH A VITAL NEED!

WHEN POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL FOR:

- NON-CRITICAL CONCERNS about Your Services and Supports
- GENERAL QUESTIONS about Your Services or the RI DD System

911

**FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
CALL 911
RIGHT AWAY. DON'T WAIT!**

For medical or
healthcare related
emergencies, call
your Primary Care
Physician or 911

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR

CALL FOR:

- ROUTINE Healthcare Questions
- NON-EMERGENCY Medical Care

**FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S ADVICE
DON'T go to their office
unless they tell you to!**



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT for SELF- DIRECTED STAFF

Individuals who are in a self-directed service model can get Personal Protective Equipment* (PPE), for their staff, if needed. The available PPE consists of masks and gloves.

If you receive FI services through proAbility, Perspectives, Seven Hills, or Trudeau please contact your agency.

If you receive FI services through Fogarty please call: **1-401-462-3421** to make a PPE request. If leaving a message please note that you are in need of PPE, and provide your name and contact number. Someone will return your call to find out what PPE is needed and to make a safe plan for pick up or delivery.

**Please note that PPE is subject to availability.*

Comprensión del trauma para ayudar a su familiar durante COVID-19: Estrategias de comportamiento positivo para los cuidadores

Un seminario web gratuito para los cuidadores de adultos con IDD que viven con la familia.



Esta presentación está diseñada para que los cuidadores familiares comprendan mejor las respuestas al trauma que ellos y sus seres queridos puedan estar experimentando durante este tiempo de COVID-19.

Presentado por: José Nicolás González Soler,
M.Clinical Psychology

Este seminario web proporcionará estrategias proactivas que pueden ayudar a mantener el bienestar de los cuidadores familiares y otras personas en su hogar mientras todos nos adaptamos a las rutinas de otoño e invierno que brindan seguridad al tiempo que agregan significado a nuestras vidas.

CONTORNO:

1. Conceptos básicos del trauma
2. Cómo se ven las respuestas al trauma
3. Prevención: creación de entornos sensibles al trauma
4. Estrategias para minimizar el impacto del trauma relacionado con COVID en usted y sus seres queridos

**December 19, 2020
10:00-11:00 am**

ZOOM WEBINAR

Se requiere registro anticipado usando el enlace a continuación.

<http://bit.ly/2Yh25hS>

Después de registrarse, recibirá un correo electrónico de confirmación con información sobre cómo unirse al seminario web.

Solicitudes de alojamiento y asistencia con el registro: comuníquese con Elaine Sollecito en esollecito@ric.edu 401-456-2764

TTY o español a través de RI Relay: 711

Preguntas del taller: Iraida Williams, iwilliams@ric.edu

Los detalles del seminario web están disponibles en www.sherlockcenter.org



El Centro Paul V. Sherlock sobre Discapacidades, RI College, ofrece este seminario web con la ayuda de una subvención para el Mejoramiento de la Comunidad de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Salud y Servicios Humanos de RI.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2020

Contact: Morna Murray
860-538-1007

Federal Disabilities Partners Demand Access to Health Care for People with Disabilities

Providence, Rhode Island -- Today, [Disability Rights Rhode Island](#) (DRRI), the independent, federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System for the state of Rhode Island, asked Governor Gina Raimondo to issue an Executive Order directing enforcement of the Rhode Island Department of Health policy permitting people with disabilities to have the accompaniment of essential support persons while in the hospital. The request comes after months of unsuccessful negotiations with state personnel to enforce the policy, and amidst numerous complaints from individuals and families who have been denied appropriate access to care. DRRI is joined in this request by the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College, Rhode Island's University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council.

"Many individuals with disabilities require essential support persons to assist in facilitating access, including communication with healthcare providers and providing informed consent for medical decisions," said Morna Murray, Executive Director of DRRI. "We are deeply concerned people are being denied the essential support they need, effectively denying them access to critical health care. This can literally be the difference between life and death."

"Our families need this policy to be enforced immediately and consistently," said Amy Grattan, Executive Director of the [Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities](#). "We have received dozens of calls from families who report their loved ones have been traumatized because the policy has not been enforced, and as a result are now afraid to seek necessary care for fear of further distress and harm."

"It is imperative that all people have the ability to access medical treatment that is appropriate, proper, and with the person's informed consent," said Kevin Nerney, Executive Director for the [Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council](#). "Denying an individual the ability to understand or communicate their needs is clear discrimination and a denial of civil rights."

The three federal partners have asked for a meeting with Governor Raimondo to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. In addition to ensuring that people with disabilities have access to health care, they seek to address the chilling effect the non-enforcement of the Department of Health policy is having upon families who are reluctant to subject their family members to additional trauma while hospitalized.

###

Support Small Businesses

Small businesses are the foundation for RI's economy. People with disabilities also own businesses throughout Rhode Island.

A number of people with disabilities have participated in a Business Development Series administered by the RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC). The project is funded by the Department of Labor and Training (DLT) with the primary purpose to develop a "Self-Employment Business Incubator", where people with disabilities can learn various skills to help them grow successful businesses, access technical assistance through Business Specialists, and apply for mini-grants to purchase materials, supplies and equipment they need.

Following are six profiles of local small businesses that have benefitted from the Self-Employment Business Incubator. Help support these individuals by checking out their Websites or Facebook pages and purchasing some of their products and unique items for the upcoming holiday season!

The next round of classes start in late January 2021. For more information contact Sue Babin, Project Director, RIDDC, at (401) 737-1238.

Cheetah Greetings

Katie Lowe lives in Warwick, RI with her family. She loves pizza, summertime, musicals, the color pink, and, of course, anything cheetah! She started her business, “**Cheetah Greetings**” because she enjoys making cards and making people happy.

Her cards are one-of-a-kind and are made by using patterned cardstock and stamping. Special requests, including a personalized card with a picture of your loved one, can be custom made by Katie. Greeting cards are a great way to show someone you care!



Katie has utilized the skills she learned from the RIDDC’s Self-Employment project to develop her website and Facebook pages and identify her target market!



Website: <https://www.cheetahgreetings.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cheetah-Greetings-101021921252435/>

Email: cheetahgreetings@gmail.com

Phone: 401-206-0599

Double B Photography

Hi - I'm Bryan Baron and I am 25 years old and I own "Double B Photography". Despite my challenges in life - I have developmental disability, a speech delay and a movement disorder called Dystonia – I still love taking pictures and being out in the community. I want others to see what I see through my eyes.



I sell images of nature, landscapes, wildlife in various formats such as framed and matted images, photo mouse pads, photo coasters, photo cards & photo post cards. I took a photography class with a professional photographer then took the Steps to Self Employment Class with the RI Developmental Disabilities Council. After I took these classes I was approved for a \$1,000 Mini Grant from the Council and I bought a new Canon camera and lens!



My business can help you decorate your home or office or any space that you would like to put a photo! If you would like to order any of the photos on my Facebook page please email me at Brybaron@cox.net or post a message on my Facebook page.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/524391751417627/>

Love Letters by Emily

“Love Letters by Emily” - offering handmade cards, photo prints, inspirational quotes, tee shirts and more ... featuring American Sign Language Letters, ILY in ASL and Heart Hands images signed by former RI School for the Deaf student, Emily Maxwell, and designed by her mother, Carolyn Maxwell. Their designs may be purchased at craft fairs, local venues as well as their Etsy shop, website, and Amazon Handmade.



In 2017 Emily and Carolyn Maxwell were among those chosen as “Rhode Islanders of the Year” by Rhode Island Monthly magazine for their impact in creating a unique small business to bring their American Sign Language designs to market ~ and sharing their talents locally and globally. Emily and her Mom have also actively participated in the RIDDC’s Self-Employment Project and weekly Entrepreneur’s Forums to learn additional business skills and marketing strategies.



Website: <https://www.lovelettersbyemily.com>

Facebook: [@LoveLettersbyEmily](https://www.facebook.com/LoveLettersbyEmily)

Instagram: [@lovelettersbyemily](https://www.instagram.com/lovelettersbyemily)

Email: emilym992@cox.net

MR C'S OLD THYME SCENTS

Hi I am Jack Carfagna and I'm 18 years old. My business is "Mr. C's Old Thyme Scents". We are a small, family owned and operated candle company offering quality hand poured, handmade soy blend candles, carpet sprinkles, wax melts, and room sprays all to make your home smell great!



I just completed the RIDDC's Self-Employment Project. Check out my Website and Facebook Page links below to see all the different products we have for sale that you can purchase for the upcoming holidays.

Website: <https://mrcscents.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mrcscents>

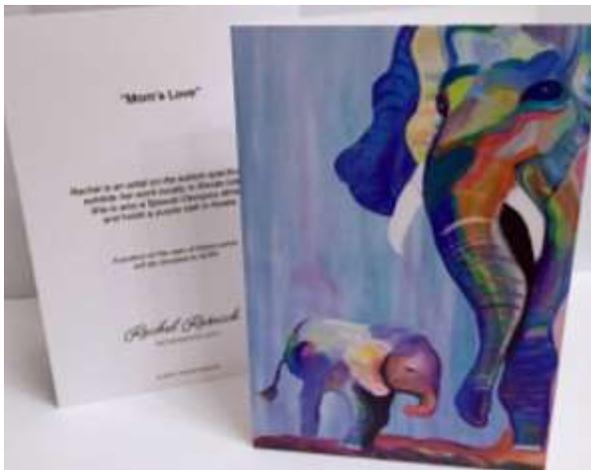


Rachel Rasnick Art

My name is Rachel Rasnick and I am an artist! My business is called “**Rachel Rasnick Art**”. I started painting a few years ago as part of a program called Studio57 at Looking Upwards, a program for adults with disabilities. I also participated in the business development classes of the RI Developmental Disabilities Council and their weekly Entrepreneur’s Forum to help me learn more skills to grow my business.



I fell in love with painting and have been encouraged by many people to continue and share my work with others. My paintings make people happy and sell so quickly that I can’t keep up with demand. That’s why I decided to create a series of prints so more people can enjoy them! *In addition to my available prints, feel free to inquire about original commission paintings.*



Website: <https://www.rachelrasnick.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rachelrasnickart/>

Thank you for visiting my Website and Facebook page and I hope you enjoy my artwork! As a Special Olympic athlete, I donate a portion of my sales to Special Olympics RI.

Rebecca's G Cards

“Rebecca's G Cards” is a boutique business that specializes in all occasion greeting cards. My cards have a simple message of cheer, hope and happiness that will put a smile on your face!

The uniqueness of my cards is in the creating process. I utilize a head stick which helps me to design, edit and produce cards on the computer.

My process is carefully detailed and planned out so each card is created with imagery that shares my optimistic outlook on life. They are sold individually for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. You can also purchase a package of 6 for \$12.



I participated in the RIDDC's self-employment project to help me learn skills to improve and market my business. Please enjoy my cards!! *"Opening Smiles Everyday"*

Website: <http://www.rebeccasgcards.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rebeccasgcards>