Dear folks,

We hope you will join us for our next Community Forum on Tuesday, Nov. 5th at the Barrington Public Library located at 281 County Rd from 4 - 6 p.m.

We recently celebrated Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week and it was truly our pleasure to show our appreciation for the work DSPs perform day in and day out.

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month. The 2019 theme is “The Right Talent, Right Now,” which celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and highlights the value of an inclusive workforce. If you need any help with employment issues, please call us at 462-3421.

Becky

Director Boss’s Corner

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Becky

DSP Spotlight

Jess + Paul = Great Team

In celebration of last month’s Direct Support Professional (DSP) Week, here is Jessica’s story about making a difference everyday in her work.

The role of a Direct Support Professional is to partner with, support and empower people with disabilities to lead the life they choose. Jessica Seng embodies these values. To the people she supports, she is a partner, ally, mentor and friend. She works with people to honor their choices, encourage independent decision making and support them in taking steps to achieve their goals.

Seng says her work gives her “a great feeling to help people succeed with what they want. It’s rewarding to me,” she said. “It’s my pleasure to help. I just like to see people enjoy their life.”

Seng provides supports to five gentlemen with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live together in Johnston. Among them is Paul Scott, 51, who is a warm, friendly man with a very outgoing personality. Scott is an avid sports fan, enjoys going out to eat and has a passion for baking, specifically cookies.

Scott had been baking chocolate chip cookies for the past few years and selling them in a limited number of office buildings. However, he let his team know that he was looking for more. He wants to grow his cookie industry and move into many other local businesses. With encouragement from Seng, Scott has since expanded his list of offerings to include a variety of cookies and candy. Seng committed to supporting Paul with this endeavor and they have laid out plans to do it.

Seng has worked for West Bay Residential Services for six years, and she’s worked with Scott for about three years.

Seng said most of the money Scott earns from the sales is being reinvested into his expansion plans. Scott is also trying to save some money so he can go on a vacation with his brother to Orlando, Florida.

Direct Support staff help individuals achieve their life goals in the way they want it; DSP staff members, like Jessica, make it happen!

DDD Director

Kerri Zanchi’s Corner

Greetings,

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer. As we welcome in the fall, we recognize and celebrate the contributions and value of our Direct Support Professionals. During DSP Recognition Week, held September 8 - 14th, we paused along with other across the country to offer a sincere thank you to our tireless and valued workforce. They make a difference every day in the lives and wellbeing of individuals and their families. In support of this essential workforce, the Division of Developmental Disabilities will be increasing our rates on October 1st by $9.5 million dollars to support a DSP wage increase.

Also in support of our individuals and their families, we are continuing to focus on several important (cont’d on next page)
How do I reach BHDDH about an issue?
There are two ways to reach BHDDH:
• Find the person you would like to reach and their phone number at http://www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/contact.php
• There is also an email that is monitored daily. Please feel free to send an email to BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov; receive a reply in one business day.

Need information about?
• Self-Directed Services: Allowable Goods and Services
  Find it on the BHDDH website at: http://www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/forms_provider.php
• Overtime to Home Care Workers
  Find it on the Department of Labor website at: https://www.dol.gov/whd/homecare/homecare_guide.pdf
• Self-Directed Supports
  Find information on the Paul Sherlock Center on Disabilities website: http://www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/sds/sds.html
• Employment Services
  Find information about the PCESEPP program and employment at: http://www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/employmentfirst_index.php
• Self-Advocacy and Support Organizations
  http://www.advocatesinaction.org/ and https://ripin.org/