

Division of Developmental Disabilities



October 2019

Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, November 5, 4:00 - 6:00 PM** — Division of Developmental Disabilities **Community Forum at the Barrington Public Library, 281 County Road, Barrington, R.I. 02806**
- **Doug Crandall**, national expert on **customized employment** from Griffin Hammis Associates, will be **speaking in R.I. in late October** — confirmed date will be posted on the BHDDH website.

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!

Director Boss's Corner

Hi 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

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



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CPNRI's Pathways Partnership Employment for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Self-Employment and the Spirit of Individual Enterprise for People with Developmental Disabilities by RI Developmental Disabilities Council

This program assists people with developmental disabilities, youth in transition, DD providers, and others with developing and growing a new business. This includes individualized technical assistance for business planning and a range of resources from the RI business community.

Contact: Sue Babin, suebabin@riddc.org, 401-737-1238

JOLT - Job Opportunities Learned Together by West Bay RI

This program offers people who direct their own services the opportunity to learn skills and build their natural network of supports. They also gain a working knowledge of strategies and techniques to obtain and sustain job opportunities.

Contact: Mike Wilson, Mwilson@westbayri.org, 401-889-5500 ext. 16, or online at WestBayRI.org/jolt

Customer Service and Retail Training by AccessPoint RI

The program offers individuals with disabilities, and people who have barriers to employment the opportunity to learn practical skills to excel in customer service and retail positions.

Contact: Rory Carmody, Rcarmody@accesspointri.org, 401-941-1112, ext. 107

Edge and End, Cove Woodworking Training Program by the Cove Center

The program offers woodworking and related skills training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have an interest in creating and/or constructing wood products such as tables, shelves, cutting boards and other products.

Contact: Mike Smith, msmith@covecenter.org, 401-286-3643

Helpful Information

How do I reach BHDDH about an issue?

There are a 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/>

DDD Director Kerri Zanchi (cont'd)

initiatives to support systems transformation. Over the summer and continuing throughout the fall, we appreciate the opportunities to meet with you and listen to your experiences. These initiatives — DD Health Home and a rate review — are responsive to your identified needs and will expand our investments in supports that are shaped by your experiences.

There are several programs highlighted in this newsletter; please use these resources and let us know how we are doing at BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov.

Thank you for your support and feedback. Your experiences guide us and your voice matters each and every day!

Kerri

In-Person Survey Coming Soon

The National Core Indicators survey enables state agencies providing DD services to measure and track their performance, and see how they compare to other states.

The Sherlock Centers on Disabilities conducts the survey in Rhode Island. Each year, we draw a random sample of everyone receiving DD services to get a list of people we ask to participate. Participation is voluntary. **The next survey will begin in February 2020.**



FEARLESS DO MORE

Join Self-Advocates, Families, Allies and other Community members at R.I.'s
24th Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference on Thursday, October 31, 2019
at the **Crowne Plaza in Warwick.**

For more information and conference materials visit: www.AdvocatesinAction.org



1-877-532-5543
CONFERENCE@ADVOCATESINACTION.ORG