

In the LOOP

August 2023



Caring Families: Paying Family Caregivers

In early 2023, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS) conducted a survey around the practice of paying family caregivers to provide care to their family member with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability that participates in a Home and Community-Based Service program.

The topic brief [*Caring Families: Paying Family Caregivers*](#) summarizes findings from the survey and focuses on the efforts of recognizing the roles family members play in caregiving, Medicaid policies, and engaging with individuals, families, and stakeholders.



With the Division of
Developmental
Disabilities

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2023 Missouri Tiered Supports Summit

[Registration](#) is open for the 2023 Missouri Tiered Supports Summit, which will be held in Columbia, MO on September 26-27, 2023. Registration is FREE. More information about the Summit including links to hotel information, keynote speakers, breakout topics, and resource vendors, is available on the [Summit webpage](#).

disabilityscoop

Walmart to offer Sensory-Friendly Hours for Back-to-School Shopping

According to [Disability Scoop](#), Walmart plans to modify shopping experiences at many of its stores across the country to offer a more sensory-friendly atmosphere for shoppers doing back-to-school shopping. Participating stores will dim overhead lighting, turn off radios, and make television screens motionless. Sensory-friendly hours vary, so shoppers should check with their local stores for exact days and times.



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2023-2024 National Core Indicators (NCI)

Survey Cycle Starting Soon!

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is preparing for the 2023-2024 NCI survey cycle. The NCI surveys ask individuals and families about their lives and if they are happy with the services they receive through the Division. The surveys are anonymous and confidential.

Randomly selected individuals and families will be asked to participate in the surveys. If chosen, you may be contacted by a Regional Office staff member or your family may receive a survey in the mail. If you are selected, please participate. Your feedback is very important and will help to make services better for everyone.

To learn more, please visit the [Division's NCI page](#) or view [Surveys and You: Your Voice Matters](#).

Niagara University Hosts Upcoming Emergency Management Disability Awareness Trainings in Warren and Adair Counties

Niagara University is hosting Disability Awareness trainings for individuals, organizations, and agencies that have a role with preparing for emergencies. Training topics include Disability Awareness, Universal Design, proper community responses, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), community resources, disaster planning, and foundational legal impact.

When:

Option 1: October 16-17, 2023 (two days) 9:00am-5:00pm

[Register October 16-17, 2023](#)

Option 2: October 17, 2023 (half day) 1:00pm-5:00pm

[Register October 17, 2023](#)

Where:

Adair County, SB40 Community Learning Center, Kirksville, MO

and

When:

Option 1: October 18 & 19, 2023 (two days) 9:00am-5:00pm

[Register: October 18-19, 2023](#)

Option 2: October 19, 2023 (half day) 1:00pm-5:00pm

[Register: October 19, 2023](#)

Where:

Warren County Emergency Operations and Training Center,
Warrenton, MO

If you have questions or need further information about the trainings, contact dwhalen@niagara.edu or call 716-286-8139.



On May 1, 2023, the Division of Developmental Disabilities initiated Phase II of the Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) Process. During Phase II, all Division contracted residential service providers and targeted case management providers will begin using the Health Risk Screening (HRS) process for individuals they serve, in alignment with the individual's Individual Support Plan (ISP) process. The Health Risk Screening process begins with the HRST, which is an assessment tool used to provide early detection of potential health risks and destabilization factors.

Individuals and family members can view educational videos that describe the HRST's purpose, [Health Risk Screening Tool](#), and how they can help ensure accurate scoring of the HRST, [Your Input is Vital](#).

Additional information is available on the Division's MO Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) process [webpage](#). For questions or feedback, email MODDHRSTProject@dmh.mo.gov.

**Governor's Council on Disability (GCD)
Annual Poster Contest
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
(NDEAM)**

Entries for artwork are now being accepted for NDEAM, which is celebrated in October. The GCD encourages anyone to submit his or

her artwork for a chance to be featured on the annual poster. All Missouri residents are invited to participate. This year's NDEAM theme is "Advancing Access and Equity." All entries must be submitted no later than **September 15, 2023**, to be eligible to win. NDEAM recognizes the importance of ensuring people with disabilities have equal opportunities to prepare for and succeed in employment. Artwork submitted can also relate to Inclusion, Employment, and Community.

For more information and to see previous poster selections, visit the GCD's [Disability Employment Awareness poster contest page](#) or reach out to gcd@oa.mo.gov or call 573-751-2600.

FHIR-ed Up for Interoperability

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) - Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) alongside the three Missouri Health Information Networks (HINs) – Lewis & Clark Health Information Exchange, Tiger Institute, and Velatura HIE – began technical requirement gathering sessions on July 27, 2023.

- In the sessions, the team is engaging in in-depth discussions, exploring a multitude of aspects to gather essential requirements and glean valuable insights to ensure a seamless and effective implementation process that utilizes eLTSS (Electronic Long-Term Services and Supports) Fast Healthcare Interoperable Resources (FHIR®) Implementation Guide (IG).

DMH - DD led an educational session on the development of the person-centered care plan titled [**The Digital Future: Integrating the Person-Centered Care Plan for Individuals with IDD Across the Healthcare Ecosystem**](#). The session aims to introduce Long Term Services and Supports and Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Programs. It also seeks to explain the concept of a person-centered care plan for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to showcase how the DMH data exchange project can benefit different care providers by enhancing data accessibility, care coordination, and clinical decision-making while reducing administrative burden and potential costs.

DMH - DD is collaborating with OA-ITSD to finalize the procurement and onboarding of a third-party technical vendor in August 2023 to support implementation.

- The vendor's primary role will be to facilitate data mapping from various sources to the DMH data warehouse and oversee the implementation of the data exchange project. The selected vendor will be responsible for configuring and deploying the necessary software and infrastructure required for the data exchange to function effectively. By efficiently integrating data into the DMH data warehouse, the HINs will be able to seamlessly facilitate the exchange of person-centered data across Missouri's healthcare ecosystem.



General Updates

The [ConneXion webpage](#) has new and updated documents under the Project Resources, Education, and Communication section including:

- Billing and Claims Resources
- ConneXion FAQ
- General ConneXion Q&A

Please share these links, as well as the ConneXion webpage, to help ensure stakeholders have the most current information available.

ConneXion End-User Training

- ConneXion end-user training will be delayed due to additional time needed to ensure the production environment and end-user training are aligned.
- All current training registrations, as of 7/25/2023, have been cancelled. A notification will be sent to all identified end-users, provider organizations, and via email blast when the new end-user training window is available. This notification will include new registration information for end-user training.
- The Division appreciates your understanding and is dedicated to the successful implementation of ConneXion for the individuals we serve.
- ConneXion training prior to go-live and system access is for individuals that require using ConneXion to perform their job assignment.

- You need a State Active Directory Account (CIMOR USERID) to access ConneXion. If you do not have an active State Directory Account (CIMOR USERID), please contact your TCM TAC or PR Vendor Services Coordinator to obtain an account.
- If you have additional training questions, email connexiontraining@dmh.mo.gov.
- ConneXion resources are located on the [ConneXion webpage](#) under Project Resources, Education, and Communication. This includes [ConneXion Training Q & A](#).