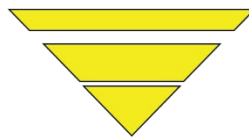


In The **LOOP**

MARCH 2025

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**



Angie Brenner
Named Acting Director,
Division of Developmental Disabilities

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) recently announced that Angie Brenner has been named as Interim Acting Director for the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD).

Angie has been with DMH for 10 years and most recently served as the Division of DD, Deputy Director of Administration. She has extensive knowledge of budget development, fiscal oversight, compliance oversight, quality assurance, and information technology for the Division's Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS). She has more than 25 years of experience working in the State Medicaid system. She is a leader in managed care expansion, implementation of rate efficiencies and value-based payments in both the managed care and fee-for-service programs, as well as the development of programs for the most vulnerable populations with safety net providers.

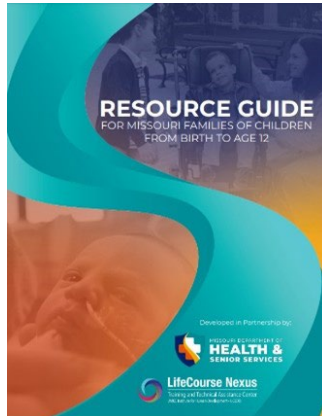
As Acting Director, Angie will continue to promote the importance of quality services, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility in the intellectual and developmental disability programs. Angie assumed the role of Acting Division Director effective January 13, 2025.



March is Developmental Disabilities Month

A presidential Proclamation was signed in 1987 designating March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM). Organizations can bring awareness by sharing personal success stories from people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, highlight self-determination efforts, focus on inclusion and access, or wear the color orange to show unity.

Watch for email blasts and Facebook posts as we celebrate DDAM.



New Resource Guide for Supporting Children in Missouri

Missouri families now have access to a comprehensive resource guide designed to support parents and caregivers of children from birth to age 12. This guide, developed in partnership between the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and LifeCourse Nexus Training and Technical Assistance Center at the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development (IHD), provides descriptions, links, and phone numbers of various statewide resources. The information is organized by types of supports, which are categorized into three distinct areas including discovery and navigation, connecting and networking, and goods and services.

While the guide is useful for all families, it is targeted to assist Missouri families who have a child with special health care needs and/or disabilities and highlights [Missouri Family-to-Family](#) and the [Special Health Care Needs](#) Family Partnership. Both programs provide free statewide services and are staffed by parents or family members of individuals with special health care needs or disabilities.

The resource guide can be found online at [Health.Mo.Gov/SHCN](https://health.mo.gov/shcn). To request a copy of the resource guide, contact the DHSS Bureau of Special Health Care Needs at 1-800-451-0669 or email at info@health.mo.gov.



Mark Your Calendars Now!

**MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
2025 Transition Training Institute
June 25-27, 2025
Holiday Inn Executive Center
Columbia, MO**

The Transition Training Institute (TTI) will focus on programs and structures that support students in graduating and moving toward postsecondary goals.

There will be a variety of presentations with a focus on compliance, transition assessments, transition to employment, independent living, postsecondary education, community relationships, instructional practices, use of technology, agency collaboration, transition planning with an emphasis on students with special needs, and more.

Watch for TTI updates on the MO DESE [Postsecondary Transition](#) webpage or reach out to Effective Practices with any questions at seep@dese.mo.gov.



Check out the new resources in Missouri at the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC)-Institute for Human Development (IHD) University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). WeSaid at the UCEDD provides innovative opportunities

where people can share information and their lived experiences with the public and targeted audiences through a Speakers Bureau, Podcasts, Video Series, and a Training and Technical Assistance Center.

The **Speakers Bureau** connects highly qualified public speakers who have lived experiences in developmental disabilities with opportunities to present on a variety of topics. Speakers are available to provide keynote presentations, speak at conferences, and present at workshops and/or trainings.

The **Podcast Series**, *Candace's Corner*, is hosted by Candace Cunningham and highlights leaders from across the state to talk about key issues that impact the disability community.

Take FIVE with Skye is a five-minute video series hosted by Skye VanLanduyt that features people with and without disabilities telling their stories about resilience, being empowered, and practicing self-determination.

The **WeSaid Academy** provides an opportunity for people with lived experiences in developmental disabilities to offer training that helps create change.

Find additional information and resources at the [WeSaid at the UCEDD](#) website.



The Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities is opening a second round of the [HIE Onboarding Program](#) this year. The first round resulted in enabling 15 Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) providers to connect to Missouri's HIE. The State would

like to expand the network of HCBS providers who are able to participate in collecting, sharing, and receiving data for individuals in their care through the Missouri HIE. Please stay tuned for more information.

Another project in the Division's strategic roadmap of interoperability initiatives to improve health outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) is the eLTSS Data Exchange Project. The Division has collected and analyzed the benefits of an electronic care plan exchange interface from multiple stakeholder perspectives. Implementing the eLTSS FHIR use case will demonstrate the State's dedication to enhancing, sharing, and standardizing person-centered care plan data exchange while supporting the State Medicaid population and Missouri's Health Information Exchange ecosystem. The diagram below shows the benefits of interoperable health data exchange.

Interoperability is foundational to improving care for individuals with IDD





Division of Developmental Disabilities

A Division priority is to provide timely updates to all stakeholders on the ConneXion Case Management System Planning & Procurement Project. ConneXion has a dedicated [webpage](#) with updates and information about the project.

The Division is seeking a new electronic case & financial management system to support the lifecycle of consumer care including information and referral; intake; assessment and reassessment; person centered care planning and service authorization; service delivery and payment; case closure; and reporting.

The Division is currently in the Planning & Procurement phase of the project and anticipates a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released for competitive bid Winter of 2025. The Division has contracted with HealthTech Solutions (HTS) to complete an RFP for a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) Case & Financial Management system is currently 62% complete to date. The Division and HTS completed a full analysis of requirement needs and current business processes this included over 75 business and technical requirements review gathering sessions with State subject matter experts (SME's) in fall 2024 – early 2025.

Please review the ConneXion [overview](#) to get a project background. Please reach out to [Toi Wilde, Project Director](#) for any questions regarding the project.



**ASSOCIATION ON AGING WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities
34th Annual Conference
May 12-13, 2025**

Registration is open for the 34th Annual Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (AADD) conference. The AADD conference includes both in-person and virtual participation options.

The AADD Conference has a goal of bringing aging and developmental disability professionals together to learn about best support models and practices and the most current information on aging with a developmental disability. Through information, education, and networking, participants will have a better understanding of both medical care, medical changes, and best practices that will help them support people with developmental disabilities with living their best life as well as receiving end-of-life care.

There are specific tracks targeted at different audiences that will attend (i.e. medical, direct support, self-advocacy). All tracks have the common thread of improving quality of life and helping maintain the independence of aging individuals with developmental disabilities, with the broad goal of supporting people in their desire to age in place.

Find the additional information including the conference brochure, registration link, and hotel information on the [AADD website](#).



Technology First

Did you know the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) practices **Technology First** for supporting people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)?

What does this mean? Technology First practices consider the use of technology for support purposes before other services such as Direct Support Professional (DSP) services. Using technology to support people can include many things such as using apps on a phone, installing environmental controls in a person's home, using medication reminders, or connecting the person to remote support staff through phone and/or web-based technologies, all of which can increase a person's independence while reducing their need to have full time caregivers for support.

If a person wishes to be more independent in their home, community, or work environments, assistive technology should be a consideration to help. The Division of DD offers assistive technology support options through its waiver programs.

People with I/DD, their caregivers, their Support Coordinator, and their planning team members can plan to use technology by first exploring additional information and resources on the Division's [Technology First](#) website. Questions about using assistive technology services can be directed to a support coordinator or by sending an e-mail to Technologyfirstanduniversaldesign@dmh.mo.gov.



Register Now!

**9th Annual Charting the LifeCourse Showcase
Presented by the LifeCourse Nexus
April 29-May 1, 2025**

The Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Showcase will offer many exciting opportunities to learn and share about innovative ways the CtLC Framework and Principles work together to initiate meaningful change in people's lives. The Showcase provides an opportunity to hear from others who have enhanced DD service systems, improved community engagement, enriched person-centered practices, increased problem solving and planning skills, and enhanced their efforts to better support families through applying the foundations of CtLC.

On April 29, 2025, the CtLC Showcase will also offer opportunities for participants to experience additional hands-on learning through Pre-Showcase Intensives, which include:

- CtLC Person-Centered Fundamentals
- Supporting Decision-Making Alternatives to Guardianship and Dignity of Risk
- Family Caregiver, Respite, and Charting My Family's Perspective
- LifeCourse Meeting Facilitation Badge

Visit the [Showcase 2025](#) webpage to explore and find information to register for the showcase, register for the pre-showcase intensives, and book your hotel.



Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council

Seeking Input for Five-Year Plan

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (MODDC) is working with the University of Missouri Kansas City - Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD) to conduct a statewide needs assessment. The assessment is called a Comprehensive Review and Analysis (CRA). This research project will be ongoing through April 2025 and will support MODDC to create their next five-year state plan.

It's important that disability leaders with lived experience and family members lead the work of MODDC by sharing their feedback about the needs in Missouri. Additionally, professionals that have experience in disability services are encouraged to share identified needs as well.

There are two ways to engage in the needs assessment.

- 1. Complete an anonymous survey. The anonymous survey is available online and as a printable document.**
- 2. Attend a listening session. Small, facilitated group discussions on Zoom or in-person will be held. These casual conversations are guided by priority topics like education, employment, transportation, access to services, etc.**

Participate in the anonymous [on-line survey](#) or organizations can consider scheduling a group listening session with its members by contacting George Gotto at 816-235-5331 or gottog@umkc.edu.

Stay Connected



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Contact Us
573-751-4054
800-279-9329
ddmail@dmh.mo.gov

Regional Office Contact Information

**Missouri Department of Mental Health
Developmental Disabilities | dmh.mo.gov
573-751-4054**

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