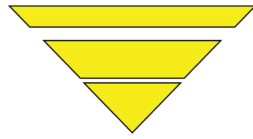


MISSOURI DIVISION OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**



Sheila Wunning
Named Director - Division of Developmental Disabilities

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is pleased to announce that Sheila Wunning has been named as the new Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) effective May 1, 2025.

Sheila has more than 25 years of experience serving individuals with developmental disabilities in Missouri, and she has been a part of the DMH team since 2017. Sheila has worked in both state-operated and community support areas of the Division, which allowed her to gain an understanding of developmental disability facilities, division budgets, and federal regulations. Working Collaboratively with state and local agencies, she has successfully built partnerships with stakeholders. Sheila demonstrates a deep commitment to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and ensuring that Missourians with developmental disabilities have the services and supports they need to live their best lives.

DMH extends an extra special thank you to Angie Brenner, who served as the Acting Director for the Division of DD and stepping into the position when Jess Bax moved into a new position with the Department of Social Services in January 2025.

Congratulation, Sheila!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Follow the Department of Mental Health on their [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [X](#) social media channels for Mental Health Awareness messaging during the month of May.

**MO Division of Developmental Disabilities Surveys
2024-2025 Surveys: We Need Your Feedback!**

The MO Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) has begun a new survey cycle. The Division participates in three National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys and the Missouri Quality Outcomes (MOQO) survey. These surveys ask people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families about their lives and services.

People receiving Division of DD services are randomly selected to participate in these surveys. If you or your family is selected, you will be contacted by mail or telephone. Mail surveys will come from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD). Telephone contact will be made by staff from your local regional office. If you have the chance to participate, please do! All survey responses are anonymous and help to make services better for everyone. The 2024-2025 survey cycle ends June 30, 2025.

To learn more about the Division's surveys, please view the [Surveys & You: Your Voice Matters Easy Reader](#) and visit the Division's [NCI webpage](#). If you have questions, please reach out to Caitlin Bartley, NCI Project Coordinator at caitlin.bartley@dmh.mo.gov.

**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Special Education
Transition Training Institute
Wyndham Executive Center – Columbia, MO
June 25-27, 2025**

Registration is open for the 2025 Transition Training Institute (TTI). Breakout sessions will cover topics from a variety of areas related to postsecondary transition for students. Participants will have networking opportunities with various agencies, Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) consultants, and Transition Liaisons. TTI provides educational professionals, service agency staff, parents, and other collaborators involved in the transitioning of individuals with disabilities (high school into post-school) opportunities to receive relevant and current information on programs, projects, research, and best practices occurring around the state related to transition.

Download a [TTI brochure](#) to read about the keynote speakers and conference breakout sessions. Visit the [TTI Registration](#) page to learn about rates and payment options.

Participants are responsible for choosing a lodging location and making their own reservations; however, the Wyndham Executive Center has provided a block of rooms for conference attendees on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you have additional questions, please contact Marsha Campe at 573-751-2512 or marsha.campe@dese.mo.gov.

Mark Your Calendar

Missouri Chapter of Association of People Supporting Employment First 2025 Annual Employment summit

**Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia, MO
July 24-25, 2025**

The two-day summit will bring together leaders, advocates, professionals, and job seekers from across the state who are committed to advancing competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities. Through dynamic keynote speakers and engaging breakout sessions, attendees will learn about best practices, hear about innovative strategies, have networking opportunities with peers and experts, hear inspiring stories, and acquire tools and resources that help strengthen and drive inclusive employment forward.

Registration link and additional information can be found at [APSE-MO's Employment Summit](#).



The Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities is preparing to launch Round 2 of the [HIE Onboarding Program](#) by early summer. This initiative aims to expand the network of Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) providers that can securely collect, share, and access data through the Missouri Health Information Exchange (HIE), enhancing care coordination for individuals they serve. Over the next month, the Division will collaborate with Health Information Networks (HINs) to identify and engage interested HCBS providers. If you'd like to learn more, please contact pdsa.help@dmh.mo.gov.

Additionally, in April, the Division kicked off the Electronic Long-Term Services and Supports (eLTSS) Project in partnership with Lewis and Clark Information Exchange (LACIE), Tiger Institute Health Alliance, Velatura Health Information Exchange, and SHINE KONZA. For the first time, all four of Missouri's HINs are working to come together to support statewide person-centered care coordination using innovative standards-based technology. This initiative will enable seamless data exchange between health and HCBS providers, ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive more integrated and effective care across the state.

Real Voices, Real Choices Conference
Margaritaville Lake Resort
August 24-26, 2025

The Real Voices, Real Choices conference, presented by the Missouri Mental Health Foundation and the Missouri Department of Mental Health, is designed to inform, educate, and empower people who have lived experience and/or receive services for mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Registration begins May 1, 2025. Please note registration timelines are different for scholarship recipients, attendees, and professionals. View the [Conference Timeline](#) for important registration dates. Registration and conference information can be found on the [RVRC website](#). Questions can be directed to ConsumerConference@dmh.mo.gov.

Missouri State Parks Beach Chair Program

Missouri State Parks strive to provide accessible outdoor recreation for all and currently has 18 beach chairs available across the state. Beach chairs can help visitors with limited mobility gain access to designated swim areas that may not be suitable for traditional wheelchairs. Beach wheelchairs are equipped with large wheels and arm rests that help with moving across terrain as well as keeping the chair afloat.

Beach chairs are free and available on a first-come, first-serve basis during normal beach hours. Visitors needing a beach chair should contact the park office to ask about availability. Beach chairs can support up to 253 pounds.

Explore additional information about the [Beach Chair Program](#) and see a list of parks that offer beach chairs.

New Resource for Youth Navigating Through Life and Professionals who Support Youth

Introducing, [LIFELAUNCH](#) Missouri. **LIFELAUNCH** is a website created BY and FOR young people navigating the journey to adulthood as well as for those who are providing support along the way. It is a statewide resource hub filled with videos, resources, infographics, and messages of hope all centered around the common experiences of transitioning from adolescence into adulthood. This hub is dedicated to addressing and facilitating the essential aspects of this transformative journey to adulthood.

Explore [LIFELAUNCH](#) where you will find stories from youth about their journeys, find a variety of resources targeted toward wellness and gaining life skills, and links to resources that address mental health wellness, substance use, and the eight dimensions of wellness. Resource topics are available to assist with planning for housing, gaining more independence, finding employment, financial education and stability, nutrition, safety, and navigating adult healthcare. Professionals who work with youth will find resources that will help them support their efforts including connecting youth to peer support, how to build healthy relationships, working with parents/caregivers, and more.

State Offices Closed

State Offices will be closed Monday, May 26, 2025,
in observance of Memorial Day.

Stay Connected



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Regional Office Contact Information

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Developmental Disabilities | dmh.mo.gov
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