



Clicking on the **blue text** below takes you to the registration page for the meeting.

Webinars, Trainings and Workshops

1/22/26

Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health in IDD
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

2/3/26

Working Effectively with Autistic People
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

2/5/2026

Empowering Lifelong Employment: Tailored Strategies for Older Workers with IDD 2.0

3/10/26

Quarterly Benefits Presentation
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

4/24/26

Division of Behavioral Health Tech Summit

Ongoing Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the Month

Free MO Open Door Series Benefits for Individuals with IDD

4th Wednesday of the Month

Free MO Open Door Series Technology Workshops

DDD Monthly Nursing Meeting

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month

Brain Injury Association of Missouri Support Group

DDD Weekly

Director's Corner



Director Sheila Wunning

Hello everyone! I feel it around DDD, we're all coming down from the excitement of the holidays and settling back into our workflow. DDD staff are excited to watch the Governor's State of the State address this afternoon at 3:00 pm. You can view the event at [Mo Gov Live Stream](#). I encourage everyone to listen, so you are aware of the priorities Governor Kehoe has for the coming year.

How to Use DDD Weekly

DDD Weekly contains links to webinars, trainings, meetings and other websites with additional information about the topics covered in *DDD Weekly*. If you click on the **blue text**, it will direct you to another website where you can sign up for the meeting, learn more about the topic, and more. New information is added to the beginning of the newsletter. If you have questions about using *DDD Weekly*, please email ddmail@dmh.mo.gov.

Missouri Secures Major Funding for Rural Healthcare

Governor Mike Kehoe announced Missouri has been awarded more than \$216 million in federal funding through the [Rural Health Transformation \(RHT\) Program](#). The funding will expand access to care, improve quality and care coordination, and strengthen long-term sustainability of rural healthcare systems. The initiative supports collaboration among hospitals, clinics, community organizations, and state agencies to address health disparities and modernize services in rural communities across Missouri.

Self-Directed Supports New Fiscal Management Service Provider

DDD Self-Directed Supports (SDS) would like to announce that the contract for Fiscal Management Services has been awarded to Public Partnerships, LLC. Please visit our website, [DDD Self-Directed Supports Webpage](#) for updates on how this transition may impact individuals who use SDS.

Podcasts

[Growing Healthy Communities: Early Childhood Edition Podcast](#)

[Parents' Point of View \(PPOV\) Series](#)

Making Life Easier in the Kitchen: Using Technology to Meet Everyday Needs



The Missouri No Wrong Door Technology Series provides information on a variety of assistive technology resources that are available to help people complete everyday tasks or make it easier for them.

[Making Life Easier in the Kitchen](#) provides an overview of assistive technology that can help people plan and prepare meals. Topics included in this webinar recording include how to access online shopping for ingredients, finding recipes, using adaptive utensils to help with preparing meals, cooking, and using adaptive utensils to help make eating meals easier.

You can find this recording and many more on the [Missouri's No Wrong Door](#) website.

Call for Presentations

**Deadline for Submission:
March 6, 2026**



The [Real Voices/Real Choices \(RV/RC\)](#) conference committee is looking for inspiring and informative presentations to be shared at the next RV/RC conference, which is scheduled for August 23-25, 2026.

People with developmental disabilities/self-advocates, people in recovery, family members, and mental health professionals with lived experience are encouraged to share empowering presentations that promote individual choices in services and opportunities.

The conference committee encourages people to be creative and think about important topic areas that could be shared to help and connect with others. Example presentation topics could include:

- Peer Specialist and Support Services
- Autism
- Housing
- Assistive Technology
- Anger Management
- LBGTQ+
- Sobriety
- Grief
- Suicide Prevention
- Alternatives/Supported Decision-Making/Guardianship
- and more

All proposed presentations must be submitted to the conference committee no later than March 6, 2026. Visit the [Call for Presentations](#) webpage for more information and to submit a presentation idea.

Please reach out to Kailey Reeves at 573-751-3143 if you have any questions.

Employment Matters: Missouri Disability Benefits 101 (MO DB101)

Are you interested in becoming employed or advancing your career but worried about how employment may affect your disability benefits? Work and Benefits can go together.

Common myths often circulate about individuals with disabilities and employment. Myths such as: if I work, I will lose my SSI/SSDI benefits, if I work, I will lose my health care benefits, if I start working, Social Security will decide I'm not disabled anymore, or there are no resources that can help me.

The MO DB101 website provides free, Missouri-specific information and tools to help people make informed choices about employment and the connection between work and benefits. MO DB101 provides information to help you move past the myths and feel comfortable exploring employment options.

Visit [DB101 Missouri - Work & Benefits](#) for information about benefits programs and rules around work, estimators that help you set goals for work, and connections to resources.

Governor's Council on Disability Seeks Nominations for Annual Recognition Award



The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) is currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

The 2026 Youth Leadership Award recognizes young leaders with disabilities (age 16-26) who have made a positive impact on their communities through exceptional leadership qualities.

The 2026 Inclusion Award, which recognizes best practices and superior leadership in the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of community living.

Winners exemplify standards of excellence in leadership to enhance the lives of individuals living with disabilities

Nominations will be accepted until January 31, 2026. Visit the [State of Missouri Disability Portal | Governor's Council on Disability \(GCD\)](#) to learn more about eligibility criteria and to submit your nominations.

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Increase to DDD SCL Providers

Social Security has issued a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) beginning January 2026. This COLA will increase Social Security Income (SSI) benefits by 2.8%. As in the past, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will pass the increase on to DDD Supported Community Living (SCL) providers who deliver services under the following procedure codes:

- 41000W Residential Treatment 24 Hour(s)
- 41010W Room and Board - Non-Waiver 24 Hour(s)
- 41006W Residential Treatment - One Time 1 Month
- 43000W Residential Treatment - Variable Rate 1 Month

The increase will be applied to services provided starting January 2026. Contact your [Vendor Service Coordinator](#) if you have any questions.

Save the Date for Disability Rights Legislative Day: February 25, 2026, Rally 11 am to 12 pm Free for everyone to attend, in-person or virtually!



The event will be held in person and virtually. People with disabilities, their family members, and others can participate regardless of their location within the state. The more people that participate, the more we can advocate for what's important to us and show legislators why disability issues and our stories matter.

Disability Rights Legislative Day will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. A rally will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will feature an impressive lineup of speakers, including powerful disability advocates. Before or after the rally, in-person participants are encouraged to meet with their legislators and explore the Capitol.

Important MissouriBUYS information for TCMs, Service Providers – Action Needed

Missouri is in the process of moving to a new electronic system for purchasing, payments and other tasks. All entities that wish to receive payments from the state of Missouri (including DMH) must be fully registered in MissouriBUYS, powered by MOVERS, no later than **July 1, 2026**. MissouriBUYS powered by MOVERS is different than the former MissouriBUYS (WebProcure by

Proactis). You can register at [MissouriBUYS powered by MOVERS Registration](#). Registration can take 3 months or longer to complete, so please begin the process today. If an entity is not fully registered prior to **July 1, 2026**, DMH will not be able to make payments until the entity is registered. For more information, email MissouriBUYS@mo.gov.

Prohibited Practices, Limited Practices and Due Process

In February 2025, a statewide recorded webinar was held to provide details on the required components of due process. DDD's Chief Behavior Analyst and Director of Quality Programs Specialist (QPS) also hosted workshops in Kansas City, St. Louis, Maryville, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, Columbia, Jefferson City and to Starling, MACDDS and internal DDD groups to provide education on Prohibited Practices and Limited Practices requiring Due Process. Statewide workshops have been held continuously from February 2025 to the present, with a total of nine completed and one scheduled for December 2025. In addition to the workshops, regional QPS team members have provided ongoing education and technical assistance by holding due process trainings with providers and Support Coordinators, open office hours with TCMs and providers, and technical assistance through the Individual Rights Consultation process.

Statewide webinars will be hosted at the beginning of 2026 to provide additional education on individual rights and due process, with a focus on the required components of due process.

To request due process trainings, workshops, or open office hours, please complete an [Individual Rights Consultation](#) request.

For more information on individual rights, due process, and Individual Rights Consultation, please visit [Individual Rights and Due Process](#).

For information on prohibited practice, please email BSRC@dmh.mo.gov.

Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) Office Hours Update

We would like to inform you that the Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) Office Hours will be temporarily suspended due to low participation. However, we encourage you to continue sharing your questions, comments, and any considerations you may have at MODDHrstProject@dmh.mo.gov. Should there be renewed interest in the HRST Office Hours, we are committed to reinstating them on our schedule. Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to your continued engagement.

-The Missouri HRST Process Team

Governor's Council on Disability Legislative Education Project, Beginning in January 2026



The Missouri Governor's Council on Disability sponsors the Legislative Education Project (LEP) during the legislative session.

The purpose of the LEP is to educate and motivate individuals by providing opportunities to become more active in creating positive public policies for people with disabilities.

The LEP is available for individuals and organizations that are beginners and are new to the legislative process or need additional learning. These webinars will focus on disability policies or proposed legislation that impact people with disabilities.

In 2026, the LEP will consist of four separate webinars. Each one will discuss the legislative process, talk about communicating with legislators, and review current state bills related to disability. These webinars are FREE to participants and will be provided through Webex.

The dates and times for the webinars are set for:

February 5, 2026 (9:00am - 10:30am)
March 5, 2026 (9:00am - 10:30am)
March 26, 2026 (1:00pm - 2:30pm)

Participants must complete a [registration form](#).

All questions about the LEP can be emailed to [Laura Meuth](#) or 1-800-877-8249.



Division of Developmental Disabilities

ConneXion is a secure online system that helps providers, support coordinators, and teams share and access important information about individuals receiving Developmental Disabilities (DD) services.

Goal for ConneXion:

To create a simple, secure system that helps people who support individuals with developmental disabilities share important information—so everyone can work together to provide the best care and services.

What's Happening:

We're planning for the future of ConneXion! Right now, our team is writing a detailed plan—kind of like a shopping list—that explains what we need in a new system to better support individuals and meet state rules.

We hope to share this plan with technology companies in January 2026, so they can show us how they would build it.

What is FHIR?

FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) is a national standard that helps different computer systems safely share health and support information.



Goal for FHIR:

To make it easier for health care providers, support teams, and service systems to securely share important information, so individuals with developmental disabilities receive better, more connected care.

What's Happening:

Our team is building tools that help different computer systems “talk” to each other using FHIR. This makes it easier for doctors, providers, and support coordinators to share important information—like medical history or support plans.

We are working to share person-centered service plan data in real time through the Health Information Network (HIN) viewer. This will help teams quickly see the most up-to-date information for individuals receiving DD services.

We're aiming to have this ready to go live between January and February 2026.

State Offices Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday – January 19th

Lincoln's Birthday – February 12th

Washington's Birthday – February 16th

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