



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

**Webinars, Trainings and Workshops**

**4/2/26**  
[Tools of Choice](#)  
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**4/15/26**  
[Workforce Development Summit on Second Chance Hiring](#)  
 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**4/26/26**  
[Tools of Choice](#)  
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**5/6/26**  
[Tools of Choice](#)  
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**5/11/26 – 5/12/26**  
[Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities](#)

**5/19/26**  
[Tools of Choice](#)  
 1:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**6/3/26**  
[Tools of Choice](#)  
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**6/18/26**  
[Tools of Choice](#)  
 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**6/30/26**  
[Tools of Choice](#)  
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Ongoing Meetings**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month**

[Employment Community of Practice for Support Coordinators](#)  
 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month**

[Free MO Open Door Series Benefits for Individuals with IDD](#)

# DDD Weekly

## Director's Corner

### Dignity of Risk



Director Sheila Wunning

This week, I wanted to talk to you all about Dignity of Risk. Dignity of Risk is the idea that there is dignity in making decisions and learning from the outcomes. In life, there must be balance between health, safety and personal choice. Risk is a part of everyone's life and usually leads to learning and growth. Everyone should be able to make choices that impact their life with the necessary support and education. When supporting an individual with

IDD, limiting personal choice may happen in an effort to care for or protect the individual. For example, Joan, an individual with IDD, is expressing interest in getting a job. Joan's mother, her guardian, is very concerned about Joan having a job. Joan had a job before that she loved and was fired. Joan was very upset after being fired and had symptoms of depression. Joan's mother helped Joan get the care she needed to manage her symptoms of depression, and Joan is feeling herself again. Joan's mother does not want Joan to be upset again because of a job. How should Joan and her mother decide what to do? Below are three steps to help individuals and their care teams support individual choice and the dignity of risk.

1. Identify an individual's strengths, skills, and supports that could help in decision-making. Then, identify the possible negative outcomes.
2. Evaluate the likelihood of negative and positive outcomes. How do the positives and negatives weigh against each other?
3. Create a plan that reduces risk while supporting individual choice.

DDD plans to create additional training and resources around the dignity of risk in honor of Caitlin Bartley. Caitlin was born on October 11, 1990, and passed away on March 9, 2026. Caitlin was known for her intelligence, compassion, and strong sense of purpose. Caitlin began working for DDD in 2017, and most recently coordinated the National Core Indicators survey for Missouri. Caitlin was nearing the end of her doctoral work at the University of Missouri. Dignity of Risk was the topic of her dissertation.

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month

Free MO Open Door Series Technology Workshops

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month

Brain Injury Association of Missouri Support Group

Podcasts

Growing Healthy Communities: Early Childhood Edition Podcast

Parents' Point of View (PPOV) Series

NASDDDS Podcast  
The Right Questions, Better Support

## 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](mailto:ddmail@dmh.mo.gov).

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## Celebrating the Life and Contributions of Caitlin Bartley

The University of Missouri School of Social Work is honoring our colleague, Caitlin Bartley, during the MU wreath-laying ceremony on Friday, April 10 at 4:00PM.

[University of Missouri School of Social Work's Post](#)



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## Would you like to know how Employment First Missouri has assisted agencies across the state?

In the last three months of 2025, we provided services to over twenty agencies (employment providers and Targeted Case Management agencies). These activities included trainings on several topics such as job coaching, labor market information, and the ADA; helping agencies through guidance on program structure; and providing valuable mentoring hours.

If you would like more information on how Employment First Missouri can assist you and your agency, please visit our web site at: <https://www.employmentfirstmo.org/>



## Due Process Status Updates

Support Coordinators, Service Providers, and Guardians as listed on the DD Due Process Referral Form will start getting a weekly Due Process status update every Friday morning. If you are a Support Coordinator, Service Provider, or Guardian with multiple referrals submitted to the Due Process Review Committee (DPRC), you will get one email notification with all referrals listed along with the status. Once the referral is marked as "Process Completed", that referral will be listed on the following Friday's email and will then drop off.

Definitions of the "Referral Status":

- **Submitted:** The referral has been submitted to DPRC, but not yet gone through initial screening or been reviewed by the DPRC.
- **Submitted to Ad Hoc Review Panel:** The referral is submitted as an Emergency Restriction.
- **Screening:** The referral is going through the initial screening process. This is done prior to being reviewed by the DPRC to ensure all components are addressed.
- **Referred to Prohibited Practice:** Upon initial screening or during the DPRC a prohibited practice is discovered, it will be referred to the Behavior Support Review Committee by the Columbus DPRC.
- **Assigned to IRC:** The referral is not complete and needs assistance from the QPS Team to address required components and elements.
- **Assigned to DPRC:** Initial screening is complete. The referral is scheduled to be reviewed by the DPRC.
- **Closed by DPRC:** The referral has been reviewed by the DPRC.
- **Processing Complete:** All notifications have been made of the outcome of the screening or DPRC meeting. Columbus DPRC uses this to signal they are finished with the referral.
- **'blank':** The Submitter did not complete all parts of the referral. The referral stops as there is not enough information for the committee to move forward.

If you notice a referral on your list where the "Status" column is 'blank' and believe this is a mistake, please

email [DDDUEPROCESSCOMMITTEE@DMH.MO.GOV](mailto:DDDUEPROCESSCOMMITTEE@DMH.MO.GOV).

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## April is World Autism Month

### Autism Prevalence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) releases [ASD prevalence reports](#) from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network that are based on information collected from 11 communities across the United States. [CDC estimates that about 1 in 31 8-year-old children have been identified with ASD.](#)

The Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (MO-ADDM) was established in 2003. A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Missouri can be found in the [CDC Community Report on Autism 2025](#).

More information, including data, is available on the [CDC's ASD Homepage](#).

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### Tiered Supports Summit Call for Posters

The Annual Tiered Supports Summit is calling for posters! Has something interesting your organization has been working on? Want to share information on systems, events, trainings? Submit a poster proposal to the email below and come share it with providers, direct service personnel, therapists, support coordinators, TCM's, public administrators, and others from across the state of Missouri, and bordering states! Have an idea, but not sure where to start?! Our team can support you in building and showcasing your ideas!

Topics could include:

- Building a system in your organization
- Data you'd like to share
- Training events
- New ideas for supporting individuals

The deadline for submissions is May 17<sup>th</sup>

The date of the Summit is: August 20th and 21st at the Wyndham Executive Center.

If you are selected to present a poster, it is required that you or a representative are present at the event.

Reach out to [PSC@Dmh.mo.gov](mailto:PSC@Dmh.mo.gov) for details on submission.

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## Documentation Requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services

All ABA services must be documented in accordance with the definitions of adequate documentation and adequate records in [13 CSR 70-3.030\(2\)\(A\)](#). Services must be documented in the health record within five business days to be considered timely.

The licensed behavior analyst must co-sign progress notes for services rendered by behavior technicians (BTs) or registered behavior technicians (RBTs). The rendering provider National Provider Identifier (NPI) submitted on the claim should match either:

- The NPI of the person delivering the service, or
- The licensed and enrolled supervisor (for services performed by BTs/RBTs)

Please review [13 CSR 70-98.030\(7\)](#), for ABA treatment plan specific requirements. The MO HealthNet Division (MHD) recommends the ABA session note templates developed by The Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP). The [templates are available for download](#) after completing free online CEU eligible training. Providers are responsible for ensuring documentation meets all MHD regulatory requirements. Templates may need modification to comply fully (for example, adding a licensed behavior analyst co-signature for BT/RBT services as required by MHD). Providers are encouraged to [self-audit](#) to improve documentation quality and compliance. Failure to adequately document services could result in post-payment recoupment. For questions, contact [MHD.BehavioralHealth@dss.mo.gov](mailto:MHD.BehavioralHealth@dss.mo.gov).

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## Previously Featured in *DDD Weekly*

### **2026 Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (CDT) Additions/Changes**

Effective March 1, 2026, MO Healthnet will cover cognitive assessments and care planning for a clinical visit of participants living with cognitive impairment that results in a comprehensive care plan. This includes those who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementias, or mild cognitive impairment.

Any MO Healthnet-enrolled practitioner who is eligible to report evaluation and management services may be reimbursed for this service.

For more information, please visit the [New Cognitive Assessment and Care Planning Service Provider Bulletin](#).

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### **Fiscal Management Service Contract**

The Fiscal Management Service Contract award to Public Partnership LLC was protested. After review, the protest was upheld. The Office of Administration will post the Request for Proposal on the MO Buys website. All FMS transition activities have ended.

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### **Partners In Policymaking**

[Partners in Policymaking](#) - Partners is a leadership training program designed for advocates and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. The program is based on a national model that began in Minnesota over 25 years ago. The goal of Partners is to develop productive partnerships between people who need and use services and those who are in a position to make policies and laws.

Partners graduates are in a position to help change these policies and laws through the knowledge they gain through participation in the program. They will have opportunities to meet and talk with national leaders in developmental disabilities and to become acquainted with and connected to organizations, opportunities, and endless possibilities.

The program provides information and the development of skills around current issues, state-of-the-art approaches and best practices, and policymaking and legislative processes at local, state and national levels.

Be sure to check out the [MO DDD & You Webinar from October 2025: Partners in Policymaking](#) to learn more.

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## Missouri Achieving a Better Life Experience (MO ABLE Program)

The MO ABLE program, administered by the Missouri State Treasurer's Office, allows individuals with disabilities to save up to \$19,000 per year, tax-free, without losing federal benefits like Medicaid and Social Security Income (SSI). To learn more about the MO ABLE program and to take an eligibility quiz, visit [MOABLE](#).

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## Charting the LifeCourse

Planning with people who have intellectual/developmental disabilities is essential in helping them achieve the life they desire. Through the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) offers planning tools and resources to anyone involved in planning for themselves or with others to reach their Good Life. Using the CtLC tools can help people organize their ideas, vision, and goals. Explore the tools, learning videos, and supporting resources on the LifeCourse Tools website, [Charting the LifeCourse Learning](#).

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## Missouri Assistive Technology

The mission of [Missouri Assistive Technology](#) is to increase access to assistive technology for Missourians with all types of disabilities, of all ages. Programs and services of Missouri Assistive Technology are directed by the Missouri Assistive Technology Council, which was established by state statute in 1993. The Council is charged to serve as an advocate for policies, regulations and programs to establish a person-responsive, comprehensive assistive technology service delivery system. The Council meets at least four times a year, reports annually to the Governor and the general assembly on Council activities to increase access to assistive technology, and provides programmatic direction for all activities and services.

In State FY 2023, Missouri Assistive Technology provided 8,231 assistive devices and delivered AT services to 22,185 Missourians with disabilities, family members, advocates, educators, health care professionals, and others.

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## Person-Centered Thinking Training – IntellectAbility

Register today for the one-day Person-Centered Thinking Training, the follow-up to the Person-Centered Thinking eLearn course.

Attendees are trained in essential person-centered practices that respect the autonomy of those with Intellectual and developmental disabilities while providing them with the highest possible level of care.

- Learn the fundamental skill sets of person-centered thinking
- Learn the tools and techniques that support people's hopes, dreams, and values without neglecting health and safety
- Acquire Observation, Problem-solving, and Management skills
- Creating and effectively using a Person-Centered Description

To register, visit - [One-Day Virtual PCT Training - Missouri - IntellectAbility](#)

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## Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Center (SARTAC)

**SARTAC** - The mission of the Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) is to strengthen the self-advocacy movement by supporting self-advocacy organizations to grow leadership opportunities for all their members. At SARTAC, self-advocacy is a top priority. They share resources on current issues and organizational matters, and they are always updating them to help you or your organization. They are currently accepting applications for their 2026 fellowship program.

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## People First of Missouri

People First of Missouri is a self-advocacy organization in Missouri that has local affiliated chapters across the state. People First of Missouri is a nonprofit organization that promotes equality for people with disabilities so they can live the lives they want in their communities. Learn more about [People First of Missouri](#) and find local chapters by visiting their website or following them on Facebook.

Be sure to check out the [MO DDD & You Webinar from April 2025: Let's Talk about People First](#) to learn more.

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## Post-Discharge Hospital Reimbursement Agreement and Attestation

Post-Discharge Hospital Reimbursement Agreement and Attestation. Limited funding is available for hospitals to receive reimbursement of expenditures related to extended stays of qualifying individuals receiving Department of Mental Health (DMH) services. Reimbursement is considered for individuals eligible for hospital discharge but not discharged for a specified period of time due to a lack of availability within an appropriate community placement. The eligibility criteria for individuals and the required documentation are outlined in the Post-Discharge Hospital Reimbursement Memo.

DMH will accept reimbursement requests at [DMH.PPD.Payment@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:DMH.PPD.Payment@dmh.mo.gov) between April 1, 2026, and April 30, 2026.

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## Employment First MO Advisory Committee



Do you know a self-advocate who would be interested in serving on the **Employment First MO Advisory Committee**?

This commitment consists of attending four 90-minute virtual meetings per year with a diverse group of employment services and DD professionals. Input from persons with disabilities who have experience accessing various services/systems is **vital** as we discuss how to increase positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Please consider recommending a self-advocate to share their voice via this committee! Anyone interested may contact Leslie Quarles at [Leslie.Quarles@umb.edu](mailto:Leslie.Quarles@umb.edu) for more information.

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## **WeSaid at the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)**

The University of Missouri-Kansas City's Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD) is the federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) for the state of Missouri. It is a member of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and one of 67 UCEDDs located in every state and United States territory. As an applied research and training center for human services at UMKC, the IHD reports to the Office of the Provost and serves as a bridge between the university and community. They identify and address individual, family, and community needs with a focus on building long-term capacity. They work with a wide variety of partners across all levels — local, state, regional and national — tackling persistent challenges people and families face throughout the life span, from infancy to late adulthood. They focus on community and social belonging for all, striving to improve people's overall quality of life.

**WeSaid** at the UCEDD supports people with lived experience in developmental disabilities through numerous channels, including:

- **WeSaid Speakers' Bureau** – Find your next keynote speaker or share your story or expertise.
  - **Candace's Corner (Podcast)** – Shares information on important topics for people with lived experience in developmental disabilities.
  - **Take FIVE with Skye (Video Series)** – Five-minute episodes, hosted by Skye VanLanduyt, feature people with and without disabilities telling stories about resilience, empowerment and feeling self-determined throughout the human journey.
  - **WeSaid Academy (Training and Technical Assistance Center)** – Offers training for and by individuals with lived experience to promote advocacy, self-determination and independence.
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## Missouri Open Door FREE Workshop Series

Missouri Open Door (MOD) hosts both a FREE **Government Benefit** and a **Technology Workshop Series**. Each series offers a virtual monthly workshop focused on a specific topic area. Each workshop shares ideas and solutions that can be used immediately. These virtual workshops are open to anyone who wants to learn more about the topic, is looking for a resource, or needs help for themselves or someone they support.

The MOD Benefit Series focuses on Government Benefits and is held on the second Wednesday of each month from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

Upcoming workshop topics for 2026 include (**click on each topic to register**):

- April 8th: [Brain Injury Association of Missouri](#)
- May 13th: [Community Behavioral Health Liaisons & Behavioral Health Crisis Centers](#)
- June 10th: [Centers for Independent Living](#)
- July 8th: [Vocational Rehabilitation](#)
- August 12th: [How Medicare fits into Long-Term Care](#)
- September 9th: [Show Me Home Program](#)
- October 14th: [Medicare Open Enrollment for 2027](#)
- November 4th: [Special Health Care Needs Programs](#)

The MOD **Technology Series** focuses on assistive technology and other items that can enhance daily life. The Technology Series is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

- April 22nd: [Smart Homes for Safety, Comfort, and Control](#)
- May 27th: [Parenting Made Easier: Tools, Strategies and Supports](#)
- June 24th: [Removing Barriers to Computer Access](#)
- July 22nd: [Comfort and Confidence for Personal Care](#)
- August 26th: [Adaptive Crafting for All](#)
- September 23rd: [AT for Transitions: Are You Ready?](#)
- October 28th: [Giving People a Voice with Low Tech AAC](#)
- November 18th: [And the Award Goes To... Best AT of 2026](#)

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### State Offices Closed

Truman Day, Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

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Sign up below to receive the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities DDD Weekly newsletter by text or email and follow us on social media.



 **Get DDD Updates**