



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

### Webinars, Trainings and Workshops

**5/21/26**  
**Family Caregiver Well-being**  
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**5/26/26**  
**MO DDD & You: DD Health Home Program Overview & Updates**  
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**5/26/26**  
**Tier 2 Workshop: Enriched Environments**  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**5/28/26**  
**Beyond Compliance: Making Due Process Meaningful**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**6/3/26**  
**Tools of Choice**  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**6/7/26**  
**Self-advocates Input Session on Work and Retirement**  
10:00 a.m.

**6/7/26**  
**Self-advocates Input Session on Work and Retirement**  
1:00 p.m.

**6/8/26**  
**Self-advocates Input Session on Work and Retirement**  
6:00 p.m.

**6/8/26**  
**Certification of Medication Aides Code of State Regulation Proposed Amendment-Public Engagement**  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**6/9/26**  
**Certification of Medication Aides Code of State Regulation**

# DDD Weekly

## Director's Corner



Director Sheila Wunning

Hello everyone! This week, I am so happy to celebrate DMH's Director, Val Huhn. Director Huhn has been selected to serve on the national Healthcare Advisory Committee. She is 1 of 18 members selected through a competitive process of more than 400 nominations nationwide. Members of the Committee will serve two-year terms and meet regularly throughout the year at open, public meetings. The Committee will advise the U.S. Department of Health and Senior Services, DHSS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz on improving care delivery and financing across major federal health care programs.

Director Huhn provides stellar leadership in Missouri and at the national level through her service on the CMS Home and Community-Based Services Access Workgroup and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). As President of the NASDDDS Board of Directors, she has helped guide the association's efforts to support state systems serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with a strong emphasis on innovation, cross-system collaboration, and practical strategies that strengthen person-centered supports. Her leadership has helped elevate state perspectives in national conversations on Medicaid, workforce, technology, and system transformation.

"Val brings exceptional leadership, deep policy expertise, and a strong commitment to improving systems of support for people and families," said NASDDDS Executive Director Mary Sowers. "Through her leadership in Missouri and her service to NASDDDS, she has consistently advanced thoughtful, forward-looking approaches that strengthen public systems and improve lives. We are thrilled to see her selected for this important role and know she will bring an invaluable perspective to the Committee's work."

It has been my honor to work with Director Huhn in Missouri's DD service delivery system; I have seen firsthand the improvements in care she has brought to Missourians through her work with DDD. I am thrilled that she will now have an even greater opportunity to use her leadership and expertise to improve health care throughout our nation.

Proposed Amendment-  
Public Engagement  
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

6/10/26  
Certification of  
Medication Aides Code  
of State Regulation  
Proposed Amendment –  
Public Engagement  
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

6/15/26  
Beyond Compliance:  
Making Due Process  
Meaningful  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

6/18/26  
Tools of Choice  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

6/30/26  
Employment First  
Missouri – Self-  
advocates Input Session  
on Work and Retirement  
10:00 a.m.

6/30/26  
Employment First  
Missouri – Self-  
advocates Input Session  
on Work and Retirement  
1:00 p.m.

6/30/26  
Employment First  
Missouri –  
Professionals' Input  
Session on Work and  
Retirement for  
Individuals with IDD  
2:30 p.m.

6/30/26  
Beyond Compliance:  
Making Due Process  
Meaningful  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

6/30/26  
Tools of Choice  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

7/7/26  
Professionals' Input  
Session on Work and  
Retirement for  
Individuals with IDD  
2:30 p.m.

## How to Use DDD Weekly

*DDD Weekly* includes links to webinars, training sessions, meetings and other websites with additional information on 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).

---

## Beyond Compliance: Making Due Process Meaningful

This isn't your standard checkbox training. This training dives past policy language and into what due process is actually meant to do: protect people, preserve dignity, and support safety and real-life outcomes. You'll break down Missouri-specific HCBS expectations, explore real-world scenarios (the kind that don't fit neatly in a template), and learn how to define least restrictive limitations that are clear, and most importantly, person-centered.

Expect practical strategies for developing complete components of a due process referral and problem-solving difficult scenarios. By the end, due process won't feel like a hurdle to clear; it'll feel like a tool teams can use with purpose to determine least restrictive safety precautions.

Training courses will be held quarterly at various locations across the state.

**Hosted by:** Quality Programs Specialist and Tier III

### Locations:

May 28, 2026, 10 am-12 pm: St. Joseph, MO: [Registration Link](#)

June 15, 2026, 10 am-12 pm: St. Louis, MO: [Registration Link](#)

June 30, 2026, 10 am-12 pm: Columbia, MO: [Registration Link](#)

**Question:** If you have any questions, please reach out to Rachelle Moffat at [rachelle.moffat@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:rachelle.moffat@dmh.mo.gov)

---

7/8/26

Employment First  
Missouri- Self-advocates  
Input Session on Work  
and Retirement  
6:00 p.m.

7/8/26

Professionals' Input  
Session on Work and  
Retirement for People  
with IDD  
9:30 a.m.

7/8/26

Employment First  
Missouri –  
Professionals' Input  
Session on Work and  
Retirement for People  
with IDD  
9:30 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

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

## Dates Changed - Certification of Medication Aides Code of State Regulation Proposed Amendment- Public Engagement

Division of Developmental Disabilities Statewide Clinical Coordinator, Leslie DeGroat, will review the proposed amendment to the Certification of Medication Aides Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities regulation. There will be three different opportunities for the public to listen in and comment.

**Monday, June 8, 2026, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 9:00 am to 10:00 am**

**Thursday, June 10, 2026, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm**



**NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE  
FOR SUPPORTING FAMILIES**

The National Collaborative for Supporting Families  
Presents the Best Practice Series

Topic: ***Family Caregiver Well-Being***

Thursday, May 21, 2026

1:00 pm-2:30 pm

FREE

In this session, presenters will discuss innovative research, initiatives, and resources to improve the well-being of family caregivers.

During this session, participants will hear from Sumithra Murthy, University of Illinois-Chicago: Stive to Thrive; Preethy Samuel, Wayne State University: Caregiver Well-Being and Family Quality of Life Research; and Kelly Hsieh, University of Illinois-Chicago: WAVE Program.

**Register for this webinar.**

## Previously Featured in *DDD Weekly*

### Podcasts

Growing Healthy  
Communities: Early  
Childhood Edition  
Podcast

Parents' Point of View  
(PPOV) Series

NASDDDS Podcast  
The Right Questions,  
Better Support



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. Using the CtLC tools can help people organize their ideas, vision, and goals. DDD staff member, Lisa Nothaus, was awarded the Crystal Bell Charting the LifeCourse award. The LifeCourse Nexus team presents this award and honors an individual who embodies the spirit, values, and authenticity that Crystal Bell brought to everything she did. To view the tools, you can visit: [Charting the LifeCourse Tools](#). Congratulations to Lisa!

---

## Relias Users – Attention Needed

On May 21, 2026, Relias will be transitioning to a new security platform. After May 21, 2026, updates will be required if your organization uses an “IP Allow List” to control network activity.

### What You Need to Do:

- Click the diagnostic link below to help determine if an IP Allow List needs to be updated.
- Please do this while connected to your organization’s network on a work computer. Using a different location or connection method (for example, VPN or hotspot) will not be a valid test.
- If the page loads, you can expect continued access to Relias from the test device and network without further action.
- If the page does not load, please partner with your IT and Information Security teams and contact Relias Support as soon as possible for details about the required changes, so we can help ensure uninterrupted access.
- Please forward this communication as a courtesy to your IT and Information Security teams for their information and review.

### IP Allow List Test

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don’t hesitate to reach out to our Support team via [Relias Connect](#).

---

## Employment Matters: Missouri Job Centers



**Missouri Job Centers** can be a great resource for assisting individuals with their employment needs, in conjunction with services being received from the Division of Developmental Disabilities and service providers. Job Center services include **job search workshops**, employer connections and local sector initiatives, training and education, and access to local labor market data to understand hiring trends better. Outreach to your local **Job Center** to discuss how to partner with them and how you can support individuals in using the Job Center’s services.

---

## Registration for the 2026 APSE Missouri Annual Employment Summit is Open!



The 2026 **APSE Missouri Annual Employment Summit** is taking place **July 23–24, 2026**, at the **Courtyard by Marriott** in **Columbia, Missouri!**

This year's 2-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. Over two powerful days, we'll share best practices, innovative strategies, and inspiring success stories that are driving inclusive employment forward.

### What to Expect:

- Dynamic keynote speakers
- Engaging breakout sessions
- Networking with peers and experts
- Tools and resources to strengthen your work

Whether you're a provider, policymaker, self-advocate, family member, or employer, this summit is for you. Let's come together to learn, connect, and keep pushing toward a future where employment is for **everyone**. [Follow this link to register or learn more.](#)

---

## Call for Breakout Session Proposals: Starling Conference 2026

Starling, Missouri's statewide association of IDD providers, is seeking outstanding breakout session proposals for its annual leadership conference. This year's theme is "Rooted in Purpose: Leading with Intention," and will take place on **November 17–18, 2026**, at the Branson Convention Center.

This is an event for Missouri professionals from the disability field, but topics don't need to be IDD-specific. They're looking for dynamic, 40-minute sessions that inspire and equip executives, managers, and emerging leaders in a mission-forward career of service. If you have a compelling idea, an innovation, or expertise that helps leaders navigate today's challenges, this is your platform.

Submit a proposal here: [Breakout Presentation Proposal Form](#).

---

## **Missouri Department of Economic Development Regulatory Relief Office**

The Department of Economic Development's [Regulatory Relief Office](#) administers Missouri's [General Regulatory Sandbox Program](#), allowing businesses to pilot innovative products or services in a monitored setting without being burdened by certain state regulations. Participating companies receive temporary waivers and support through a streamlined application process—helping them enter the market faster, lower risk, and foster innovation. Businesses and entrepreneurs can also submit suggestions through the [Regulatory Relief Suggestion Box](#) to highlight outdated or cumbersome rules. Insights from the sandbox help shape long-term regulatory reform, making Missouri's business environment more competitive and forward-thinking.

---

### **CMS Contractor, CoventBridge, Provider Audits**

The Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance Unit (MMAC) is responsible for oversight and auditing compliance with Medicaid Title XIX, CHIP Title XXI, and Medicaid Waiver Programs in Missouri.

MMAC has stated that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), through its contractor CoventBridge, Inc., may randomly select several Missouri providers to participate in a Medicaid integrity audit.

If CoventBridge, Inc. contacts you, respond promptly. Please ensure your organization receives information directly from DSS by signing up for MO DSS Email Updates. For more detailed information, please go to: [Maintaining Compliance with Medicaid Program Requirements](#).

---

## The Missouri Commission on Autism Update

The Missouri Commission on Autism is charged with developing an “Autism Roadmap for Missouri” that spans a person’s lifespan living with autism. The roadmap includes best practices for care and services within health care, education, vocational support, and community resources, and highlights opportunities for improvement. Work is being conducted in four phases:

1. Transitioning to adulthood
2. Screening, Diagnosis, and Early Interventions for Young Children with Autism
3. Access to care
4. Complex Behavioral Needs and Crisis Care

The commission is currently drafting recommendations for Phase IV.

For more information, check out the Missouri Autism Commission on the Office of Autism [webpage](#).

---

## DDD MOCDD Team

The DDD MOCDD Team offers assistance for the MO Children's Developmental Disabilities (MOCDD) Waiver Request Process in two ways.

Technical Assistance: Support Coordinators can reach out to request help or consult with the team on completing a MOCDD Waiver Request Process packet.

Completion of Full Packet: Support coordinators, individuals and families can request that the DDD MOCDD Team complete the entire MOCDD Waiver Request Process.

Support coordinators or individuals and families who would like assistance or more information can email [MOCDDES@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:MOCDDES@dmh.mo.gov).

---

## 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](#)):

- 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.

- 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](#)

---

### State Offices Closed

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

Juneteenth, Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

---

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**

