



**Rhode Island Division of Developmental Disabilities
Community Forum**

**November 9, 2016 -- 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Cherry Hill Manor Nursing and Rehab Center
2 Cherry Hill Road, Johnston, RI 02919**

State Leadership in Attendance:

Rebecca Boss, BHDDH Acting Director
Mary Madden, Consent Decree Coordinator
Brian Gosselin, OHHS Senior Strategy Officer
Tracey Cunningham, Associate Director of Employment
Heather Mincey, DD Administrator
Anne LeClerc, Associate Director of Program Performance
Kathy Kushnir, Chief of Policy and Legislation
Linda Reilly, Chief Community Relations Officer

Director Search Update- BHDDH Acting Director Boss

The application period for the DD Director has ended. Listening forums were held, organized by stakeholders, and the Division had received emails with suggestions on qualities that are needed for an effective DD Director. Feedback was consistent with comments hoping that the new Director will be someone with hands on experience in the DD field, good with communication, and a deep understanding of government. The process began with 62 applicants; there are now seven candidates. Search Committee will begin second-round interviews very soon.

Consent Decree – Mary Madden

The focus on the Consent Decree continues to center on employment outcomes, the increase of community supports for people in their day programs, and working to increase the number of individuals with career development plans. Additionally, there has been emphasis on the identification of youth in transition and the need to work on increasing services to them. BHDDH is committed to working towards determining eligibility at a much younger age and dedicate a transition coordinator to streamline the process.

Employment- Tracey Cunningham

The Division has 23 providers who have expressed interest in a supported employment incentive program. A “provider fair” would be helpful for individuals to learn which providers are involved and allows for face-to-face communication about supported employment. More information on this initiative will be shared as available.

Application, Eligibility, and SIS Process – Brian Gosselin and Heather Mincey

The Division has been working to clear the backlog of pending applications for services. Missing documentation has been the biggest issue with clearing the backlog. A revamp of the application will be done to improve the process for determining eligibility.

This month, the Division is moving to a new form of the SIS, the SIS-A. A training session for individuals, families and providers was scheduled for November 17th. Along with this move to the SIS-A, we are considering moving to a longer cycle in between assessments - from 3 years to 5 years – but no decisions have been made. After much research including a review of best practices in other states, the Division decided to move to this version of the SIS and believes it will be a better, more accurate tool that will also capture information not previously captured by the SIS. We are committed to strengthening the assessment process and making it more transparent for everyone going forward.