

# INvision

## Indiana Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services Newsletter

### HOPE NOTES

## A message from Director Kylee Hope

*Disability doesn't dictate a person's potential for success*



All too often, children and adults with disabilities are underestimated and presumed to be incapable of achieving success comparable to their typically developing peers. While having a disability may result in additional challenges, it certainly does not dictate a person's potential for success.

Success is defined by the person you are speaking to. We all view our own achievements and goals towards success differently. This is particularly true for employment. No matter how you measure success in employment, there are some things we can do as parents, siblings, friends and a community to increase employability skills and employment opportunities for individuals who happen to have a disability.

**EXPECT MORE:** Setting the expectation that an individual will work as an adult gives the child with a disability the confidence and motivation to pursue their interests and goals. These expectations can be communicated through chores, small jobs from family and friends, educational experiences that enhance vocational skills, and through their own decision-making. Creating these opportunities fosters responsibility, builds independence and enhances self-determination.

**EXPERIENCES:** Provide opportunities for a child/adult with a disability to explore their interests at every life stage. This can be through pretend play, community groups and events, volunteerism, educational experience in school and out of school, and post-secondary education. Many young adults change their career paths several times before finding the right fit for them. This is true for young adults with disabilities as well. Don't let this discourage them or you.

**TRY, TRY AGAIN:** Everyone has skills and talents! It becomes a matter of finding and enhancing those talents for you or your child. Define what successful employment means to you and come up with a plan on how to achieve the goal. Keeping in mind that the plans should be fluid and flexible for changes in interest, skills and desires. Failures along the way should be expected. Failures are actually important; we learn from them and grow. One mistake or deviation from the original plan should not be a reason to stop moving forward on your pathway to success.

Employment in the community doesn't have to be only a part- or full-time position. It can be working only a few hours a week or starting your own business. No matter what, individuals with disabilities must have the same opportunities to work in the community as everyone else. Individuals with disabilities are a talent segment that can make a real impact in today's labor force and economy. At DDRS, we strive to foster environments and services that allow for an individual to work towards and achieve their visions for a good life.

*Kylee B. Hope*

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### STORIES IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- **Bureau Bits:** Updates from your First Steps, Bureau of Developmental Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation teams
- **Featured Story:** Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation program order of selection myth busters
- **Making the LifeCourse Work for You:** Exploring the life domain: Daily Life & Employment
- **Events You Don't Want to Miss:** The Task Force for Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities meetings
- **News You Can Use:** An article from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center on how families can become active team members

## First Steps Early Intervention Program

The Indiana State First Steps Early Intervention Program now offers an easy online payment option for families. First Steps families can visit **First Steps**, click the “make a First Steps payment” button and pay their family cost participation fees.

Once the payment is processed, families will have the option to print a receipt or have one emailed to them. There is a small fee of \$1.00 plus two percent of the fee to process payments online.



## Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS)

The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) introduces Building Bridges events, which are new opportunities for families and self-advocates to meet and speak with BDDS’ state staff. These sessions are an important part of the bureau’s efforts to create direct avenues for individuals and families to share their feedback. These meetings are solely for families and individuals with disabilities to provide a forum for constructive and valuable conversations on successes, concerns, as well as suggestions or input regarding BDDS programs and services.

At each meeting, state staff will provide brief updates from the bureau as well as field questions about services and programs administered by BDDS. It is the desire of BDDS that these meetings will allow for meaningful conversations that result in positive outcomes and stronger relationships. We hope you will join us!

All meetings will be from 6–8 p.m. local time. Upcoming scheduled dates and locations:

- Aug. 9: Plymouth Public Library, 201 North Center St., Plymouth
- Aug. 16: Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne
- Aug. 28: Kokomo-Howard County Public Library South, 1755 E. Center Road, Kokomo
- Sept. 13: Crown Point Community Library, 122 N. Main St., Crown Point
- Sept. 20: Easterseals Crossroads, 4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis

## Vocational Rehabilitation Services

The Commission on Rehabilitation Services works with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services’ Vocational Rehabilitation Services on matters involving Vocational Rehabilitation policies and procedures, goals and priorities and the effectiveness and customer satisfaction with the services provided to individuals participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

The commission is comprised of a group of citizens appointed by the governor

representing the disability community. These meetings are open to the public. The next two meetings are as follows:

- Aug. 10; 12–3 p.m.; BOSMA Enterprises, 6270 Corporate Drive, Indianapolis
- Nov. 2; 12–3 p.m.; Meeting location TBA

For more information, [visit here](#).



## FEATURED STORY

# Vocational Rehabilitation Order of Selection Myth Busters

*Separating fact from myth regarding assessments to determine level of severity*

As most of you know, the Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation program implemented an order of selection on Aug. 1, 2017. Under the order of selection, once an individual is determined eligible for the Vocational Rehabilitation program, Vocational Rehabilitation completes an assessment to determine level of severity. Based on level of severity, an eligible individual will fall under one of three priority categories. Individuals determined to meet the criteria for priority

category one, most significant disability, will work with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor to develop an individualized plan for employment and receive necessary services to achieve their employment outcome. Eligible individuals who do *not* meet the criteria for priority category one are deferred for services. To find the office nearest you to discuss the application and eligibility process, visit [here](#).

**MYTH** *Only a small percentage of eligible Vocational Rehabilitation participants meet the criteria for priority category one.*

**FACT** About 70 percent of eligible individuals are determined to meet the criteria for priority category one. The term “most significant disability” can be misleading. You may be surprised to learn that those in priority category one are a very diverse group of individuals with a wide range of barriers and needs.

**MYTH** *If an individual thinks they might be deferred for Vocational Rehabilitation services because they do not meet criteria for priority category one, they should not apply.*

**FACT** Individuals with disabilities who believe they need assistance from Vocational Rehabilitation to prepare for, obtain, maintain or advance in employment are encouraged to apply for Vocational Rehabilitation.

**There are two important factors to keep in mind when considering an application to Vocational Rehabilitation:**

1. Only VR can determine the eligibility and level of severity for a Vocational Rehabilitation applicant. Remember, 70 percent of individuals are determined to meet the criteria for priority category one.
2. Individuals who are deferred can still benefit from applying to Vocational Rehabilitation and meeting with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor. How?
  - a. During an intake meeting with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, applicants learn about other organizations and resources that may be able to assist with their needs (resources are available [here](#)).
  - b. When Vocational Rehabilitation is able to begin serving individuals who have been deferred, those individuals are served in order of their application date. In other words, those Vocational Rehabilitation-eligible individuals who have been deferred will be served sooner than new applicants who are just beginning the process.

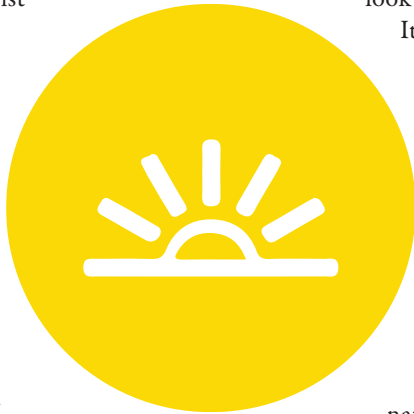


# Making the LifeCourse Work for You

*Let's explore the life domain: Daily Life & Employment*

Daily life and employment is what you do as part of everyday life. Exploring where you are now and where you want to be in the future can assist you in developing a plan of services and supports. First you will want to look at WHERE you spend your day or want to spend your days. This can be school, child care, home, at a job, etc. It is important to also think about HOW you spend your days. Routines, modes of communication, life skills and volunteering are a few examples.

Charting the LifeCourse offers a Daily



Life & Employment guide designed to help transition-aged youth and families explore what daily life is going to look like after high school.

It includes activities and resources to consider when discussing jobs, careers or continuing education. This guide can be found here.

As a companion to the guide, they also offer a six part video series intended to provide further explanation and ideas on how to move closer to the vision of a good life. You can find the video series at **LifeCourse Tools**.



**Daily Life and Employment:** What a person does as part of everyday life – school, employment, volunteering, communication, routines and life skills.



**Community Living:** Where and how someone lives—housing and living options, community access, transportation, home adaptation and modification.



**Safety and Security:** Staying safe and secure—finances, emergencies, well-being, decision making supports, legal rights and issues.



**Healthy Living:** Managing and accessing health care and staying well—medical, mental health, behavior, developmental, wellness and nutrition.



**Social and Spirituality:** Building friendships and relationships, leisure activities, personal networks and faith community.



**Citizenship and Advocacy:** Building valued roles, making choices, setting goals, assuming responsibility and driving how one's own life is lived.

For more information on the LifeCourse framework and principles, visit: [www.lifecoursetools.com](http://www.lifecoursetools.com).



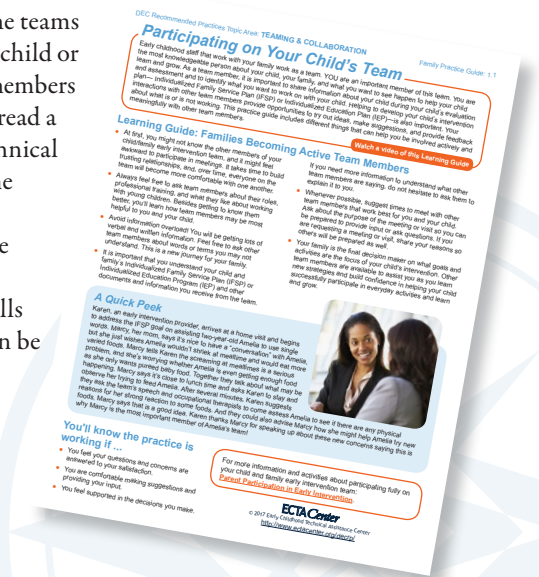
## NEWS YOU CAN USE

# Participating on Your Child's Team

*Learning Guide: families becoming active team members*

Families serve as important members of the teams working to provide care and services for their child or loved one. Communication among all team members is vital to successful intervention services. To read a helpful article from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center on how families can become active team members, [click here](#).

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center also offers easy-to-read practice guides for families to recognize and develop their skills when working within a team. These guides can be found here.





## Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

Written comments are always accepted and encouraged. Written comments can be emailed to **Kristina Blankenship** or mailed to:

**Indiana Family and Social Services Administration**  
**Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services**  
402 W. Washington St., W453/MS 26  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
ATTN: Kristina Blankenship

If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in meetings, please submit your request via email to **Kristina Blankenship** or by phone at 800-545-7763 at least 48 hours in advance.

You can sign up to receive this newsletter by [clicking here](#).

You can receive other updates from DDRS by [visiting here](#).

The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) is a program of the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration. If you have questions about DDRS programs and services, [visit us online](#).

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## EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

# Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

*The task force wants to hear from families and individuals with disabilities: This is YOUR chance to share your story*



The Task Force for Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities was established by House Enrolled Act 1102 in the 2017 session of the Indiana General Assembly. Meetings are being held around the state for the purpose of gathering input and preparing a comprehensive plan for implementation of community-based services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is YOUR chance to share your story. The task force wants to hear

from families and individuals with disabilities. This is an opportunity to share what services are working well, what barriers you are facing, ideas you have for improvements, and what you would like services to look like. Every comment is appreciated and taken into advisement when the task force develops a plan for implementation of services. Due to time constraints comments are limited to two minutes. Here are a few tips to sharing your story:

- Prepare ahead of time. This will help you to organize your thoughts and ensure that you don't forget anything.
- Use your own style. You may choose to read something you wrote, you may choose to have highlights on note cards as a reference, or you may choose to just speak from the heart.
- Breathe and relax. Your story is important and sharing it provides valuable information to the task force.

The dates, times and locations of the last four meetings are:

### Wed., Aug. 22, 2018

11 a.m.–3 p.m. EDT  
IU Southeast  
University Center Hoosier Rm.  
4201 Grant Line Road  
New Albany

### Wed., Aug. 29, 2018

Time TBD  
Indiana Govt. Center South,  
Conference Rm. B  
302 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis

### Wed., Sept. 19, 2018

11 a.m.–3 p.m. EDT  
Indiana Govt. Center South,  
Conference Rm. B  
302 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis

### Wed., Oct. 17, 2018

11 a.m.–3 p.m. EDT  
Peabody Public Library  
1160 E. S.R. 205  
Columbia City

For more information about the task force, please [visit here](#).

