

INvision

Indiana Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services Newsletter

HOPE NOTES

A message from Director Kylee Hope

New vision and mission reflect our values as an agency



As we continuously work towards improving services so that they are holistic and person-centered, it became clear that it was time for the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to review our vision and mission statements. It is important that our vision and mission reflect our values as an agency to ensure that we are always moving in the right direction. With assistance from the DDRS Advisory Council, I introduce to you the new DDRS vision and mission statements:

Vision Statement: *All people are empowered to live, love, work, learn, play and pursue their dreams.*

Mission Statement: *DDRS promotes opportunities and cultivates collaborative partnerships to support individuals with disabilities and their families to lead full lives.*

The vision statement may feel familiar, as it is the language we frequently use when speaking of the LifeCourse. DDRS shares the LifeCourse principles and values, so it is no surprise that the language found itself in our vision statement.

Providing meaningful, appropriate and person-centered supports to families and self-advocates drives our work. Creating and maintaining partnerships with families and self-advocates allows us to do better work. I encourage you to watch for opportunities to share your story and provide feedback. Hearing directly from you is incredibly valuable and a much-needed perspective as we work toward our goals.

While we certainly need to hear and know what is not working, we also learn by hearing what is working well. Therefore, we have created an email box for you to share your success stories. This is an opportunity for us to hear and learn from you on how you are being successful in your home and community and living your best life. Your story may involve how you are using a DDRS service or it may not. It may also include how you using your friends, family and community to live a full life. No matter how or why you are being successful, we want to hear it all! To share your successes, send an email to ddrssuccessstories@fssa.in.gov.

I look forward to reading your success stories and partnering with you in the future!

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:** DDRS has been awarded a Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living 2018 Living Well grant
- **Making the LifeCourse work for you:** Sometimes having a disability means that there are additional considerations in determining how to maintain personal safety, public safety and legal/financial safety for yourself or your loved ones
- **News you can use:** Supported decision making is a way for people with disabilities to use the supports around them to make their own choices and direct their own lives
- **Events you don't want to miss:** The quarterly Building Bridges events create direct avenues for individuals and families to share their feedback

First steps early intervention program

The First Steps local planning and coordinating councils provide a voice for early intervention services at the community level within each local region in Indiana. An LPCC is comprised of local providers and community partners. There are nine LPCCs across the state.

Local planning and coordinating councils are responsible for, but not limited to, public awareness of early intervention services, child find activities, recruitment of early intervention providers, family and provider trainings, identification of community resources, and effective communication and development of memoranda of understanding with other agencies serving families in their local community. Each LPCC is led by a coordinator who oversees the council, its meetings and activities. A council includes two parents of children with disabilities, a health or medical representative, an educational representative, a social services agency representative, a representative from early intervention and a representative from the local child care community.

For more information on how to get involved, access the LPCC handbook and to find contact information for your local planning and coordinating council, visit [the first steps website](#).

Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services



If you or your child is on the Family Supports Waiver waitlist, you can review and update your contact information by accessing the BDDS Waitlist Web Portal.

To access the information, you will need to provide the last four digits of the individual's social security number, first and last name, date of birth, and requestor's name (if different from the individual on the waitlist). Once the information is verified, a second page will appear that will include the individual's address, phone number, guardian contact information (if applicable), waiver application date and BDDS local office contact information.

If any of the information is incorrect or missing, you can submit changes through the portal or contact your local BDDS office. It is important that you notify the BDDS office with any changes to ensure you can be reached the individual's name reaches the top of the wait list.

For more information and to access the portal, visit [the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services website](#).

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services provides assistance, identifies and finds resources to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families throughout the state of Indiana.

DHHS services include:

- Interpreter Service Program for state agencies; accommodations to access any state agency

- Statewide case management services for those needing assistance in improving and maintaining their independence; all service providers are fluent in American Sign Language
- The Indiana Interpreter Certification program to ensure that consumers are provided qualified interpreters
- Community education workshops and presentations to educate businesses,

medical professionals, judicial systems and interpreters of the needs of deaf and hard of hearing; advocacy services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing

- Information and referral resource list
- Hearing aid information
- Remote CART loaner equipment for VR consumers



Additional information can be obtained by contacting:

402 W. Washington St., Room W353, MS 23, Indianapolis, IN 46204

www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2637.htm

Email: DHHSHelp@fssa.IN.gov

DHHS State Program Manager: 317-542-3449

DHHS Program Director: 317-542-3324

DHHS State Program Director: 317-550-5330

DHHS Program Director: 317-232-0949

DHHS Program Coordinator: 317-542-3324

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FEATURED STORY

2018 Living Well grant

Allows for greater independence and fulfillment of the vision of a good life

We are excited to share that the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services has been awarded a Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living 2018 Living Well grant. The purpose of this grant is to increase access to and shape meaningful integration into the community for persons with an intellectual and/or developmental disability. This allows for greater independence and fulfillment of their vision of a good life. We will be taking this opportunity to look at how we can improve the quality of waiver services and the way in which we monitor safety, health and well-being.

This grant will allow the division the ability to be thoughtful and thorough in developing systems and services that meet the needs of self-advocates, their families and the communities in which they live, love, learn, work and play.

Current objectives include:

- Partner with self-advocates, families and other stakeholders in the development of practices, policies and procedures that will enhance waiver services
- Develop and implement an improved process for analyzing data from waiver providers that will increase the quality of and access to services
- Develop and test toolkits for providers, individuals and their families that will allow for improved monitoring of the health, safety and well-being of individuals while also reducing risk factors for abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Identify, develop and implement an innovative approach to increase the amount of paid and non-paid community supports

This is a five-year grant, which will allow the division, self-advocates, families and other key stakeholders the ability to be thoughtful and thorough in developing systems and services that meet the needs of self-advocates, their families and the communities in which they live, love, learn, work and play.

There will be a number of opportunities for you to share your ideas and input that will be announced over the course of the grant. In the meantime, we are asking that if you have any success stories that we can build upon or have ideas for improvement of waiver services and how to best monitor safety, health and well-being, you can submit those via ddrsuccessstories@fssa.in.gov.

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH SERVICES, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION

WHAT IS COMMUNITY LIVING?

OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS EVERYONE ELSE TO:

- ✓ CHOOSE WHERE TO LIVE
- ✓ EARN A LIVING
- ✓ PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY
- ✓ MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LIVES

WHY IS COMMUNITY LIVING IMPORTANT?

- PEOPLE PREFER IT
- IT COSTS LESS
- IT'S A LEGAL RIGHT
- EVERYONE BENEFITS WHEN EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE

HOW DOES ACL SUPPORT COMMUNITY LIVING?

- FUNDS SERVICES THAT HELP PEOPLE LIVE INDEPENDENTLY
- INVESTS IN RESEARCH, INNOVATION, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION
- ADVOCATES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER ADULTS

ACL
Administration for Community Living

Making the LifeCourse work for you

Safety and Security: personal, public and legal/financial

Part of living your best life involves making decisions and creating safeguards to keep you safe and secure. Sometimes having a disability means that there are additional considerations in determining how to keep yourself or your loved ones safe. It may help to think about safety in three different categories: personal safety, public safety and legal/financial safety.

Personal safety can include those things that keep the individual safe in their home and community. For instance, personal safety can include asking questions such as: is the home modified or childproofed as appropriate; does the individual know how to say no to someone who is making them feel uncomfortable; or what technology is available for someone who wanders away?

Public safety would include things such as disaster, fire and police. So you can

ask yourself questions such as: does the individual know how to call for help in an emergency; is the individual being taught how to appropriately interact with law enforcement; is there a disaster plan in place and is the individual given opportunities to practice?

Legal and financial safety includes considerations of legal rights, advocacy and planning. For example, guardianship and guardianship alternatives, healthcare financing and educational rights may be explored.

Depending on the life stage you are currently in, you may approach safety and security in a variety of different ways. It is also helpful to be looking at the next life stage so you can begin to think about, plan for and practice the skills needed to maintain safety and security in the future.

To find example questions and things to



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.

consider for each life stage, a free download of *Charting the LifeCourse: Experiences and Questions* booklet is available at [the Life-Course Learning Materials website](http://the-Life-Course Learning Materials website).

NEWS YOU CAN USE

What do you know about supported decision making?

It can be a great way to help exercise and improve decision-making skills

Oftentimes, parents seek guardianship of their adult child with a disability to protect them and keep them safe. Did you know that there are alternatives to guardianship that would allow the individual to maintain their independence while also creating safeguards? Supported decision making is one alternative to guardianship.

Supported decision making is a way for people with disabilities to use the supports around them to make their own choices and direct their own lives. In fact, this practice is something that everyone uses to make decisions. Whether it is buying a house or deciding what to eat for dinner, we all go through a process before making a decision. When buying a house, it is common to consult with a realtor, ask for the opinions of friends and family, and investigate the neighborhood. When choosing what to have for dinner, we may ask others in our home what they would like to eat, determine if we have the money to eat out or cook at home and determine what foods fall within our diet. We may make these decisions differently, but we all use supports at some point during the decision-making process.

Understanding and using supported decision making can be a great way to help young adults and adults with disabilities exercise and improve their decision-making skills. In this model, the person with a disability chooses a group of people who help them make decisions. The person with a disability, however, makes the final decision. The relationship between the person and their supporters can be written in a supported decision making agreement. This agreement can then inform the professionals and others who come in contact with the person with a disability about who can be involved in the decision-making process. Anyone can use supported decision making, whether it is alone or in conjunction with guardianship. Using it along with guardianship will allow the individual to be involved in and practice decision-making to increase those skills.

During the legislative session, the Indiana House of Representatives unanimously passed Senate Bill 380. The bill puts into statute supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship. For more information on supported decision making, visit Indiana Disability Rights at <https://www.in.gov/idr/2684.htm>.



Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

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

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

EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



Quarterly Building Bridges events

Don't miss the upcoming quarterly Building Bridges events! These meetings are an opportunity for families and self-advocates to meet and speak with the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services 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 or concerns, as well as suggestions or input regarding BDDS programs and services. All meetings are held from 6–8 p.m. local time.

July 10, 2019
Klondike Library
3062 Lindberg Road
West Lafayette, Ind.

July 23, 2019
St. Joseph Public Library
304 S. Main St.
South Bend, Ind.

July 30, 2019
Noble County Public Library
813 E. Main St.
Albion, Ind.

ICC meetings

The Interagency Coordinating Council for infants and toddlers with disabilities is the state's federally mandated early intervention council. The council is charged with advising and assisting DDRS in its responsibility to develop an early intervention system of the highest quality, balancing family-centered services with fiscal responsibility. The council is comprised of parents, state agency groups, early intervention service providers, legislators and others. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, visit [the DDRS Commissions & Councils webpage](#).

Dates: May 8, 2019 and July 10, 2019

Time: 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Location: Choices Coordinated Care Solutions, 7941 Castleway Drive, Indianapolis

INSILC June meeting & listening session

The Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council provides oversight of the Indiana State Plan for Independent Living and assists the Centers for Independent Living with the SPIL's implementation and coordination of services. For more information, visit [the Statewide Independent Living Council webpage](#).

Location: Old National Bank, One Main St., Evansville, Ind.

Date: June 24; **Time:** INSILC Public Meeting: 1 p.m.; Listening session for people with disabilities: 5:30–7:30 p.m.

DDRS Advisory Council

The DDRS Advisory Council was established to assist the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services in ensuring that individuals with disabilities are as independent and self-sufficient as possible. The council meets monthly and meetings are open to the public. For upcoming meeting information, visit the [DDRS Commissions & Councils webpage](#).



What is YOUR Good Life?

It is not too late to register for What is YOUR Good Life? The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, with support from the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, is hosting a daylong event specifically for individuals and families caring for someone with a disability on May 17. The sessions will provide you with information about the LifeCourse framework as well as how to use the principles and tools in your everyday life. Topics include: health care financing; transition to adulthood; supported decision making; and special education. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card the day of the event. To register, visit [the EventBrite What is YOUR Good Life? registration webpage](#).