

# INvision

Indiana Division of Disability &  
Rehabilitative Services Newsletter

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## Hope Notes - a message from Director Kylee Hope

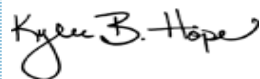


Welcome to the first issue of “INvision,” our new quarterly e-newsletter, especially for families and individuals with disabilities. Our goal with this newsletter is to create a communication platform, something that is informative and beneficial to our readers. Whether you are new to us or an old friend, our intent is to let Hoosiers know what’s happening with the Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services.

Each edition will feature a portion of the LifeCourse Framework and how Indiana is using it to support families and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, we will be providing information about our programs, initiatives and resources. We are pleased to share this valuable information with you and sincerely hope you enjoy this publication!

Thank you,

Kylee Hope



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## What the Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services Does for Hoosiers

The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) has several bureaus that assist and provide services for children and adults with disabilities and rehabilitative needs. Our hope is that these programs and services will assist you and your loved ones to achieve your vision for a good life.

Here's a little about each service.

- **First Steps** is Indiana's early intervention program that provides services to infants and toddlers from birth to third birthday who have developmental delays or disabilities. First Steps brings families together with a local network of professionals from education, health and social service agencies.
- **The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services** (BDDS) provides individualized services and supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities that enable them to live as independently as possible in their home and community. These include home and community based waiver services and supported group living.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services** (VR) provides quality individualized services to enhance and support people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain or retain employment. Through active participation, the goal is that people with disabilities will achieve a greater level of independence in their work place and community.
- **Blind and Visually Impaired Services** (BVIS) provides programs and services to eligible Hoosier's that are blind or visually impaired. One such program is The Randolph-Sheppard Business Enterprise Program, which provides opportunities to blind entrepreneurs to receive training and opportunities to become productive, independent licensed managers in the field of food service.
- **Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services** (DHHS) provides assistance to identify and find resources to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families throughout Indiana. An example of just a few of the services and programs provided are community education and a resource directory of statewide organizations and services that serve the deaf and hard of hearing community.

To learn more about each program and service, visit [www.ddrs.IN.gov](http://www.ddrs.IN.gov).



*DDRS staff includes (l to r): Cathy Robinson, Director, BDDS; Julie Reynolds, Deputy Director, DDRS; Greg Jinks, Deputy Director, DDRS; Theresa Koleszar, BRS Director; Kylee Hope, Director, DDRS; Christina Commons, Director, First Steps and Jessica Harlan-York, Director, BQIS.*

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## Supporting Families through the LifeCourse

The National Community of Practice for Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities have been working with multiple states to build capacity to create policies, practices and systems to better assist and support families. In July, 2016 Indiana was named a Community of Practice. Under this project the Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitation Services (DDRS) will work to develop policies that support family networks, provide family-centered support coordination, create greater access to services available in the home and strengthen the role of families in all models of services. One way to achieve these goals is by utilizing the tools available through The LifeCourse Framework.

The Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitation Services is excited to embrace the driving philosophy behind the LifeCourse. LifeCourse was created by families to help individuals and families of all ages and abilities develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports and discover what it takes to live the life they want to live.

**Core Belief: All people have the right to live, love, work, learn, participate, play and pursue their life aspirations just as others do in their community.**



### **ALL People**

ALL people, regardless of age, ability or family role, are considered in our vision, values, policies and practices for supporting individuals and families. All families have choices and access to supports they need, whether they are known to the disability service system or not.



### **Family System and Cycles**

People exist and have give-and-take roles within a family system, which adjust as the individual members change and age. Individuals and families need supports that address all facets of life and adjust as roles and needs of all family members change as they age through the family cycles



### **Life Outcomes**

Individuals and families focus on life experiences that point the trajectory toward a good quality of life. Based on current support structures that focus on self-determination, community living, social capital and economic sufficiency, the emphasis is on planning for life outcomes, not just services.



### **Life Domains**

People lead whole lives made up of specific, connected and integrated life domains that are important to a good quality of life. This includes *daily life & employment, safety and security, community living, healthy lifestyle, social and spirituality, and citizenship and advocacy.*

In each issue we will explore and discuss the framework and how you can use these tools for yourself and your entire family. For more information, [click here](#).

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