

Statewide Informational Meetings in January /February 2013 For Families on DDD's Next Phase for "Project Sustainability"

Craig Stenning, Director, BHDDH, was the Guest Speaker for the DDC's Quarterly Meeting held at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick on January 16, 2013. Director Stenning commented that the department was entering the next phase for implementation of "**Project Sustainability**". The initial phase was for the department to bring transparency to the DD Service System by utilizing a new uniform assessment tool, the "*Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)*" to provide the basis for consumer-directed care planning and to align resources to individual needs; and to develop a new equitable rate structure for all agencies for billing for services provided to individuals.



Director Stenning stated all people with disabilities "*should receive the right services in the right place, in the least restrictive environment, at the right time and integrated in the community....people have a right to live in the community*".

The next phase of Project Sustainability will be to focus on the areas of **Integration** (*people involved in their communities in non-segregated settings to the extent possible*) and **Outcomes of Services** (*people living meaningful, happy and productive lives*). The Director indicated that the department would be hosting Statewide Meetings for families to provide information on the Clinical Validation Process for the SIS, the new SIS Tiers (Levels of Service) and the department's requirements for Individual Service Planning and necessary forms.

See attached letter for Dates and Locations for the Informational Meetings for January and February 2013.



Director Stenning said he was pleased to work with the DDC and that the department was focusing on ways to provide more direct communication with families and people with disabilities. He also indicated that the department was in the process of revising their website (<http://www.bhddh.ri.gov>), a Facebook Page is now available (<https://www.facebook.com/RIBHDDH>) and they are working on strategies to promote "Employment First" and The Arts for people with disabilities.