

# In the LOOP

October 2023

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is celebrated each October to spotlight the impact of individuals with disabilities as part of the workforce and promote inclusive employment practices in the business community. The theme for this year's NDEAM is "Advancing Access and Equity". Visit [NDEAM 2023](#) to access free posters, ideas for celebrations, and press release templates.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has made employment and financial literacy a priority. Since the launch of the Empowering Through Employment initiative, there has been a 253% increase in the number of individuals pursuing their career pathway. More individuals are employed, and they have learned how to increase their monthly earnings while keeping their benefits.

To learn more about Division employment efforts and to view the Employment First Policy, visit the [promoting employment webpage](#). To learn more about the ability to work while retaining benefits, including informational videos located at the bottom of the page, visit [MO DB101](#).



**Reminder:** the Family Support Division (FSD) started checking eligibility for all Medicaid participants beginning April 1, 2023. If you are a Medicaid

participant, please make sure all of your information is accurate and up to date. You can create an account on the FSD Benefit Portal, visit the local FSD Resource Center, call MO HealthNet, or return your completed and signed form by mail by the due date. Access the [FSD Renewal](#) site for more information or download the [Renewal How-to flyer](#).

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The [Missouri Alliance for Dual Diagnosis](#) (MOADD) was established in 2018, as a collaborative effort between Department of Mental Health (DMH) staff and DMH providers with interest in developing expertise in supporting individuals with dual intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and behavioral health diagnosis.

**MO Alliance for Dual Diagnosis (MOADD) Summit**

-Registration is Open-

November 9, 2023; 9:30am – 4:30pm

Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO.

Registration is **FREE**.

[2023 MOADD Summit Information and Registration](#)

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The Real Voices/Real Choices Planning Committee currently has FIVE vacancies for Volunteer Committee Members. The Planning Committee is looking for people who want to use their voice and help

plan the next Real Voices/Real Choices Consumer Conference for 2024. The Planning Committee is looking for:

- 2 Committee Members who are individuals living with a developmental disability;
- 1 Committee Member who is an individual living with mental illness;
- 2 Committee Members who are family members of individuals who are persons living with a developmental disability, mental illness, or substance use disorder.

This is not a paid position, but travel expenses to meetings are reimbursed and lunch is provided. Volunteers are expected to attend monthly meetings and the 2024 conference.

For more details on the Real Voices/Real Choices Consumer Conference, visit the Missouri Mental Health Foundation [website](#).

To apply for a position, visit the [MO Careers website](#) by close-of-business on Friday, October 13, 2023.

If you have further questions, e-mail [consumerconference@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:consumerconference@dmh.mo.gov).

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## **Universal Design and Assistive Technology (UDAT)**

UDAT was developed as part the Division's organizational efficiency efforts in 2021 to prioritize the services of Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (home/vehicle modifications), Assistive Technology, Remote Supports, and Specialized Medical Equipment.

UDAT serves as a statewide Provider Relations team to promote awareness and access to these services in an effort to increase independence and support for individuals in their home. The UDAT team creates tools and streamlines processes in authorizing and completing service requests. UDAT also serves as Vendor Service Coordinators (VSCs) to provide technical assistance and system compliance for providers of these services. UDAT provides consultation to support team members who provide guidance in compliance and education in using these services and ensuring successful completion.

The UDAT team hosts monthly Lunch and Learn webinars that focus on providing information related to using assistive technology to increase independence and quality of life. The next UDAT Lunch and Learn webinar is scheduled for October 10, 2023 at 12:00pm. Visit the [upcoming webinar page](#) for more information and registration.

Questions for the UDAT team can be sent to [technologyfirststanduniversaldesign@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:technologyfirststanduniversaldesign@dmh.mo.gov).



### **Partners in Policymaking Applications are Being Accepted**

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council is currently accepting applications for the next Partners in Policymaking class. If you are a person with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) or are a parent of a child with a developmental disability and want to enhance your advocacy skills and leadership, you should consider Partners in Policymaking.

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership training program that teaches leadership skills and techniques to develop positive partnerships with elected officials, school personnel and other individuals who make policy decisions about services that you and/or your family use.

Partners is a great opportunity to hear from nationally known leaders and learn about current best practices in the field of Developmental Disabilities.

[Click for more information about the class](#). Deadline to submit an application is **November 1, 2023**.

**National Caregivers Month**

November is National Caregivers Month. Follow the Division's [social media](#) and watch for [email blasts](#) with information and resources related to caregiving, as well as ways to honor and recognize caregivers for the important work they do.

## DMH Strategic Directions

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) Strategic Directions document outlines the current department mission and vision, as well as the organizational structure and broad policy goals for the Department over a five-year period from 2022-2027. The [2023 Strategic Directions Annual Report](#) is now available.

The Strategic Directions Themes are:

- Workforce
- Mental Well-being
- Technology
- Quality Outcomes
- Capacity and Infrastructure
- Children's Services and Supports
- Independence and Self-sufficiency
- Operational Excellence.



### Updates

In collaboration with the Office of Administration-Information Technology Services Division (OA-ITSD), the Division of Developmental Disabilities has successfully onboarded a third-party technical partner, Infocrossing, LLC, to support implementation efforts. Infocrossing's role will be to facilitate technical requirements gathering with the three Missouri Health Information Networks (HINs) participating in the project and oversee the configuration and deployment of necessary software and infrastructure required for data exchange. This includes developing the interface that will share the

individual's care plan for health and social care providers involved in the individual's care.

The Division and the three HINs – Lewis and Clark Health Information Exchange, Tiger Institute, and Velatura HIE – have continued meeting for technical requirement gathering sessions. Through these sessions, the team has set up and used an open sandbox environment with test data for HINs to become acquainted with sample person-centered care plan data. The Division has also reviewed the [eLTSS FHIR Implementation Guide \(IG\)](#) and proposed changes to that IG that are anticipated to be published in early 2024.

In September, the project team participated in the Health Level Seven (HL7) FHIR Connectathon in Phoenix with a focus on the [eLTSS FHIR IG track](#). Notable achievements included extending the IG using the FHIR Task Resource to allow patients to demonstrate actions they took when receiving a service, addressing general feedback on the IG for improvement, and discussing how the IG can support person-centered care planning across use cases involving aging populations and people with multiple chronic conditions.

The Division's project lead gave an update on the eLTSS HIE Data Exchange Project during the Value Based Payment (VBP) Stakeholder Annual Update: Year 3 in Review meeting on September 18, 2023.

### *Stay Connected*



[Click for Regional Office Contact Information](#)

### **Contact us**

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH