

ODP News

February 2018



Information, Upcoming Events, and Training

Report: Health & Safety in Group Homes

To assist states in making improvements to their monitoring and reporting of injuries and other critical incidents of people with developmental disabilities living in group homes, Administration for Community Living (ACL) joined OIG and the HHS Office of Civil Rights, along with the U.S. Department of Justice, to develop Model Practices to help address gaps in reporting and monitoring efforts. The Model Practices are based upon effective strategies being used by individual states, and were informed by a variety of stakeholders, including ACL’s DD network partners and grantees.

[Access the group homes joint report here.](#)

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Bringing Sexual Assault to the Forefront

We are grateful for the work of Joseph Shapiro and his investigative news series, [“Abused and Betrayed,”](#) an NPR special report on sexual abuse among people with intellectual disabilities and the additional coverage on reports on the PBS News Hour and the central Pa. public radio show Smart Talk. The personal stories of people experiencing abuse are difficult to hear and their courage to report and advocate for others is inspiring. We hope the coverage will motivate everyone to think about their role in prevention.

Families, teachers, medical professionals, and caregivers all have a role to play throughout each person’s life course. Teaching children their right to personal space and self-determination, respecting each person’s right to privacy, providing sex education, supporting the right of people to have sexual relationships, teaching people their rights and how to speak out are all strategies to not only keep people safe, but to support an active and fulfilling life.

Government leaders, provider agencies, and advocacy organizations have a special responsibility to create environments for learning, to provide information, and to develop policies that support privacy, education, personal empowerment ,and above all, safety.

ODP intends to work with members of the Information Sharing Advisory Committee (ISAC) to review our efforts and ways that we can be more proactive in this most important domain of people’s Everyday Lives.

Nancy Thaler, Deputy Secretary
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New MMCO Resource Guides Available

The CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO) has [three new resource guides](#) intended to support providers and health plans serving older adults and caregivers.

Funding Announcement for Traumatic Brain Injury Research

A [new grant opportunity](#) from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at Administration for Community Living has been announced under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Program (DRRP) for the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model System Centers Collaborative Research Project. This grant opportunity closes on March 13, 2018.

The Arc Offers Resources On Sexual Assault

The Arc provides [resources and legal advocacy](#) to

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Online Resources

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On MyODP.org, you can find online resources available regarding sexual assault, including a course on recognizing the history of abuse and neglect in both the mental health and intellectual disability population. For full access to courses, you'll need to create a new account or log-in as a guest.

[Dual Diagnosis in the United States: Past, Present, and Future](#)

[Talking About the Right to be Free from Abuse](#)

[Understanding Safety and Your Responsibilities When Caring for People with Disabilities](#)

There are also resources specifically regarding sexuality:

[AU109: Sexuality](#)

[Autism & Sexuality](#)

[IS714: Social Side of Sex](#)

[Sexuality, Relationships, & Individuals with ASD](#)

[Supporting Sexuality](#)

[The Illusion of Sexual Safety: Perceptions vs. Reality](#)

[Assuring Health and Safety: What Does that Mean for the Direct Support Professional?](#)

Through training and support, we can help people with disabilities feel empowered, and help the self-advocates find their voice, and help them *have* a voice.

A lot can be done. A lot needs to be done.

*If your organization is hosting webinars
that anyone can attend,
please send information to*

RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov

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individuals and their families as they struggle with sexual assault and its after effects, and to help define and deter sexual violence against people with intellectual disabilities.



Art Auction to Benefit Friendship Heart Gallery

Friendship Heart Gallery will hosts its annual [Art Auction](#) benefitting adults with intellectual disability and autism Thursday, March 29, 6-9 p.m. at the Pennsylvania College of Health Science, 850 Greenfield Road, Lancaster. Tickets are \$25 and reservations are required. RSVP by March 16.



Dan Hackett, left, and Brian Kluchurosky, co-creators of “The Rain Man Effect” documentary, are shown at the film’s premiere at the New Hazlett Theater in Pittsburgh. A Q&A session with individuals featured in the documentary followed its debut.

YAP Inc. of Allegheny Co. Produces Documentary, ‘The Rain Man Effect’

For adults on the autism spectrum, misconceptions cause unemployment. Unemployment leads to loss of social capital. Loss of social capital results in isolation. Isolation threatens health.

Misconceptions prevent people with autism from having an everyday life.

A newly released documentary, [“The Rain Man Effect,”](#) hopes to expose the damage incurred by misconceptions and prevent stereotypes and stigmas, especially in the field of human resources and career fulfillment.

“If employers realized what types of skills these people have, they’d be jumping head over heels to hire them,” says Brian Kluchurosky, director of Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) Inc., Allegheny County, PA, and director of the film. YAP is a nationally recognized, nonprofit organization that believes people on the spectrum should have opportunities to develop, contribute, and be valued as assets in their communities.

YAP recently completed the documentary film, funded through the Pa.

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Simplify the System Project Launches at 2018 Everyday Lives



Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services and the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has kicked off a new project based on the Everyday Lives recommendation number eight – **Simplify the System**. The purpose of the project is to reimagine the business approach and identify options to simplify operational processes that support self-advocates and families throughout their lifespan. The project will accomplish this goal by adhering to four key objectives:

- Improve interaction with self-advocates and families from the first conversation;
- Support all individuals, not just those receiving paid supports;
- Simplify administrative processes; and
- Enable implementation by avoiding unintended policy consequences.

The project team conducted its first information gathering session at the Everyday Lives Conference in January 2018. All conference attendees received a feedback postcard in their registration packets. These postcards contained the objectives of the project, an online survey link, and feedback questions. A total of 78 postcards were submitted.

On January 10th, the project hosted an “ODP Engagement Station” at the Everyday Lives evening reception. The ODP Engagement Station featured interactive activities for conference attendees to provide feedback to five question prompts including, “*What do you like best about the support planning process?*” and “*What is frustrating about the individual support planning process?*”.

Participants could answer live-online survey questions, write responses on Post-It notes and mount them on poster boards, or leave ODP a video message. Nearly **900 responses** were received during the course of the conference!

Thank you to everyone that participated and provided feedback. All input received will be used to shape the final options and considerations report produced at the end of April 2018.

The team will continue conducting information-gathering sessions over the next several months. If you are interested in providing feedback on how ODP can Simplify the System, please send your comments to RA-PWSimplifyTheSys@pa.gov.



ODP Engagement Stations were set up during the Everyday Lives Conference. Nearly 900 responses were collected throughout the conference.

Gary Rossman,
Project Lead for Simply the System

The Arc of Adams County:

Alex and Amanda Bair of Adams County met a decade ago while working at a Walmart in Gettysburg. A combined interest in the Adams County Special Olympics helped nurture their friendship. Eventually, the two moved into an apartment, with a caregiver.

Alex, 42, is still employed at Walmart and Amanda, 32, completed the food service development program through South Central Community Action Programs and works at Arendtsville Elementary School. Four years ago, they got married and now live in their home in Biglerville.

The Bairs were the first couple to secure independent living through assistance from The Arc of Adams County.

About 20 individuals with disabilities are now living on their own with support from the Arc.

Learn more about the Bairs and other individuals who have benefitted from this independent living program, in [“Program helps people with special needs ‘fly like eagles’,”](#) by Ashley Andyshak Hayes.



Alex and Amanda Bair stand outside their new home, enjoying independent living with help from The Arc.

LifeSharing Provider Spotlight: Western Region

In the next few months, we will be highlighting winners of the Excellence in LifeSharing Awards, featuring providers from our four regions.

Carol Snyder, a LifeSharing Provider for Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc., was named winner of the Excellence in LifeSharing Award (Western Region). She was nominated by Crystal Ciallella of Erie Homes for Children and Adults.

Carol provides a home and stability for Lonnie, a gentle man she met more than nine years ago. She has devoted so much time and energy in her life to making his place in this world better in many ways.

Carol has offered opportunities to Lonnie that would not have been available to him otherwise. Lonnie has been part of Carol's family for almost a decade and has enjoyed all the family parties, holidays, and other life experiences that has enriched his life immensely.



Lonnie is shown with LifeSharing Provider Connie Snyder.

YAP Inc. of Allegheny Co. Produces ‘The Rain Man Effect’

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Developmental Disability Council, to expose discrimination in employment, and life, based on how society views individuals with autism. The documentary was co-created by Dan Hackett and features staff and participants of YAP's Allegheny County Adult Autism program.

Kluchurosky, Hackett, and many others feel that the widely popular 1988 film, “Rain Man,” starring Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman, was unrealistic and branded all people with autism as savants having little social skills.

Hackett wants “The Rain Man Effect” documentary to dispel this unrealistic view. He says that some of the qualities of people on the spectrum are considered positive traits, such as their ability to focus, their honesty, and their passion, when seen in neurotypicals. “Suddenly these positives become negatives” when applied to those with autism.

The documentary was funded by a \$10,000 grant through the Pennsylvania Developmental Disability Council. YAP staff working on the film, and featured in “The Rain Man Effect,” were paid for their work, including the music composer and the creator of the promotional poster.

Perhaps the largest message of the documentary comes down to this: “If you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.” They are all unique, and they are employable, sometimes through supportive employment and accommodations.

“The Rain Man Effect” hopes to dispel the anecdotal accounts and stereotypes that are preventing progress and emphasize the message: Adults with autism wish to be employed, and are able.

View “The Rain Man Effect” online. Staff is available to help present a public showing, including a panel of adults available for discussion following the showing, if desired. Please email Lori S. Burrus, National Coordinator of Developmental Disabilities Programs, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., at LBurus@YAPInc.org, if interested.

YAP publishes a quarterly magazine called PITTVERSE. The magazine expresses their interests, such as sports, sci-fi, politics, entertainment, and more. As an example, a recent issue featured an interview with James “JY” Young of the famous rock band Styx. It is 100% written by members of YAP of Allegheny County. Writers are paid for their work.



Michelle Middlemiss is a member of the staff at Pittverse, a magazine written by adults with autism. She is also a member of the Office of Developmental Programs Information Sharing and Advisory Committee.

Tools for Financial Empowerment for People with Disabilities

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has supplemented its financial empowerment toolkit, "Your Money, Your Goals," with a companion guide aimed at people with disabilities.

This guide contains tips, information, tools, and skill-building resources for people with disabilities and from organizations that serve the disability community. It's based on the idea that everyone has a right to manage their own money and make their own financial decisions.

"Focus on People with Disabilities" was developed with the support of people with disabilities and organizations that serve the disability community.

The toolkit is available at www.consumerfinance.gov/your-money-your-goals. The companion guide for people with disabilities can be found at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/practitioner-resources/your-money-your-goals/companion-guides/>.

QA&I Process Update:

In July of 2017, ODP launched its new Quality Assessment & Improvement process, a comprehensive, standardized process to conduct a quality management review of county programs, Administrative Entities (AE), Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO) and Providers delivering services and supports to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders.

The QA&I campaign completed the first year of the new cycle with nearly 100% participation, "It was a big success," says Jen Fraker, Supports Coordination and Quality Oversight Director.

It was a new approach.

Instead of gathering data from three separate processes (AE oversight, SCO and Provider monitoring), feedback and data were collected in one linear process using an 11-member implementation team for record review and onsite administration.

Staff from Central Office, usually assigned to record review input only, instead joined Regional staff to conduct onsite reviews across that state.

"Staff really adopted the team concept," Jen says. "People who have normally worked together over conference calls were able to come together in-person and represent ODP as a solid team."

Satisfaction surveys regarding the new process were positive. SCOs reported that it "centered on the individuals we serve and not the paperwork we complete," and "the process and tools are more focused on quality and how we are impacting individuals as opposed to strictly compliance." Providers said the new process was "very person-centered and detailed," and AEs reported being very satisfied with all aspects of the process.

There was a huge learning curve for those involved and it required a restructuring of responsibilities and more than 400 onsite reviews completed from August through December, Jen adds

The QA&I process is wrapping up with remediation and corrective action activities to continue to manage system performance, manage the service delivery system, ensure progress toward implementation of "Everyday

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Summary of ODP Communications, January 2018

1. [ODP Announcement 001-18](#): ODP QM Cert Spring 2018 Classes Final
2. [ODP Communication 002-18](#): SSI Increase for 2018
3. [ODP Announcement 003-18](#): NCI Staff Stability Survey Report for 2016 Released
4. [ODP Announcement 004-18](#): Medication Administration Classroom Training Sessions
5. [ODP Announcement 005-18](#): Reminder Providers Requalification
6. [ODP Announcement 006-18](#): Initial Certified Investigator Course Spring Offerings are Now Available
7. [ODP Announcement 007-18](#): Office of Victim Services Needs Assessment Survey
8. [ODP Announcement 008-18](#): CPS Train the Trainer
9. [ODP Announcement 009-18](#): Quality Assurance and Improvement Statewide Aggregate Report of Self-Assessments for Cycle 1 Year 1 Now Available
10. [ODP Announcement 010-18](#): Final Public Notice for Proposed Fee Schedule Rates and Proposed Rate-Setting Methodology
11. [BAW18-01](#): Admin Notice: Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) Manual Now Available
12. [BAW18-02](#): Winter 2018 Schedule of Virtual Trainings Presented by the BAS Clinical Team
13. [BAW18-03](#): AAW Supports Services Directory
14. [BAW18-04](#): AAW Progress Reporting Changes and Updates
15. [ODP Announcement 011-18](#): Provider Qualification Process
16. [ODP Announcement 012-18](#): ISP Manual Update: Respite Camp Codes in the Consolidated, P/FDS and Community Living Waivers
17. [ODP Announcement 013-18](#): Mileage Rate Change Effective January 1, 2018

QA&I Process Update:

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Lives: Values in Action,” the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services performance measures and continue quality improvement.

[The QA&I Statewide Aggregate Report of Self-Assessments for Cycle 1, Year 1](#) is now available.
QA&I Implementation Team Members:

Central Office:

Jen Fraker , Supports Coordination and Quality Oversight Director; Sonya Declet , QA&I Co-Lead; TaWanda Jackson, QA&I Co-Lead; Andrew Prestine, QA&I Record Reviewer; Jessica Lopez, QA&I Record

Reviewer; Debora Lugo, QA&I Record Reviewer; Allison Smith, QA&I Record Reviewer

Central Region:

Robyn Seville , QA&I Regional Coordinator

Northeast Region:

Rachel Toman , QA&I Regional Coordinator

Southeast Region:

Roger Crisanty, QA&I Regional Coordinator

Western Region:

Renee Bruno, QA&I Regional Coordinator