



**Transition Services for Special Ed. Students: DDS, DMHAS and
ADS**

**December 1, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Webinar

CT Bar Institute, Inc.

CT: 2.75 CLE Credits (General)

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LAWYERS' PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONALISM

As a lawyer, I have dedicated myself to making our system of justice work fairly and efficiently for all. I am an officer of this Court and recognize the obligation I have to advance the rule of law and preserve and foster the integrity of the legal system. To this end, I commit myself not only to observe the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct, but also conduct myself in accordance with the following Principles of Professionalism when dealing with my clients, opposing parties, fellow counsel, self-represented parties, the Courts, and the general public.

Civility:

Civility and courtesy are the hallmarks of professionalism. As such,

- I will be courteous, polite, respectful, and civil, both in oral and in written communications;
- I will refrain from using litigation or any other legal procedure to harass an opposing party;
- I will not impute improper motives to my adversary unless clearly justified by the facts and essential to resolution of the issue;
- I will treat the representation of a client as the client's transaction or dispute and not as a dispute with my adversary;
- I will respond to all communications timely and respectfully and allow my adversary a reasonable time to respond;
- I will avoid making groundless objections in the discovery process and work cooperatively to resolve those that are asserted with merit;
- I will agree to reasonable requests for extensions of time and for waiver of procedural formalities when the legitimate interests of my client will not be adversely affected;
- I will try to consult with my adversary before scheduling depositions, meetings, or hearings, and I will cooperate with her when schedule changes are requested;
- When scheduled meetings, hearings, or depositions have to be canceled, I will notify my adversary and, if appropriate, the Court (or other tribunal) as early as possible and enlist their involvement in rescheduling; and
- I will not serve motions and pleadings at such time or in such manner as will unfairly limit the other party's opportunity to respond.

Honesty:

Honesty and truthfulness are critical to the integrity of the legal profession – they are core values that must be observed at all times and they go hand in hand with my fiduciary duty. As such,

- I will not knowingly make untrue statements of fact or of law to my client, adversary or the Court;
- I will honor my word;
- I will not maintain or assist in maintaining any cause of action or advancing any position that is false or unlawful;

- I will withdraw voluntarily claims, defenses, or arguments when it becomes apparent that they do not have merit or are superfluous;
- I will not file frivolous motions or advance frivolous positions;
- When engaged in a transaction, I will make sure all involved are aware of changes I make to documents and not conceal changes.

Competency:

Having the necessary ability, knowledge, and skill to effectively advise and advocate for a client's interests is critical to the lawyer's function in their community. As such,

- I will keep myself current in the areas in which I practice, and, will associate with, or refer my client to, counsel knowledgeable in another field of practice when necessary;
- I will maintain proficiency in those technological advances that are necessary for me to competently represent my clients.
- I will seek mentoring and guidance throughout my career in order to ensure that I act with diligence and competency.

Responsibility:

I recognize that my client's interests and the administration of justice in general are best served when I work responsibly, effectively, and cooperatively with those with whom I interact. As such,

- Before dates for hearings or trials are set, or if that is not feasible, immediately after such dates have been set, I will attempt to verify the availability of key participants and witnesses so that I can promptly notify the Court (or other tribunal) and my adversary of any likely problem;
- I will make every effort to agree with my adversary, as early as possible, on a voluntary exchange of information and on a plan for discovery;
- I will attempt to resolve, by agreement, my objections to matters contained in my opponent's pleadings and discovery requests;
- I will be punctual in attending Court hearings, conferences, meetings, and depositions;
- I will refrain from excessive and abusive discovery, and I will comply with all reasonable discovery requests;
- In civil matters, I will stipulate to facts as to which there is no genuine dispute;
- I will refrain from causing unreasonable delays;
- Where consistent with my client's interests, I will communicate with my adversary in an effort to avoid needless controversial litigation and to resolve litigation that has actually commenced;
- While I must consider my client's decision concerning the objectives of the representation, I nevertheless will counsel my client that a willingness to initiate or engage in settlement discussions is consistent with zealous and effective representation.

Mentoring:

I owe a duty to the legal profession to counsel less experienced lawyers on the practice of the law and these Principles, and to seek mentoring myself. As such:

- I will exemplify through my behavior and teach through my words the importance of collegiality and ethical and civil behavior;
- I will emphasize the importance of providing clients with a high standard of representation through competency and the exercise of sound judgment;
- I will stress the role of our profession as a public service, to building and fostering the rule of law;
- I will welcome requests for guidance and advice.

Honor:

I recognize the honor of the legal profession and will always act in a manner consistent with the respect, courtesy, and weight that it deserves. As such,

- I will be guided by what is best for my client and the interests of justice, not what advances my own financial interests;
- I will be a vigorous and zealous advocate on behalf of my client, but I recognize that, as an officer of the Court, excessive zeal may be detrimental to the interests of a properly functioning system of justice;
- I will remember that, in addition to commitment to my client's cause, my responsibilities as a lawyer include a devotion to the public good;
- I will, as a member of a self-regulating profession, report violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct as required by those rules;
- I will protect the image of the legal profession in my daily activities and in the ways I communicate with the public;
- I will be mindful that the law is a learned profession and that among its desirable goals are devotion to public service, improvement of administration of justice, and the contribution of uncompensated time and civic influence on behalf of those persons who cannot afford adequate legal assistance; and
- I will support and advocate for fair and equal treatment under the law for all persons, regardless of race, color, ancestry, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, status as a veteran, age, gender identity, gender expression or marital status, sexual orientation, or creed and will always conduct myself in such a way as to promote equality and justice for all.

Nothing in these Principles shall supersede, supplement, or in any way amend the Rules of Professional Conduct, alter existing standards of conduct against which a lawyer's conduct might be judged, or become a basis for the imposition of any civil, criminal, or professional liability.

Faculty Biographies

Eleanor Trapasso Farrell

Eleanor Trapasso Farrell is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Vermont Law School. She is currently an attorney in the Children at Risk Unit in the New London office of Connecticut Legal Services. She has dedicated her career to working with legal services clients. She has previously worked at Passaic County Legal Aid Society in Paterson NJ, Public Interest Law Office of Rochester, in Rochester NY, and New Haven Legal Assistance Association in New Haven CT. She is a member of the executive committee of the Education Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Julienne Giard

Julienne Giard, LCSW is Director of the Community Services Division in the Office of the Commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Ms. Giard leads a team that oversees most of DMHAS' contracted mental health and substance use providers, including contract monitoring, evidence-based practice (EBP) initiatives, and facilitation of learning collaboratives. Her division also coordinates, writes and submits many of DMHAS' federal grant applications. Ms. Giard has authored several journal articles and national presentations over the last 25 years.

Allison Kopic

Allison Kopic is currently working as a Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor for the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. She has worked with the agency for many years in both a supervisory and counselor capacity serving all areas of the state. Allison supervised the Level Up Program for several years and served many school districts, while working as a counselor. She is currently serving her second term on the Special Education Advisory Committee. Allison continues to be strong advocate for employment in the community for individuals with disabilities.

Kathy Marchione

Kathy Marchione is a Bureau Chief at the state of Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS). Her focus is primarily field operations and policy development and implementation. She has served in this role since 2015,

shortly after the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Prior to this was a regional director, supervisor, and vocational rehabilitation counselor with BRS. She holds both a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the State University of New York at Albany, and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

M. J. McCarthy

Attorney McCarthy has been a practicing attorney for 36 years. She began her career in the firm of Bercury & McCarthy representing personal injury clients with her late husband Dennis Bercury. She then moved to public sector law and worked at the Department of Public Health for several years. Attorney McCarthy was also an Assistant Attorney General in the Health and Education Unit, where she represented the Department of Developmental Services ("DDS") and she proceeded to join the Department of Developmental Services, where she continues to represent the Agency as the Legal Director. Attorney McCarthy has handled Administrative Appeals and has argued cases before the Connecticut Supreme Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Brian K. Smith

Brian K. Smith, MHA is an Assistant Regional Director for the State of Connecticut's Department of Developmental Services. Mr. Smith started his career with the department in 2001 as a case manager and has made several career advancements since then. This journey has afforded him the fortunate pleasure of working within the Individual and Family Support Division of DDS' West Region throughout his career.

Beyond his commitments and responsibilities within CT DDS, Mr. Smith is an active participant in various regional and statewide committees which include; DCF Region 1 Regional Advisory Committee, DCF Region 5 Regional Advisory Committee, Connecticut's Transition Community of Practice, SDE Transition Task Force, Connecticut State Advisory Committee on Special Education, and many other community collaborations.

Prior to his career with the State of Connecticut, Mr. Smith worked within the private sector for two larger non-profit organizations in various capacities supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities in residential, day/employment, and school transition programs.

Agenda

Transition Services for Special Ed. Students: DDS, DMHAS and ADS

9:00 - 9:10: Introductions – Eleanor Farrell or Maria Morelli-Wolfe

9:10 - 9:50: Department of Developmental Services – M. J. McCarthy and Brian K. Smith

9:50 - 10:30: Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Julienne Giard

10:30 - 10:45: Break

10:45 - 11:25: Aging and Disability Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services – Allison Kopie
and Kathleen Marchione

11:25 - 12:00: Questions – All presenters

DDDS

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

TRANSITIONING TO ADULT SERVICES

Living the Mission!

The Mission of the Department of Developmental Services is to partner with the individuals we support and their families, to support lifelong planning and to join with others to create and promote meaningful opportunities for individuals to fully participate as valued members of their communities.



The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is responsible for the planning, development and administration of complete, comprehensive and integrated statewide services for persons with intellectual disability and persons medically diagnosed as having Prader-Willi Syndrome.

DDS

DDS Vision Statement

All citizens supported by the Department of Developmental Services are valued contributors to their communities as family members, friends, neighbors, students, employees, volunteers, members of civic and religious associations, voters and advocates.

These individuals:

- Live, learn, work and enjoy community life in places where they can use their personal strengths, talents and passions.
- Have safe, meaningful and empowering relationships.
- Have families who feel supported from the earliest years and throughout their lifetimes.
- Have lifelong opportunities and the assistance to learn things that matter to them.
- Make informed choices and take responsibility for their lives and experience the dignity of risk.
- Earn money to facilitate personal choices.
- Know their rights and responsibilities and pursue opportunities to live the life they choose.





DDS Eligibility

- Resident of the State of Connecticut
- Meets the statutory definition of Intellectual Disability as defined by CGS 1-1g.
 - A person may have a valid full-scale IQ of 69 or below as indicated on intelligence/cognitive tests and significant limitations in adaptive functioning, that began during the developmental period, before the age of 18.
- Medical diagnosis of Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Disability originated during the developmental period, prior to age 18.

Application Process

- Apply to DDS as soon as possible
- Application is on our website
- [Connecticut Department of Developmental Services](#)



- In addition to the required clinical evaluations:
 - Signed application
 - HIPAA form
 - Copy of applicant's birth certificate, medical insurance card, and social security card
 - Last medical examination report
 - Last 3 IEPs from the school, most recent triennial
 - Copy of guardianship or conservatorship (if applicable)

ALWAYS KEEP COPIES!!

Eligibility Determination

- Once the fully completed application is completed, it takes approximately 2-3 months to receive a determination.
- Eligibility Letter arrives by mail
- Introduction to the Department
 - Now eligible for services under the Individual and Family Support (IFS) Division of DDS.
- **If eligibility is denied:**
 - Can appeal within 60 days of the date of the letter.
 - Past 60 days, you will have to reapply.

IMPORTANT: DDS services are voluntary. Unlike the school years that are mandated by law, services and supports available through DDS are neither mandated nor entitlements, therefore, subject to appropriations from the state legislature every year.

DDS Eligibility Unit - Contact Information

Department of Developmental Services Eligibility Unit
460 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 866-433-8192

Fax: 860-622-2797

Email: DDS.Eligibility@ct.gov



Autism Spectrum Disorders Waiver (DSS)

- Autism Waiver Program has moved to the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Program eligibility determinations are still processed through DDS.
- If diagnosed with Autism and without ID, the case gets transferred to DSS.
- Diagnosed before age 22 & expected to continue indefinitely
- Person must have substantial limitations in two or more of the following major life activities:
 - self-care
 - understanding and use of language
 - learning
 - mobility
 - self-direction
 - capacity for independent living

Contact info:

- Cathleen Calway, ASD Resource Specialist 860-424-5567
- Nate Calixto, ASD Resource Specialist 860-424-5677



The Department of Social Services Waiver for Persons with Autism provides home-and community-based services to individuals with autism who do not have an intellectual disability (a full IQ score of 70 or higher). To qualify, an individual must have substantial limitations in two or more of the following major life activities: (1) self-care, (2) understanding and use of language, (3) learning, (4) mobility, (5) self-direction, or (6) capacity for independent living. The functional impairments must have been diagnosed before age 22 and be expected to continue indefinitely.

There is currently a waitlist for services under this program.

DDS Helpline and Individual and Family Support (IFS) Team

Services and Supports

- Respite Center Weekend Visits
- Camp Harkness pass
- Family Grants
 - Disability-related expenses not covered by insurance or schools
 - Respite, Assistive Technology
- Family Support Workers
- Transition Advisors
 - 18-22
 - 16 or 17 by referral
- Clinical Team Consultations
 - Speech Language Pathologists
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Physical Therapists
 - Psychologists
 - Behaviorists
 - Nurses

**REGIONAL HELPLINES SERVE ALL ELIGIBLE
INDIVIDUALS NOT ON A WAIVER.**



Contact Information – DDS Regional Helplines



North:

877-437-4577

dds.nr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

South:

877-437-4567

dds.sr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

West:

877-491-2720

dds.wr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

Traditional Case Management

- Transfer to traditional Case Manager in your area
 - In order to be transferred to a traditional case manager, the individual must have Husky C.
- Level of Need Assessment (LON) – completed with your case manager
 - Comprehensive evaluation to assess needs in areas such as medical, psychiatric, behavioral, activities of daily living, etc.
- LON helps determine funding needs based on present circumstances
 - Updated annually or if the situation changes
- Individual Plan (IP)
- Waiver Services - Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

IMPORTANT: TRANSFER TO TRADITIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT
IS DEPENDENT ON AVAILABLE REGIONAL RESOURCES.


Employment First Initiative...

Real Work for Real Pay

We Believe...

- Everyone can work and there is a job for everyone. Our job is to be creative and persistent in providing supports that help people with intellectual disabilities to find, get and keep real pay.
- Not working should be the exception. All individuals, schools, families and businesses must raise their expectations.
- People will be hired because of their ability not because they have a disability.
- Communities embrace people who contribute.
- Everyone has something to contribute and needs to contribute.
- People are healthier, safer and happiest with meaningful work.
- True employment is not a social service.
- Employment is a win/win for everybody.

Types of Support Services

- Individual Supported Employment (ISE)
 - Individualized Day Supports
 - Vocational (IDV)
 - Non- Vocational (IDN)
 - Group Day Supports
 - Group Supported Employment (GSE)
 - Day support option (DSO)
 - Transitional Employment Services
- PORTABILITY** 
- Part of the mission of the Department is to create opportunities for people with intellectual disability to "make choices in pursuit of a personal future."
 - The portability process may be used when you are not satisfied with the services you receive from your current public or private provider, or when you need to change who provides your services for some other reason.

Service Delivery Options



Agency with Choice

- Individual shares responsibility with an agency for the hiring and management of the employees who provide waiver services to them.

Traditional Provider Agency

- Agency assumes full responsibility for the hiring, supervision and management of employees who provide waiver services to the individual

Self-Direction

- Primary role in designing, selecting, directing and evaluating your supports

TO LOCATE AN AGENCY IN YOUR AREA, SEARCH THE [DDS QUALIFIED PROVIDER LIST.](#)

Transition Tasks

Beginning at Age 18:



The DDS Helpline recommends the following tasks:

1. Connect with your DDS Transition Advisor
2. Explore Decision Making Options (Probate Court)
3. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
4. CT Medicaid: Husky C (DSS)
5. Work Assessment (BRS)
6. Photo ID (DMV)
7. Register to Vote

For additional information about these steps, check out the DDS Transition Timeline available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on the DDS Website.

Role of the DDS Transition Advisor



- Assist students, families, school systems, adult service agencies, and DDS case managers in planning a student's transition from school to adult life.
- Collaborate with other state agencies to ensure that all transition options are explored and presented to students, families, and school systems for consideration.
- Collaborate with providers of adult services to ensure that students, families, and school systems become knowledgeable of the various employment and day service supports available.

Explore Decision Making Options



Guardianship

- Petition your local Probate Court up to 180 days before 18th birthday
- Fee \$250 plus sheriff fee (fee can be waived depending on income)
- Initiates a process culminating in a court hearing
- 2 types : Limited or Plenary (full)
- Process completed within 45 days
- Guardianship is reviewed every 3 years and can be terminated

PLEASE NOTE: Court appointments for guardianship/conservatorship will not be effective until the 18th birthday.

Conservatorship

- Petition your local Probate Court up to 45 days before 18th birthday
- Conservator of Person
- Conservator of Estate
- Conservatorships may be voluntary or involuntary

Other Options to Consider

- Natural Supports
- Power of Attorney
- Advanced Directive(s)
- Supported Decision Making



Apply for SSI

- Supplemental Security Income
 - Federal program designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income
- Cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter
- Apply for Social Security at www.SSA.gov or call 1-800-772-1213
- Being approved for SSI establishes the student's disability
 - Apply for SSI before applying for CT Medicaid (Husky C)
- After age 18, family income and assets should not be documented in the application. The individual is considered a family of one.

Important: Eligibility and benefit amounts of most recipients are redetermined every 1 to 6 years

ALWAYS KEEP COPIES!!



Apply for CT Medicaid (HUSKY C)

- Medicaid is a state-federal partnership to provide health care services to adults with disabilities, who are elderly or have low-income.
- When the individual turns 18 years of age, apply for CT Medicaid (Husky C) at connect.ct.gov.
- The process will go smoother if the student has already been found eligible for SSI.
- **Apply for the individual only**, separate from other family members residing in the home who may also have Medicaid.
- To be eligible, an individual's assets cannot exceed \$1,600, unless they are working.
- Students can remain on parent's/private insurance as primary insurance.
- Check application status @ 1-855-626-6632

Always Keep Copies!!

IMPORTANT: In order to utilize available DDS resources post-school, the individual must be eligible for CT Medicaid (Husky C). **DSS requires an annual redetermination to maintain Husky C eligibility.**

Contact the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)



- BRS is under the State Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Their sister agency, the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), is also under ADS.
- BRS assists individuals with significant disabilities to obtain, maintain and advance in competitive integrated employment (CIE).
 - *full or part-time work at minimum wage or higher, with wages and benefits similar to those without disabilities performing the same work, and fully integrated with coworkers without disabilities.*
- Individuals who are interested in employment or are still making this decision are encouraged to contact BRS within the year that they are exiting special education.
- **When?**
 - *BRS presently recommends contacting them six months prior to an individual's 22nd birthday at minimum.*
- **Who do you contact?**
 - lynn.frith@ct.gov or (860) 424-4863
- Annual Letter sent by BRS and DDS
- Ongoing collaboration between DDS and BRS

Level Up Services Through BRS

- BRS provides pre-employment transition services (referred to as Level Up in CT) to students while in secondary, postsecondary and WIOA approved training programs.
- BRS will collaborate with Local Education Authorities (LEAs) to provide or arrange for the provision of pre-employment transition services for all students with a disability (ages 16-22).
- Pre-employment transition services:
 - Job exploration counseling
 - work-based learning experiences
 - counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs
 - workplace readiness training
 - self-advocacy

Additional Tasks



Apply for a State ID

- Issued by DMV
- Must be a Connecticut resident
- Apply at any DMV
- Fee \$28.00
- Bring birth certificate, Social Security card, two pieces of mail (or other documents listed on DMV website)

Register to Vote

- Voting managed through CT's Office of Secretary of the State
- Register online, through local town hall, voter drives, or when applying for CT Medicaid (Husky C)
- To register, you must be:
 - Age 18
 - US citizen
 - Resident of town where registering
- No charge

Life Course Planning

- Core Belief: All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations just as others do in their community.
- Person Centered Planning Tools
 - [Charting the Life Course](#)
- These tools provide an opportunity for the individual to express his/her vision for the future.
- [DDS Advocates' Corner](#)
 - Self determination, self advocacy, peer to peer, healthy relationships



Agency Links

SOCIAL SECURITY ([SSA](#)):

- [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ([DSS](#)):

- [CT Medicaid \(Husky C\)](#)
- [Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) (ASD)
- [Community First Choice](#) (CFC)
- [Katie Beckett Waiver](#)

DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES ([ADS](#)):

- [Level Up](#)
- [Bureau of Rehabilitation Services](#) (BRS)
- [Bureau of Education Services for the Blind](#) (BESB)

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES ([DMHAS](#)):

- [Young Adult Services](#) (YAS)

CONNECTICUT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: BEACON HEALTH ([CT BHP](#))

BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ([BSE](#))

- [EdSight](#) – search for transition programs and private schools throughout the state

Additional Resources

- Disability Rights Connecticut ([DRCT](#))
- Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center ([CPAC](#))
- Connecticut Family Support Network ([CTFSN](#))
- Autism Services and Resources CT ([ASRC](#))
- Special Education Resource Center ([SERC](#))
- Office of the Healthcare Advocate ([OHA](#))
- Surrogate Parent [Program](#)
- Recreation and Leisure ([DDS](#))
 - Best Buddies, Special Olympics, Camps



Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)

JULIENNE GIARD, LCSW

DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Mission

- ▶ The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is a health care agency whose mission is to promote the overall health and wellness of persons with behavioral health needs through an integrated network of holistic, comprehensive, effective, and efficient services and supports that foster dignity, respect, and self-sufficiency in those we serve.

Target Population

- ▶ While the Department's prevention services serve all Connecticut citizens, its mandate is to **serve adults (over 18 years of age)** with psychiatric or substance use disorders, or both, who lack the financial means to obtain such services on their own.
- ▶ 100,000+ adults per year
- ▶ DMHAS also provides collaborative programs for individuals with special needs, such as.
 - ▶ persons with HIV/AIDS infection,
 - ▶ people in the criminal justice system,
 - ▶ those with problem gambling disorders,
 - ▶ pregnant women with substance use disorders,
 - ▶ persons with traumatic brain injury or hearing impairment,
 - ▶ those with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, and
 - ▶ special populations transitioning out of the Department of Children and Families.

Structure

- ▶ 5 regions
- ▶ State operated facilities (8) and private non-profit agencies (130+)
- ▶ 13 Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) cover the state; each with a catchment area
- ▶ 50+ agencies in the statewide addiction services network
- ▶ LMHAs, other mental health agencies and substance use agencies all provide integrated care

LMHAs

- ▶ **Region 1**

- ▶ Southwest CT Mental Health System (SWCMHS) - Bridgeport, Stamford

- ▶ **Region 2**

- ▶ CT Mental Health Center (CMHC) - New Haven
- ▶ River Valley Services (RVS) – Middletown, Old Saybrook
- ▶ Bhcare – Branford, Ansonia
- ▶ Rushford - Meriden

- ▶ **Region 3**

- ▶ Southeast Mental Health Authority (SMHA) - Norwich
- ▶ United Services – Putnam, Dayville, Windham

LMHAs

▶ Region 4

- ▶ Capitol Region Mental Health Center (CRMHC) – Hartford
- ▶ Community Health Resources (CHR) – Enfield, Manchester
- ▶ Intercommunity – East Hartford
- ▶ Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA) – New Britain

▶ Region 5

- ▶ Western CT Mental Health Network (WCMHN) – Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury

Mental Health Services

- **Outpatient Services** (Therapy, Medication Management)
 - Including Trauma specific services
- Community Support Program (CSP)
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Supported Employment
- Supported Education
- Social Rehabilitation

Mental Health Services continued

▶ Inpatient Services

- ▶ 2 Hospitals: CT Valley Hospital (CVH), Whiting Forensic Hospital
- ▶ Inpatient units at some LMHAs
- ▶ Inpatient units at some community hospitals

▶ Residential Services

- ▶ MH Intensive Residential
 - ▶ Group Homes
 - ▶ Supervised Apartment
 - ▶ Transitional
 - ▶ Respite
- ▶ Mental Health Bed Website: www.ctmentalhealthservices.com

Addiction Services

- ▶ Detox (Withdrawal Management)
- ▶ Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient (IOP)
- ▶ Residential Treatment (varying lengths)
- ▶ Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) – alcohol, opioids, nicotine
 - ▶ Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
 - ▶ Methadone, Buprenorphine, Naltrexone
- ▶ Recovery Houses
- ▶ Sober Houses
- ▶ Addiction Services Bed Website: www.ctaddictionservices.com

Accessing Outpatient Services

- ▶ Call local LMHA directly
- ▶ Call Addiction Treatment agency directly
- ▶ DMHAS Access Line (24/7): **800-563-4086**
 - ▶ Includes transportation

Crisis Services

- ▶ DMHAS Statewide Call Center
 - ▶ ACTION Line – **800-HOPE-135**
 - ▶ Or 211 and follow the prompts for crises
- ▶ 18 Mobile Crisis Teams with catchment areas
 - ▶ In the process of expanding to 24/7 mobile services
- ▶ July 2022: 9-8-8

Transition Services

- ▶ DMHAS Young Adult Services (YAS)
 - ▶ Director: Amy Marracino
 - ▶ Amy.Marracino@ct.gov
 - ▶ 860-262-6974
- ▶ LMHAs serve many young adults not in YAS
- ▶ Other MH agencies besides LMHAs

Supported Employment Services

- ▶ 30 programs across the state; with each LMHA or LMHA network
- ▶ Evidence-Based Model implemented internationally
 - ▶ Integrated Competitive Employment
 - ▶ Zero Exclusion
 - ▶ Rapid Job Search
 - ▶ Individualized Job Search
 - ▶ Integration with Clinical Services
 - ▶ Benefits Counseling
- ▶ Strong Collaboration with ADS/BRS

Family Involvement

- ▶ Family sessions
- ▶ Education and Support Family Groups
- ▶ NAMI

First Episode Psychosis (FEP)

- ▶ Two formal FEP programs in CT
 - ▶ Special Treatment for Early Psychosis (STEP) at CMHC in New Haven in collaboration with Yale: Home – mindmapct.org
 - ▶ Institute of Living (IOL) Potential
 - ▶ <https://instituteofliving.org/programs-services/young-adult-services>

Additional Resources

- ▶ Advocacy Unlimited
- ▶ CT Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
- ▶ Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs)
- ▶ Prevention Services

Contact Information

- ▶ DMHAS website: portal.ct.gov/dmhas
- ▶ Julienne Giard, LCSW, Director, Community Services Division
- ▶ Julienne.giard@ct.gov
- ▶ 860-418-6946

- ▶ Employment and Education Services
 - ▶ Ellen Econs, LCSW
 - ▶ Ellen.econs@ct.gov
 - ▶ 860-308-4523





State of Connecticut
Department of Aging and Disability Services
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Vocational
Rehabilitation
Program

MISSION

The Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) provides many programs and services to maximize opportunities for the independence and well-being of people with disabilities and older adults in Connecticut.

The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services strives to create opportunities that enable individuals with significant disabilities to work competitively and live independently. Staff works to provide individualized services, develop effective partnerships, and share sufficient information so that consumers and their families may make informed choices about the rehabilitation process and employment options.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

BRS offers individualized services to eligible individuals with disabilities, or potentially eligible students with disabilities, and provides supports in planning for and achieving job goals.

➤ Prepare for

➤ Find

➤ Keep

➤ Advance in

JOBS in the community

GOAL OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

- Full-time or part-time employment
- Minimum wage or above
- Customary wages based on the position/employer
- Yields comparable income to others (with or without disabilities) in the field

The Vocational Rehabilitation Process:

- ✓ Level Up Services (if applicable)
- ✓ Referral/application
- ✓ Eligibility determination
- ✓ Development of an Employment Plan
- ✓ Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Post-employment services
- ✓ Information and referral

Who is eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation?

ADULT VR SERVICES

- Significant physical or mental condition
- Disability poses substantial barrier to employment
- Must require services to prepare for, find, succeed, and advance in employment

LEVEL UP PROGRAM

- Enrolled students who are:
 - Age 16-22
 - Eligible for special education or related services or;
 - Is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504

Level Up Services

- BRS Level Up Counselor assigned to student's school will provide and coordinate all Level Up Services
- Services may be provided by Level Up Program, School, Community Rehabilitation Provider or other entities providing transition-based supports

Level Up Services

- **Job Exploration Counseling**
- **Work-based Learning Experience**
- **Counseling on Enrollment for Postsecondary Education**
- **Workplace Readiness Training**
- **Instruction in Self-Advocacy**

Referral/Application



What to Expect:

- Work with BRS Secretary to schedule appointment with VR Counselor
- Bring any disability, benefits documents, employment pay stubs (if possible)
- 1-1.5hr long meeting with VR Counselor to review your case and sign application for services

Eligibility Determination

Counselor makes eligibility determination based on:

- Review of existing medical, psychological, psychiatric or other records
- Review of school/employment records (where applicable)
- Identification of functional capacity areas impacted by disability

BRS can purchase evaluations for diagnostic and planning purposes, when necessary.

Eligibility determination must be made within 60 days of application. Waiver letter is required if VR Counselor needs more time.

Functional Capacity Review

- Mobility
- Interpersonal Skills
- Communication
- Self-direction
- Self-care
- Work Tolerance
- Work Skills

Order of Selection

Implemented when the VR Program does not have sufficient resources to serve all eligible persons under Employment Plans.

BRS is not currently under an Order of Selection.

Have you heard of “Section 511” of WIOA?

- The purpose, in part, is to keep young people from being placed into subminimum wage employment, and to help people already in subminimum wage jobs to move into competitive integrated employment (CIE). The regulations also require the vocational rehabilitation program to offer annual career counseling and other services to existing workers with disabilities paid below the minimum wage. In CT this primarily applies to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Does Section 511 eliminate subminimum wage?

- No. Section 511 does not eliminate the subminimum wage option for individuals with disabilities. Adults ages 25 or older can choose to enter into subminimum wage employment. If someone under the age of 25 wants to enter subminimum wage there are specific requirements.

Development of an Employment Plan (IPE)

You and your VR Counselor will work together to identify:

- job goal
- services to be provided
- client and BRS responsibilities

within 90 days of eligibility

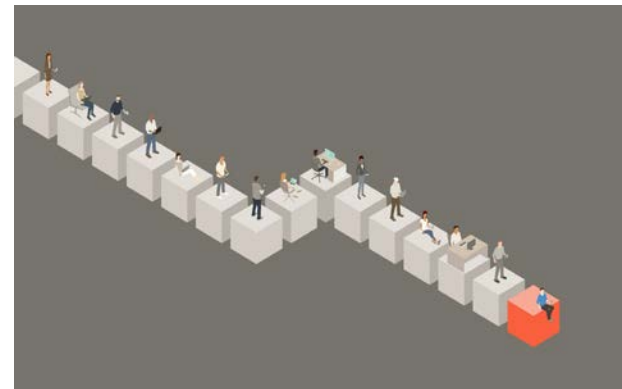
Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Vocational counseling
- Benefits counseling
- Job search assistance
- School-to-work transition services
- Skills training and career education in college and/or vocational schools
- On-the-job training in business and industry
- Assistive technology services such as adaptive equipment for mobility, communication and work activities
- Vehicle and home modification
- Supported employment services
- Services to assist in restoring or improving a physical and/or mental impairment
- Help accessing other programs and services

Virtual Services

Preparing for Employment

- Mock Interviewing
- Interview Preparedness
- Tablet technology
- Pre-Employment Services-Modules A and B
- Career Exploration-Interest Inventories/Conover Training Program
- Resume Services



Reaching the Employment Goal

Length of time under Employment Plan will vary by individual.

- Annual Review and IPE Amendments may be utilized
- Employment goal reflects current labor market in terms of wages
- Career growth and advancement options explored
- success in part-time or full-time work is monitored for a minimum of 90 days prior to case closure

Once IPE and case requirements for closure are met, case will be closed.

Post Employment Services

After case closure . . .

If any disability-related concerns arise on the job, consultation and short-term on site intervention is available to support job retention.

Sometimes post employment services are sufficient. Other times, a new application and new case may be required.

Information and Referral

For services BRS does not provide . . .

contact information and referral as appropriate to other state and community-based agencies will be shared

CT Tech Act Project
Benefits Counseling
College and University Career Centers
Department of Labor/ American Job Centers
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Job Accommodation Network

How to apply for vocational rehabilitation services?

Visit our web site:

www.ct.gov/brs

Call 1-800-537-2549

860-920-7163 (video phone)

Call the nearest office of the
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

BRS Office Information

Northern Region		
Location	Phone	Address
East Hartford	959-200-4400	893 Main Street, Suite 304 East Hartford, CT 06108
Manchester	860-647-5960	699 East Middle Turnpike Manchester, CT 06040
New Britain	860-612-3569	30 Christian Lane New Britain, CT 06051
Windsor Office	860-697-3550	184 Windsor Avenue Windsor, CT 06095

Southern Region		
Location	Phone	Address
Danielson	860-455-1617	562 Westcott Road Danielson, CT 06239
Middletown	860-740-1080	442 Smith Street Middletown, CT 06457
New Haven	203-974-3000	370 James Street, Suite 306 New Haven, CT 06513
Uncasville/Montville	860-848-5950	601 Norwich New London TPK, Suite 1 Uncasville, CT 06382
Willimantic	860-455-1606	1320 Main Street Willimantic, CT 06226

Western Region		
Location	Phone	Address
Bridgeport	203-683-0500	1057 Broad Street Bridgeport, CT 06604
Danbury	203-702-0152	342 Main Street Danbury, CT 06810
Stamford	203-653-1939	1642 Bedford Street Stamford, CT 06905
Torrington	860-294-0013	30 Peck Road, Building 1, Suite 1102 Torrington, CT 06790
Waterbury	203-578-4550	249 Thomaston Avenue Waterbury, CT 06702