



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Forums to Identify the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

During the week of the 24th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (signed on July 26th), the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and many other state and non-profit agencies conduct a weeklong series of open forums to hear the concerns of people with disabilities and their families.

The forums are open for anyone to come in and speak; representatives of the sponsoring agencies will be there to listen. State policy makers and planners want to hear your concerns about current services, unmet needs, and suggestions for improving services and expanding opportunities.

Monday, July 21st, 2014, from 1 – 3 PM

Zambarano Unit, Eleanor Slater Hospital
2090 Wallum Lake Rd, Pascoag

Hosted by Alliance for Better Long Term Care / RI Long Term Care Ombudsman

Monday, July 21st, 2014, from 4 – 6 PM

Woonsocket Harris Public Library, 303 Clinton St, Woonsocket
Hosted by Seven Hills Rhode Island

Tuesday, July 22nd, 2014, from 2 – 4 PM

Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick
Hosted by the Ocean State Center for Independent Living

Wednesday, July 23rd, 2014, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Middletown Public Library, 700 West Main Rd, Middletown
Hosted by Opportunities Unlimited For People With Differing Abilities

Thursday, July 24th, 2014, from 4 – 6 PM

Rogers Free Library, 525 Hope St, Bristol

Hosted by RI Statewide Independent Living Council and National Federation of the Blind of RI

Thursday, July 24th, 2014, from 4 – 6 PM

Charlestown Chambers, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown

Hosted by Perspectives Corporation and National Multiple Sclerosis Society RI Chapter

Friday, July 25th, 2014, from 1:30 – 3:30 PM

South Providence Library, 441 Prairie Avenue, Providence

Hosted by RI Department of Health

Remarks can be made in person during the forums, faxed to 462-0106, e-mailed to GCD.Disabilities@gcd.ri.gov, or mailed by August 8th to Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O' Pastore Center - 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920. CART Recorders (real-time captioning) and assistive listening devices will be at all sites, courtesy of the Office of Rehabilitation Services / Assistive Technology Access Partnership. The RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will provide sign language interpreters for each forum.

To request information or accommodation, please call 462-0100 or 462-0101(tty) in advance; arrangements will be provided at no cost.

Language interpreting is available with the Department of Human Services and requests can be made to 462-2130 in advance.

When making the ADA reservation with RIdE to get to and from the public forum, tell the RIdE reservationist (1-800-479-6902) that this trip is for the Governor's Commission's Public Forums in order to guarantee your return trip, after normal RIdE hours of operation. ADA fare is still applicable. When attending the forum, please use unscented personal care products. Mild fragrances can constitute a toxic exposure for a person with an environmental illness. When attending the forum, please use unscented personal care products. Mild fragrances can constitute a toxic exposure for a person with an environmental illness.

Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor

The Public Forums' additional sponsors are: Arthritis Foundation RI Chapter; AccessPoint RI; Brain Injury Association of RI; Gateway Healthcare; In-Sight; J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center; Living in Fulfilling Environments, Inc; Mental Health Association of RI; Neighborhood Health Plan of RI; RI Parent Information Network, Inc.; and RI Disability Law Center.

Outcomes from the Past Public Forums

- Funding for technology to provide communication access for the deaf and hard of hearing population during periods of emergencies or in other necessary situations;
- Requiring representatives of service providers to adults with developmental disabilities and community-based providers of adult behavioral healthcare services to be appointed to the Interagency Transition Council to assist young adults with disabilities prepare for adulthood;
- Directing the state purchasing division to give preference in awarding government contracts to small Disability Business Enterprises, businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities;
- Establishing a Medicaid Managed Care option for adults with disabilities, which will assist families in navigating through the chronic health care systems;
- Providing a cost of living adjustment for (Medicaid) personal care attendants;
- Establishing a crisis intervention service for adults with severe impairments who have been abused or assaulted by a care giver;
- Funding comprehensive in-state transitional services for individuals with traumatic brain injury;
- Allowing accessory family dwelling unit in a single -family residence as a reasonable accommodation for family-members with disabilities in any residential area;
- Creating a network of wheelchair accessible taxicabs, funded by the federal New Freedom Initiative;
- Extending the RI Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly co-payments to people on SSDI between 55 and 65, and coverage of injectable drug treatments of multiple sclerosis;
- Funding through the Neighborhood Opportunities Program to create more affordable and accessible housing;
- Establishing a Medicaid Buy-In Program for persons with disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid allowing them to return to work while retaining Medicaid coverage;
- Requiring the installation of curb cuts and/or ramps at both ends of any pedestrian crosswalk;
- Allowing accessory family dwelling units in a single -family residence as a reasonable accommodation for family-members with disabilities in any residential area, eliminating the need for a zoning variance hearing, thereby encouraging more families to maintain relatives with severe impairments at home;
- Providing a community living option to all persons who have a disability and are sixty-five (65) years of age or younger in order to allow those individuals the choice to live in a less restrictive community-based environment or their own home environment;
- Creating a funding mechanism for “NewsLine” providing telephone access to the text of newspapers to residents, who are blind, visually impaired, or reading impaired and increasing funding of the Adaptive Telephone Loan Program;
- Extending the RI Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly to include state co-payments to people on SSDI between 55 and 65;
- Authorizing the Secretary of State to utilize "state-of-the-art" voting technology to expand special ballot services to a wide range of voters with disabilities;
- Requiring zoning ordinances to provide standards and requirements for the review and approval of drive-through windows (of any type), including taking into account pedestrian safety and access for people with disabilities; and
- Banning pre-existing condition exclusions to health insurance coverage under an individual policy, group health plans.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Accessible Rhode Island

Donald Perna, Executive Director
P.O. Box 20185, Cranston, RI 02920
Phone: (401) 383-8878
E-mail: info@access-ri.org
Website: www.access-ri.org

Accessible Rhode Island, which operates under the umbrella of the MS Dream Center, has recently launched its new website, www.access-ri.org.

This handy resource takes the guess work out of accessibility for close to 900 venues throughout the state of Rhode Island including libraries, theatres, museums, historic sites, parks, beaches, walking trails, senior centers, YMCAs, wellness centers, transportation and hotels/motels.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 401-383-8878.

AccessPoint RI

Thomas P. Kane, President & CEO
P.O. Box 20130, Cranston, RI 02920-0942
Phone: (401) (401) 941-1112 Fax: (401) 942-2516 TTY: via 711
E-mail: tkane@accesspointri.org
Website: <http://www.accesspointri.org/>

Our mission is to empower persons with differing abilities to claim and enjoy their right to dignity, respect, equality, and choice throughout their lives. AccessPoint RI is a non-profit human services organization established in 1965 to provide children and adults with developmental disabilities the means to lead full and productive lives.

Over forty-five years ago, parents whose adult children with disabilities had been confined to institutional living at the Joseph Ladd School, banded together to establish a more conducive environment for learning and personal growth. Initially located in the basement of a local church, within six years, the agency had erected a building to house services for 100 children and adults with disabilities. Today, the agency continues to honor these roots, keeping its commitment to meet the needs of families through providing the highest quality of services. Under the direction of Mr. Thomas P. Kane, President and CEO, and governed by a Board of Directors, AccessPoint now provides supportive services for more than 600 adults with developmental disabilities and children with a myriad of needs. The agency specializes in services for children and adults with cognitive, physical and medical needs, supporting each person to live to his or her fullest potential. This deep expertise has expanded beyond the area of disabilities to include vocational training for a wide variety of adults through the People In Partnerships division.

The agency is based in Cranston and several of its programs serve people throughout the state of Rhode Island.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Arthritis Foundation Rhode Island Chapter

Stephen Evangelista, Executive Director
2348 Post Road, Suite 104
Warwick, RI 02886
Phone: (401) 739-3773 Fax: (401) 739-8990
E-mail: sevangel@arthritis.org
Website: <http://www.arthritis.org/rhode-island/>

The Arthritis Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organization that supports the more than 100 types of arthritis and related conditions with advocacy, programs, services and research.

Brain Injury Association of RI

Debra Sharpe, Executive Director
935 Park Avenue Suite 8, Cranston, RI 02910-2743
Phone: (401) 461-6599 Fax: (401) 461-6561 TTY: via 711
E-mail: Braininjuryctr@biaofri.org
Website: <http://www.biausa.org/RI/>

The Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is: "To prevent brain injury and to enhance the lives of those affected by brain injury."

The Brain Injury Association of RI currently sponsors five support groups at various locations through out Rhode Island. We also educate the general public about brain injury and its consequences through our Brain Injury Resource Center.

Gateway Healthcare, Inc.

Richard LeClerc, President
249 Roosevelt Avenue, Suite 205
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Phone: (401) 724-8400 Fax: (401) 724-8488
E-mail: rleclerc@gatewayhealth.org
Website: <http://www.gatewayhealth.org>

Gateway offers comprehensive, integrated, and seamless services and referrals at locations accessible throughout Rhode Island. Gateway's staff of 600 psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical specialists, and other mental health and substance abuse professionals reach over 25,000 Rhode Islanders per year.

Gateway Services Include:

- Licensed Residential Treatment Programs for severely abused and neglected children and youth.
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Centers provide outpatient counseling and day treatment for men and women suffering from alcohol and drug addictions.
- Apartments and Group Homes for adults with severe and persistent mental illness are located throughout Rhode Island.
- Outpatient Treatment Centers provide comprehensive mental health counseling, psychiatric assessments, emergency and crisis intervention, and substance abuse treatment for children, families and adults.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

Timothy Flynn, Chairperson
John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court
Cranston, RI 02920-3049
(401) 462-0100 TTY:: via 711 Fax: (401) 462-0106
email: gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov
website: <http://www.disabilities.ri.gov>

The Commission consists of 24 gubernatorially appointed Commissioners, a staff of 4 persons, several college fellows; and many volunteers. The Commission publishes a weekly newsletter on legislation affecting people with disabilities, conducts an annual series of public forums and the concerns of people with disabilities than their families, creating its legislative package for the coming General Assembly session and publicizing their concerns through presentations and advocacy.

The Commission is responsible for:

- Coordinating compliance by state agencies with federal and state disability rights laws;
 - Assisting local boards of canvassers to ensure all polling places are accessible
 - Approving or rejecting requests to waive the state building code's standards for accessibility at facilities to be leased by state agencies
 - Investigating disability discrimination complaints involving physical barriers at public or private facilities, and ordering corrective action
 - Providing technical assistance to businesses, employers, merchants, non-profit agencies, local and state government agencies on how to comply with federal and state disability rights laws, including mediating consumer and employee disability discrimination complaints
 - Certifying small disadvantaged businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities; for a preference in bidding on state funded and state directed public construction contracts and state contracts for goods and services
 - Approving or modifying state and local government agency's Open Meeting Accessibility for persons with disabilities transition plans
 - Approving or rejecting Open Meeting Telecommunication Waiver requests from local and state board members whose disability prevents them from being physically present at meetings, allowing those members to continue to serve via telecommunication devices
 - The Mary Brennan fellowship program for college students with disabilities provides career experiences
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These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

IN-SIGHT

Christopher Butler, Executive Director
43 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888
Phone: (401) 941-3322 Fax: (401) 941-3356 TTY: via 711
E-mail: cbutler@in-sight.org, insightri@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.in-sight.org>

We envision a world in which people are valued for who they are, not for what they see. Our mission is to inspire confidence, build skills and empower people who are blind and visually impaired to become fully integrated, equally valued members of society by providing diverse services that produce opportunities and choices.

Our programs and services are open to anyone who is blind or visually impaired and in many cases friends and family members as well.

J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center

Don F Armstrong, President/CEO
3445 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886
Phone: (401) 739-2700 Fax: (401) 737-8907 TTY: (800) 745-5555
E-mail: darmstrong@trudeaucenter.org
Website: <http://trudeaucenter.org/index.asp>

The Trudeau Center serves approximately 1,500 individuals with disabilities and their families throughout Rhode Island from pre-birth to end of life. We have a diverse and talented team of approximately 850 professionals ranging from qualified direct support professionals to specialized clinicians. We are committed to providing individuals and or their families with quality services and resources for their needs and to work collaboratively with our local, state, and federal government to advocate for an improved quality of life for all individuals.

Living in Fulfilling Environments, Inc.

Lawrence D. Wiedenhofer, Director
490 Metacom Avenue
Bristol, RI 02809
Phone: (401) 254-2910 Ext. 16 Fax: (401) 254-2912
E-mail: larryw@lifeinc.org
Website: <http://www.lifeinc.org/>

L.I.F.E. Inc. strives to provide individualized supportive environments thereby empowering individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their personal goals. Our approach focuses on education and learning through self-advocacy and informed choices while celebrating peoples' unique abilities and preserving equality and human dignity.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Mental Health Association of RI

Richard C. Antonelli, President/CEO
185 Dexter Street Box # 16
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Phone: (401) 726-2285 Fax: (401) 365-6170
E-mail: mhari@mhari.org
Website: <http://www.mhari.org>

The mission of the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island is to promote mental health, prevent mental illness, and improve mental health services through advocacy, education, service, and research.

MHARI's Goal is to make mental health achievable and mental health care affordable, and accessible for all Rhode Islanders.

National Federation of the Blind of RI

Grace Pires, President
P.O Box 14404
East Providence, RI 02914
Phone: (401) 433-2606 TTY: via 711
E-mail: info@nfbri.org
Website: www.nfbri.org

The National Federation of the Blind of RI is a membership based consumer advocacy organization. We are the local affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. The NFB offers such services as access to newspapers and magazines through Newline, scholarship to college blind students, Braille education programs for blind children and mentoring. The NFB improves blind people's lives through advocacy, education about the capacity of blind individuals, research, technology and programs that promote a positive view of blindness, independence and self-confidence.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society's RI Chapter

Kathy M. Mechnig, Chapter President
205 Hallene Road, Suite 209
Warwick, RI 02886
Phone: (401) 738-8383 Fax: (401) 738-8469 TTY: via 711
E-mail: Kathy.Mechmig@nmss.org
Website: <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/RI>

The Rhode Island Chapter provides a variety of programs, fundraisers, and services statewide for Rhode Islanders with MS. Our goal is to develop programs and services that promote knowledge and health. The objective is always to empower the person with MS to lead a productive and fulfilling life.

The Rhode Island Chapter strives to achieve its mission by helping people with MS in the following areas: Emotional Health, Knowledge of MS, Family & Social Support and Long-term Care.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island

James A. Hooley, President/Chief Executive Officer
299 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: (401) 459-6000 1-800-963-1001 Fax: (401) 459-6175 TTY: via 711
E-mail: info@nhpri.org
Website: www.nhpri.org

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, an innovative health plan in partnership with community health centers, secures access to high quality, cost-effective health for Rhode Island's at-risk populations.

Neighborhood has products for low-income children and families, children with special health care needs, adults with disabilities on Medicaid and adults and seniors who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Ocean State Center for Independent Living

Lorna Ricci, Executive Director
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889
Phone: (401) 738-1013 13 Fax: (401) 738-1083
E-mail: info@oscil.org
Website: <http://www.oscil.org>

The Ocean State Center for Independent Living serves people who have disabilities to address barriers to independence in their homes and in the community.

Opportunities Unlimited For People With Differing Abilities

Linda N. Ward, Executive Director
1 Worthington Road
Cranston, RI 02920
Phone: (401) 942-9044 Fax: (401) 942-9043 TTY: via 711
E-mail: lward@oppunlim.com
Website: <http://www.oppunlimited.com/>

Opportunities Unlimited, Inc. provides support services to adults with developmental disabilities. Services include residential support, supported employment and day services.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Perspectives Corporation

David Ruppell, Executive Director
1130 Ten Road, Bldg. B, Suite 101
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Phone: (401) 294-3990 Fax: (401) 294-9879 TTY: (401) 583-0188
E-mail: druppell@perspectivescorporation.com
Website: <http://www.perspectivescorporation.com/>

Perspectives is a multifaceted, dynamic agency that has been providing support to people with disabilities. While our main office is located in North Kingstown, we support adults and children throughout the state of Rhode Island. Our creativity, flexibility, and commitment to providing excellent services have helped to make us one of the largest human service agencies in the state of Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Steven A. Florio, Executive Director
One Capitol Hill - Ground Level
Providence, RI 02908-5886
Phone: (401) 222-1204 Fax: (401) 222-5736 TTY: (401) 222-1205
Email: cdhh.main@cdhh.ri.gov
Website: <http://www.cdhh.ri.gov>

The RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RI CDHH) is an advocating, coordinating, and service providing entity committed to promoting an environment in which the deaf and hard of hearing in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives. The RI CDHH develops policy; initiates and lobbies for favorable legislation; fosters cooperation's and awareness among state agencies and community organizations; and educates and advises consumers, state agencies, and employers about Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rights to equal access. The RI CDHH also provides direct services in its operation of a Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service, a lending library of books and videotapes, and as a clearinghouse of information and referral on all topics related to hearing loss.

Rhode Island Department of Health Office of Special Healthcare Needs

Deborah Garneau, Chief
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: (401) 222-5929 Fax: (401) 222-1442 TTY: via 711
E-mail: Deborah.Garneau@health.ri.gov
Website: <http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/specialhealthcareneeds/>

The Office of Special Healthcare Needs ensures family-centered, community based, systems of services for children and youth with special healthcare needs through infrastructure building, training and technical assistance, and collaboration with families, other state agencies, health plans, and community agencies. The Office assures access to care through systems improvement as guided by consumer input, Healthy People 2020 Objectives and Title V federal legislation. The Office is specifically charged with developing and implementing a plan to achieve appropriate community-based systems of services for children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services

Ronald Racine, Acting Associate Director
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: (401) 421-7005 Fax: (401) 222-3574 TTY: (401) 421-7016
E-mail: ronald.racine@dhs.ri.gov
Website: <http://www.ors.ri.gov>

The mission of the Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services is "to empower individuals with disabilities to choose, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence and integration into society".

Rhode Island Disability Law Center

Raymond L. Bandusky, Executive Director
275 Westminster Street, Suite 401
Providence, RI 02903-3434
Phone: (401) 831-3150 Fax: (401) 274-5568 TTY: (401) 831-5335
E-mail: info@ridlc.org
Website: <http://www.ridlc.org/>

Rhode Island Disability Law Center, Inc. provides free legal assistance to persons with disabilities on disability related issues. Services include individual representation to protect rights or secure benefits, self-help information, educational programs, and administrative and legislative advocacy.

Rhode Island Parent Information Network, Inc.

Stephen Brunero, Executive Director
1210 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
Phone: (401) 270-0101 Fax: (401) 270-7049 TTY: via 711
E-mail: mcmullen@ripin.org
Website: <http://www.ripin.org/>

Our mission is to inform, educate, support and empower all families to be equal partners in advocacy for education, health, and socio-economic well being of their children and families; and to achieve family-centered systems changes, which are culturally competent and community based.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

Ray Studley, CEO
705 Melrose Street
Providence, RI 02907
Phone: (401) 781-9400 Ride: 1-800-479-6902 Fax: (401) 784-9523 TTY: via 711
E-mail: rstudley@ripta.com
Website: <http://www.ripta.com/>

RIPTA, a quasi-public agency governed by a board of directors, provides statewide bus transit service, administers RIDE (RIPTA's paratransit division that provides ADA services in the area), and coordinates statewide rideshare programs.

Public transportation should be available to everyone.

Americans With Disabilities Act Transit Program, serves individuals with disabilities who are unable to use regular bus service, RIPTA provides ADA Paratransit Services through the RIDE Program, which RIPTA coordinates and manages statewide. If you have a disability that prevents you from using RIPTA's regular bus service, you may be eligible for our ADA Paratransit Services. For more information on this program or to obtain an eligibility application, contact the RIPTA ADA Coordinator at (401) 784-9553, TDD RI Relay at 1-800-745-5555 or 711. For RIDE Information call: 461-9760 or 1-800-479-6902.

Seniors & People with Disabilities Pass Program:

Low income persons with a disability or aged 65 and above may ride free of charge with a RIPTA No Fare ID Pass. All other persons aged 65 and above or with a disability pay full fare during RIPTA peak hours of service (7 am - 9 am and 3 pm - 6 pm) on weekdays and pay 1/2 fare all other times upon presentation of a RIPTA Senior/Disabled Reduced Fare ID Pass or a Medicare ID Card.

Rhode Island Relay

Courtenay Petracca, Outreach Coordinator
2820 Hartford Ave
Johnston, RI 02919
Phone: (401) 934-1026
E-mail: courtenay.petracca@HamiltonRelay.com
Website: RIRelay.Org

Hamilton Relay has been providing telecommunications relay services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking since 1991. Hamilton Relay is a division of Hamilton Telecommunications®, a diversified telecommunications service provider headquartered in Aurora, Nebraska. Established in 1901 as a small regional telephone company, Hamilton Telecommunications has grown to not only provide local telephone service and relay services, but also to provide internet service, information systems, call center services, long distance, and cable television for its customers.

These forums are sponsored by the commissions, departments, and organizations listed below that provide services and/or advocate on behalf of people with disabilities:

Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council

Vincent DeJesus, Acting Chairperson
20 Nobert Street, Warren, RI 02885
Phone: (401) 337-5888 Fax: (401) 245-8023
E-mail: rcosta@risilc.org
Website: <http://www.risilc.org>

The Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council and the Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services within the Department of Human Services develop, implement, and monitor Rhode Island's State Plan for Independent Living. Through implementation of the State Plan, the State assures that it will:

- (I) Promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination equal access and individual and system advocacy;
- (II) Provide financial assistance for providing, expanding, or improving the provision of independent living services;
- (III) Provide assistance to develop and support a statewide network of centers for independent living, operated by consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agencies ; and
- (IV) Advocate for improving working relationships among the various entities providing services to and for persons with significant disabilities

Seven Hills Rhode Island

Christine Gadbois, Vice President
30 Cumberland Street, Suite 200
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Phone: (401) 597-6700 Fax: (401) 597-6706 TTY: (508) 890-5584
E-mail: cgadbois@sevenhills.org
Website: www.sevenhills.org

Seven Hills Rhode Island has been providing supports to individuals with disabilities for over 50 years and currently supports over 1000 adults, children and families, SHRI is affiliated with the Seven Hills foundation which is a large, not-for-profit health and human service agency providing supports and services across Massachusetts and RI.

Seven Hills RI offers services for adults with disabilities including: Residential, Independent Living, Respite, Supported Employment, Day Habilitation, Shared living, "My Choice" -Self-Directed Supports, outpatient Behavioral Health, and "Living Rite" - health care management. Additionally, SHRI supports children and Families via Home-Based Therapeutic Services, Respite, Personal Assistance Supports Services, and Early Intervention.

Friends of the Public Forums

Alliance for Better Long Term Care, Kathleen Heren, Executive Director
Brown University Howard R. Swearer Center for Public Service, Katherine Trimble, Acting Director
The Fogarty Center, David C. Reiss, Executive Director
Ocean State Center for Independent Living, Lorna Ricci, Executive Director