

# Learning Matters

## Online Offerings

'Education is the kindling of a flame,  
not the filling of a vessel.'  
–Socrates

### Office of Learning & Development

Department of Developmental Services – Central/West Region

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### Learning & Development Contact Information

Administration & Registration

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Learning Matters is now posted online in two locations:

1. [www.communitygateway.org](http://www.communitygateway.org) Once in the website, click on the Training button
2. [www.ddslearning.com](http://www.ddslearning.com) Click on Training and Development Opportunities > Learning Calendars > Central-West Training Calendar

## **Directions for registering, devices to use to take the trainings, joining the training.**

**To register:** Click on the link directly under the date to register. (Person taking the training must register themselves with the email that will be used to take the training). Please only register for one of the dates per training as space is limited. You may be able to be put on a wait list if that is the only date that you can attend if the registration is full. Please cancel in advance if you are unable to attend.

**Joining the training:** Please note, once you fill in your information on the Webex page, you have to scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the registration button to send your registration request. You will receive a follow up email that has a 'Join Now' link, which you can click to get into the class. The link will not be active until the day of the class.

**Devices to use when taking the training:** When you register for the training (offered on WebEx), you will need to register with the email that you will use to take the training. The device you use to attend the training must have audio and should have video (camera) capacity. If you are having difficulty with your audio on your device, you may supplement the audio by calling/dialing in while maintaining the visual on your device. You will not be able to fully participate in the training by calling/dialing in alone. Therefore, whenever possible you should attend the training either on a computer/laptop or connect through the Cisco app on a smart phone. If you access through the phone app, you won't have all the features, but you will still be able to see the power point, hear the presenter and use the chat feature.

**Unfamiliar with WebEx training and never used it before? At least one day before the training,**

**1) Please watch this video about how to use WebEx Training:**

<https://launch.webex.com/launch/lr.php?RCID=2655c5a915dd48c1ab5d2cf3f9dda3a4>

**2) Download the App for WebEx on your computer /smart phone or iPad/tablet in advance in order to be able to use all the functions during the training:**

<https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>

## Basic Human Rights

This class introduces participants to guaranteed rights to which all people in the U.S. are entitled, as well as additional protections guaranteed to individuals who use services and supports offered through DDS and DDS-funded providers. Topics include: Constitutional, civil, legal, and human rights; the role of DDS and provider agencies in safeguarding rights of people we support; systems to support staff's efforts; and responsibilities of mandated reporters and the reporting process.

**Instructor:** Patricia Carney / Regional Trainer

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 9:00a-2:30p

Click here to register: [Basic Human Rights March 17, 2021](#)

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:00a-2:30p

Click here to register: [Basic Human Rights April 13, 2021](#)

## Human Rights Officer/Advocate

**See training offerings above if you need to attend Basic Human Rights**

This class prepares participants to be effective Human Rights advocates for people they support. It is required for those who will be taking on the role of Human Rights Officer. Topics covered include the structures and policies within DDS to provide safeguards for the rights of people who receive services and supports, the role and responsibilities of the Human Rights Officer and the resources available to the HRO in carrying out their responsibilities.

**Instructor:** Teka J. Harris / Regional Human Rights Specialist

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

**If you need accommodations,** please request them at least two weeks before the training by emailing the regional training director [Tom.Winans@mass.gov](mailto:Tom.Winans@mass.gov)

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 (with Rebecca Christie) 9:30a-2p

Click here to register: [Human Rights Officer March 24, 2021](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 (with Nathan Hoover) 9:30a-2p

Click here to register: [Human Rights Officer April 28, 2021](#)

**Please cancel in advance if you are unable to attend. Do not sign up for more than one waitlist as this takes away opportunity from others.**

## Supporting a Life Beyond Trauma

**\*\*\*This training contains sensitive content/topics around trauma that some people may find triggering. Participant discretion advised\*\*\***

Many of the individuals we support have a history of trauma. Also, the relationships that they have with us are often some of the most important ongoing relationships they may have outside of their family. These relationships have the potential to help work through the effects of trauma in order to have a life they can enjoy. Understanding trauma history can help prevent re-traumatization by well-meaning caregivers and community service providers.

This workshop is designed to provide an understanding of the effects of trauma and learn ways to respond that promote post traumatic growth and healthy relationships. This workshop will provide participants with:

- A definition of trauma informed care
- Explanations of various types of trauma and its impact and prevalence on people with ID/D.
- Recommendations for recognizing possible displays of trauma, PTSD symptoms, and potential triggers while being mindful of behavior as a trauma response
- A description of Staff's unintended role in re-traumatization and how we can work in a trauma informed way in order to support a life beyond trauma.

**Instructor:** Jaime R. Thompson, Office of Learning & Development

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:00a-2:00p

Click here to register: [Supporting a Life Beyond Trauma March 30, 2021](#)

## Supporting a Life Beyond Trauma Part II (must have taken Part 1)

This training is designed to help participants use the information from Part I to guide and inform their thinking and approach with the people they support. Participants will learn how to work from a trauma informed place rooted in mindfulness. We will explore how to create a safe space through person centered tools such as universal supports, charting a life course, and more that help prevent re-traumatization, support self-determination, and begin to build pathways to supporting a life beyond trauma. Participants will also learn self-care techniques so that they are able to help mitigate work related stress in order to bring their best self to their work.

**Instructor:** Jaime R. Thompson, Office of Learning & Development

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 9:00a-2:00p

Click here to register: [Supporting a Life Beyond Trauma II April 14, 2021](#)

**Please cancel in advance if you are unable to attend. Do not sign up for more than one waitlist as this takes away opportunity from others.**

## **A Life Like Any Other**

George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Knowing the history of people with IDD in society provides us with an important context for understanding what our current history, values and services contribute to this ongoing story. We'll explore some of the social roles people with IDD have had in the past and how we can support people to develop and enjoy more meaningful social roles today and tomorrow. We'll discuss the gifts and talents that people with disabilities have to contribute to their communities and how we, as workers in any part of the system, can promote positive images and roles for people with disabilities.

**Instructor:** Pat Carney, Office of Learning & Development

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

Wednesday, March 24, 2021                      9:00a-12:30p

Click here to register: [A Life Like Any Other March 24, 2021](#)

## **Understanding the People We Support**

We work with people who are labeled with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), including Autism, and people with Acquired or Traumatic Brain Injury (ABI/TBI). In this session we talk about what those terms mean and what kinds of services are available to people through the Dept. of Developmental Services and our vendor providers. We will learn about ways to demonstrate respect for all by using People First language and discuss our roles as advocates and teachers with the individuals we support.

**Instructor:** Pat Carney, Office of Learning & Development

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

Wednesday, April 21, 2021                      9:00a-12:30p

Click here to register: [Understanding the People We Support April 21, 2021](#)

**Please cancel in advance if you are unable to attend. Do not sign up for more than one waitlist as this takes away opportunity from others.**

## Multimodal Communication/Basic Sign Language

This is a Five(5)-week **introductory** course in basic sign language and multimodal communication strategies and how they are used to enhance interactions with individuals with developmental disabilities. A basic vocabulary of approximately 150 American Sign Language signs is introduced and practiced during group exercises. The emphasis is on developing skills in “key word signing” techniques as well as increasing awareness and use of a variety of modes including gestures, facial expressions, body movements and eye contact. This is a fun, interactive class that provides participants with skills that they can use immediately to improve interactions with the individuals they support. Class size is limited.

**NOTE: Participants must attend all five(5) sessions to successfully complete the course.**

**Instructor:** Deborah Sillo, SLP

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

**FIVE Part Series: March 18, 25, April 1,8,15                      9:30a-12p**

**Click here to register:** [Multimodal Communication 5 Thursdays March 18-April 15](#)

\*Please Note: This course does not teach the linguistics of ASL; word order, pronunciation and grammar are NOT covered. Also, aspects of American Deaf Culture are not discussed in detail.

## Neutral Writing

Reports, progress summaries, logbook entries, and email are among the communication tools we use on a regular basis. These are also legal documents for which the writer is accountable. Clear and factual writing that is accurate, understandable, and objective is critical. Neutral writing aims to eliminate bias and inaccuracy by avoiding vague or confusing language or presenting personal opinions and conclusions as facts. Participants will practice using oral and written communication that is pertinent, complete, respectful, and easily understood.

**Instructor:** Jaime R. Thompson, Office of Learning & Development

**Location:** WebEx Virtual Training

Tuesday, March 23, 2021                      9:00a-12:30p

Click here to register: [Neutral Writing March 23, 2021](#)

Tuesday, April 27, 2021                      9:00a-12:30p

Click here to register: [Neutral Writing April 27, 2021](#)

**Please cancel in advance if you are unable to attend. Do not sign up for more than one waitlist as this takes away opportunity from others.**

## Fire Safety

This curriculum is the DDS-approved Formal Fire Safety Training. It provides participants with basic information about the causes and types of fire, fire prevention, smoke and smoke detectors, and evacuation procedures.

**NOTE:** We are working to address current absence of a Fire Safety trainer and will send notice ASAP.

According to regulations, you can: CMR115, Chapter 7.05(6)

(i) At least one staff person trained in fire safety by an approved fire safety training agency, local fire department or from the Department shall be present at every site where residential supports, day supports or 24 hour site based respite services are provided. All other staff and care providers are trained in basic fire safety.

**NOTE: We are planning to offer additional learning opportunities in the coming months. Stay Tuned!!**