

In the **LOOP**

April 2024



April Autism Awareness / Acceptance Month

The Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities [Office of Autism Services](#) (OAS) was established in 2008 (633.225 RSMo) to provide leadership in program development for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. OAS is committed to supporting the independence and self-sufficiency of individuals with autism by leading collaborative efforts to improve system supports for individuals with autism and their families. The OAS has a variety of information and resources available, including [Helpful Web Resources](#) with links that can be explored further.



Do you enjoy listening to Podcasts?

Check out the podcasts below available from the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment, the Missouri Department of Mental Health - Children's Office, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development.

[Supporting the Spectrum](#) podcast shines a light on the latest news, research, and resources for individuals with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, along with their families.





Missouri Department of Mental Health Children's Office [Growing Healthy Communities](#) is a podcast for parents and community members to better support youth in Missouri. Licensed professionals and individuals with lived experiences present topics of interest identified by parents, caregivers, and community members that address the needs of youth and families in Missouri.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City's Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD), the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) for the state of Missouri, offers [Accessible: The Podcast](#).

Together George Gotto, UMKC-IHD Director, and Sr. Research Assistant, Amelia Reighard, interview leaders that provide listeners with new insights and developments that drive systems change in the disability field.



ACCESSIBLE



May is Older Americans Month

Each May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The 2024 theme is *Powered by Connection*, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on people's health and well-being. This theme explores how the vital role of being connected to others plays in supporting independence and aging in place by combatting isolation, loneliness, and other issues. Visit the [Department of Health and Senior Services OAM](#) webpage to find materials and ideas to help promote OAM and view events to increase awareness.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM) was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. For the past 20 years, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has recognized MHAM every May to increase awareness about the vital role mental health plays in our overall health and well-being.

Visit SAMHSA's [Mental Health Awareness Month](#) for additional information and links to help increase education and awareness of Mental Health.



New Survey Cycle Begins 2023-2024 Surveys: Feedback Needed!

The Division of Developmental Disabilities participates in three National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys and the Missouri Quality Outcomes (MOQO) Survey. These surveys ask people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families about their lives and the services they need and use.

People receiving Division services are randomly selected to participate and those who are selected will be contacted by either mail or telephone. Mail surveys will come from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD). Telephone contact will be made by someone from the local Division Regional Office.

The Division encourages all selected participants to complete the surveys. All survey responses are anonymous and help to make services better for everyone. The 2023-2024 survey cycle ends June 30, 2024.

To learn more about the Division's surveys, check out the Easy Reader "[Surveys and You: Your Voice Matters](#)." Additional information can be found on the Division's [NCI webpage](#). Email questions to Caitlin Bartley, NCI Project Coordinator at caitlin.bartley@dmh.mo.gov.

The logo features a stylized flame icon in orange and red to the left of the text. The text reads "FHIR-ed Up for INTEROPERABILITY" in a sans-serif font, with "FHIR-ed Up" in a larger size and "for INTEROPERABILITY" in a smaller size below it.

FHIR-ed Up *for* INTEROPERABILITY

The Division of Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with MO HealthNet, the Office of Administration - Information Technology Services Division (OA-ITSD), EMI Advisors, InfoCrossing, Lewis and Clark Information Exchange (LACIE), Tiger Institute, and Velatura Health Information Exchange, is making significant progress on phase one of the project to build Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to securely share person-centered care plans.

The project team is excited to demonstrate progress at an in-person testing event in May 2024. The testing event will showcase each Health Information Network's (HIN's) ability to query care plan data from the State's data warehouse through a FHIR API and evaluate the extent to which the electronic Long-Term Services and Supports (eLTSS) data can be made available for care providers. The State is successfully laying the groundwork to build an interoperable, standards-based ecosystem that will align with Missouri's broader Health Data Utility efforts.

In conjunction with this project, the Division is coordinating with stakeholders in the standards development community to make relevant updates to the Health Level Seven International (HL7) eLTSS FHIR Implementation Guide in alignment with this real-world experience. As part of this work, the Division has been collaborating with the HL7 community and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology by providing specific feedback to refine and improve the specification. This helps to ensure that the published standard can be used by other stakeholders and

implementers to develop interoperable solutions that support care coordination and person-centered care planning.



**Spring Training Institute
Osage Beach, MO
May 16-17, 2024**

The Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) hosts the Spring Training Institute (STI), which is a two-day conference for staff, providers, and people who use behavioral health services and supports. STI provides an opportunity for staff from various state agencies, statewide organizations, and individuals in private practice to come together to learn about the latest research in the field regarding medications, evidence-based treatments, behavioral services, and more.

Examples of conference sessions include:

- Children, Youth, and Family
- Self-Care
- Peer Specialists / Support
- Wellness
- Dysregulation
- Ethics
- Trauma
- Suicide Prevention
- Emergency Planning
- Health Grief using Early Childhood Mental Health
- Co-Occurring
- Assistive Technology

Visit the Spring Training Institute's [webpage](#) to register for the conference, view the presentation schedule, and locate hotel information. Questions can be directed to 314-516-8419 or e-mail conferences@mimh.edu.



The Division is currently in the Planning and Procurement phase of the ConneXion case management project. These activities began in February 2024 and are estimated to continue through 2025. The Division anticipates a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be released for bid in summer 2025. Procurement for the new system vendor is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Kick-off for implementation of ConneXion is anticipated for early 2026.

The Division is also in the process of contracting a support services vendor to update and create a new RFP and support documentation required to obtain federal funding for the implementation of the project. Over the past quarter, the Division has done extensive post project debriefing, pre-planning, and stakeholder engagement sessions.

The [ConneXion webpage](#) has new information in all sections. Please check out the project updates including a [project overview](#). Share these links, as well as the ConneXion webpage, to help ensure stakeholders have the most current information available.

Disaster Preparedness Guide for Caregivers



FEMA



ROSALYNN FOR
CARTER CAREGIVERS
INSTITUTE

[Ready.gov](#) encourages everyone to have a disaster and emergency plan in place, including caregivers who are dedicated and committed to those in their care. The downloadable [Disaster Preparedness Guide for Caregivers](#), created by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) and the [Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers](#) (RCI), helps caregivers navigate some of the unique challenges they may face during a time of disaster or in emergency situation. The guide helps outline three important steps caregivers can take to feel more prepared and in control if a disaster would happen.

1. Identify Barriers and Risks
2. Learn and Connect
3. Make a Plan

To increase preparedness skills, check out FEMA's Caregivers Guide Webinar and the Resources and Q&A handouts on the [Ready.gov Caregivers](#) page.



“Facing the Future Together”
2024 Transition Training Institute
Hosted by the Missouri Office of Special Education
Holiday Inn Executive Center
Columbia, MO
June 26-28, 2024

Registration is now open for the Transition Training Institute. The Institute provides opportunities for attendees to focus on programs and structures to support students in graduating and moving toward postsecondary goals. The Institute provides a focus on students with special needs using special education supports in the areas of:

- compliance
- work-based learning
- self-advocacy
- employment
- social/emotional intelligence
- career readiness

Questions can be directed to Marsha Campe at 573-751-2512 or Marsha.Campe@dese.mo.gov

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