

DDS Stakeholder Virtual Forums

Welcome!



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Opening Remarks

- **Welcome message by DDS Commissioner Jordan Scheff**



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STEP Update

- **Deputy Commissioner Elisa Velardo**
 - **What is STEP – Supporting Transformation to Empower People**
 - **Goal – Promote choice, individualized options and integration**
 - **All aspects of life – Home, work and community**

STEP

- **Highlights the following core supports:**
 - **Assistive technology**
 - **Remote Supports**
 - **Self-Direction**
 - **Employment**
 - **Individualized Home Support (IHS)**
 - **Supportive Housing**
 - **Community Companion Homes (CCH)**



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STEP

- **The vision for STEP ensures you and your loved ones will feel empowered, valued and respected.**
- **We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to become more independent and participate in your community.**



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What's next with STEP

- **One pagers about each core support**
- **STEP video series**
- **Bi-monthly newsletter mailed and emailed to individuals, families, providers and staff members**
- **Regional conversations**



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Forum Reminders

- **Thank you for attending today's session!**
- **Please hold all questions for staff and presenters until the end. Feel free to put questions in the chat section throughout the presentation and they'll be answered at the end.**
- **This presentation will be recorded and posted on our website.**

Introducing DDS' new Director of Assistive Technology

Patricia Cymbala



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Assistive Technology

**Director of Assistive Technology,
Patricia Cymbala**



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Assistive Technology

- **Assistive Technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of participants.**



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Examples of Assistive Technology

NO TECH

Pencil grip
Post-it-notes
Slanted surfaces
Raised lined paper
Covered overlays
Tactile letters
Magnifying bars
Weighted pencils



LOW TECH

Buzzers
Portable word processors
Talking Calculator
MP3 player
Electronic organizers
Switches/Buzzers
Lights



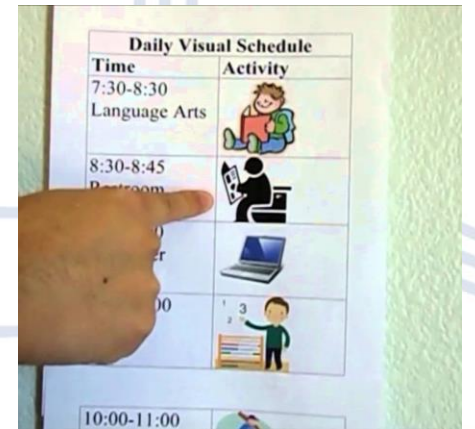
HIGH TECH

E-Readers
Touch screen devices
Computerized testing
Speech Recognition Software
Word Processors
Text-to-Speech(TTS)
Progress Monitoring Software





How do you find the right person-centered AT device to infuse into an individual's life?



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It all starts with a conversation.

- **Talk to a Case Manager**
- **You can contact Patricia Cymbala**
- **Ask if an AT evaluation is needed**



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If an AT evaluation is needed the evaluator should get to know the person they are evaluating by asking important questions.



Once the right person-centered Assistive Technology is chosen, what's next?

- Installation
- Implementation
- Training
- Follow-up



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What is DDS doing to assist families?

- **Provide an evaluation if needed,**
- **Educate individuals and families on the benefits of assistive technology**
- **Help to access and acquire needed assistive technology devices**
- **Provide follow-up training and support**



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STEP AT Initiatives

Connecticut Assistant Technology
Innovation Conference



- **Assistive Technology Conference**
- **When: June 22**
- **Where: Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill**
- **Initiatives for Accessing Assistive Technology for Individuals with DDS and Private Provider Incentives**
- **Assistive Technology for the Home**
- **Technology Evaluations for Determining Technology Needs**
- **Assistive Technology for Employment**
- **Accessibility Features for your Smartphones & Tablets**
- **Remote Supports to foster independent and supportive living**

STEP AT Initiatives

AT & ME (all day breakout room during the conference)

Peer-to-peer learning and teaching experience. The curriculum will teach individuals how to use digital media and ICT independently and safely. Our goal is to educate 200 people, who will then educate two additional people each, making a total of 600 educated on the uses of technology.



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STEP AT Initiatives

Several Notice of Opportunities (NOO) which are grants

- **Assistive Technology/Enabling Technology/Remote Supports- Individuals- Families with IHS**
- **Assistive Technology/Enabling Technology/Remote Supports- Individuals- Qualified Providers- CCH, CLA, CRS, IHS**
- **Enabling Technology for Self-Employment and/or to Acquire or Maintain Employment- Qualified Providers – Individuals/ Families**



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DDS Respite Center

**A virtual tour with
Assistive Technology Specialist, Duane Dyer**



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Middletown Respite Center

















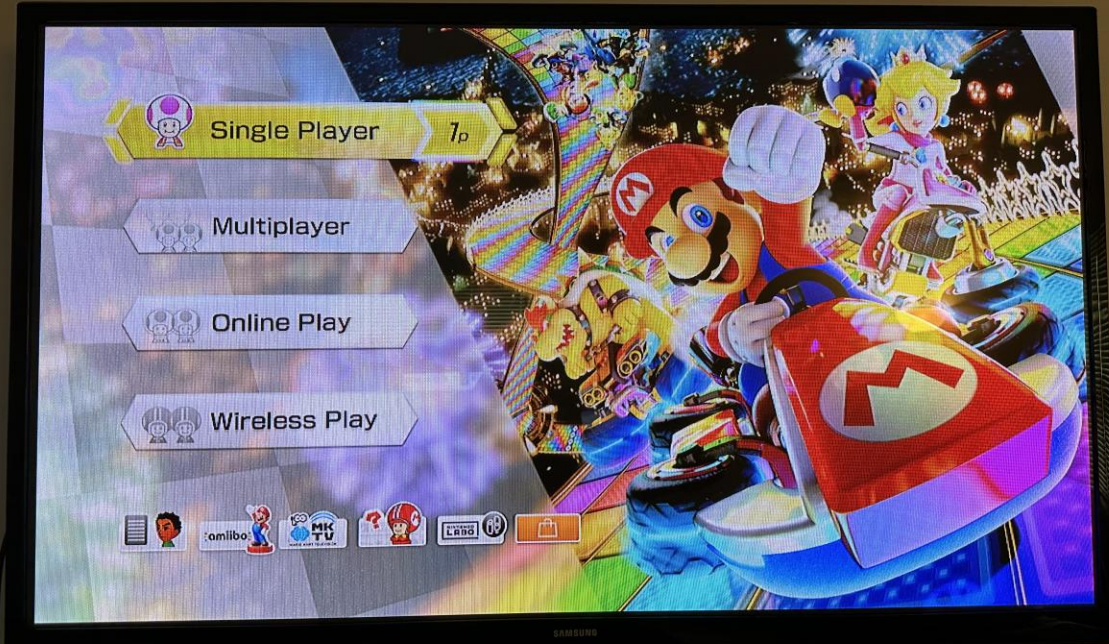
friends gather here











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Remote Supports

Self Determination Director, Amy Blazawski



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Technology Solutions

- **Exploration of supportive technology to achieve greater independence and to expand and enhance one's abilities.**
- **Customized based on the person's goals, desired outcomes, preferences and needs.**
- **Includes market technology, assistive technology and remote supports**
- **Reduce dependence on others to meet daily needs.**



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What are Remote Supports?

- **Remote Supports:**
- **The delivery of supports at a remote location through virtual means by paid staff or natural supports who are engaged with the individual through technology/devices with the capability for live two-way communication.**
- **Remote supports include a service component and a technology component.**



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Technology Examples

- **Cooking safety**
- **Overnight or daytime support**
- **Medication adherence**
- **Fall detection**
- **Visual monitoring**
- **Virtual support platforms**
- **Community navigation**
- **Physical assistance**
- **Organization**
- **Home safety**
- **Visual and hearing devices**
- **Communication aids**

Two-Way, Real-Time Communication

- **On-demand or individual-initiated communication system for contact between the individual and remote support staff**
- **System communication capabilities necessary for the center/remote caregivers to effectively interact with and address the needs of individuals at each of their locations, including emergency situations when the individual may not be able to use the telephone or communication device**



[Remote Supports in Action SHORT VERSION YOU TUBE SD 480p - YouTube](#)



RANSI

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Getting Started: Team Process and Creative Planning

Person-centered planning tools
and Self Determination



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Are Remote Supports Right for Me?

- What would the individual like to be able to do more independently by using Remote Supports?



How to Begin Using Remote Supports

- **Conduct a team meeting with the individual accessing services, agency providers and the Case Manager.**
 - **Talk about which needs might be met remotely, for what hours, and how backup support will be provided.**
- **Case Manager will assist to follow Remote Support guidelines and sets as posted on portal.ct.gov/dds**

Identify Virtual Support Partner

- **Virtual Support Partner:**
- **A paid support person such as an agency, qualified provider, etc. OR an unpaid support person such as a family member, friend or other natural support that provides virtual support (prompting, queuing) form a remote location utilizing the Remote Support System designed for the individual**

Remote Support Technology Supplier

- **The entity with the responsibility to set up the customized Remote Support System necessary for Remote Supports based upon each individual's needs.**
- **This entity may additionally provide the real-time Virtual Partner Supports**

Remote Support Technology System

- **Technology that facilitates and provides the remote support service.**
- **These systems may use wireless technology, and/or phone lines, to link an individual's home to a Virtual Support Partner off-site.**
- **The system may use remote sensor technology to send "real-time" data to the Virtual Support partner who is immediately available to assess the situation and provide assistance in accordance with the Individual Response Plan.**



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Identify Assistive Technology (AT) Products

- **Assistive Technology (AT) Hardware/Software**
 - **Can be any item, piece of equipment, product, service or system (whether acquired commercially or customized), that will impact or enhance autonomy and the capabilities of a person with a disability**

Name and Type of Assistive Technology:	Quantity	Description of use:

** The use of Assistive Technology intended to enable independence would not require a Human Rights Committee Review (HRC). If the Assistive Technology employed is determined to infringe on the rights of the individual or others, an HRC review would be required.*

Internet Connectivity

- **May include broadband, internet or cellular services provided at fair market value for the purpose of access to activities related to achieving documented person-centered goals and objectives for a period of up to one year.**



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Identify Remote Support Service Days and Times:

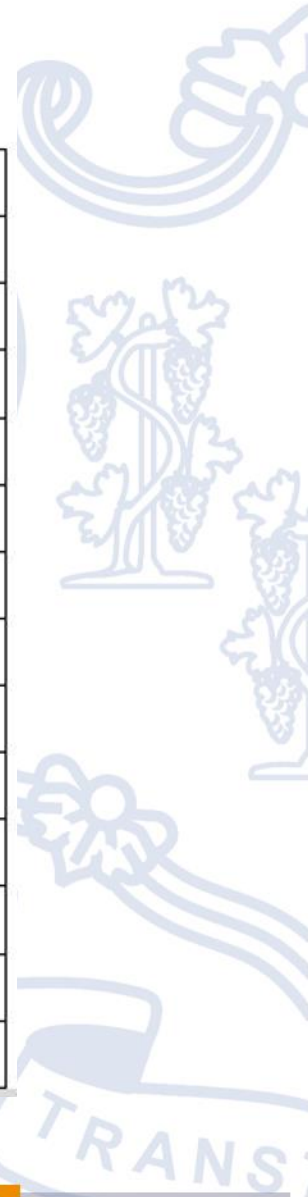
	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
12 am							
1 am							
2 am							
3 am							
4 am							
5 am							
6 am							
7 am							
8 am							
9 am							
10 am							
11 am							
12 pm							



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In-Person Response Plan

- **A plan created by an individual's team and providers that identifies who or what entity will serve as the On-Call Support.**
- **This plan must also provide detail on at least one back-up respondent and expectations around response times (maximum 30 minutes).**

Identify On-Call Supports

- **On-Call Backup Entity**
- **The entity that is responsible for the on-call service.**
- **The on-call service is the backup agency that received the notification form the virtual support partner from the remote technology directly that an in-person staff intervention is necessary.**
- **The on-call back up entity will then contact the corresponding staff to provide the in-person support.**

Questions?

Contact Information:

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