



Welcome to the Individual and Family Support Program's May 2024 Coordinated Regional Council Meeting!

DD Waiver Slots in Virginia: What You Need to Know

Featuring a presentation from Nicole DeStefano of DBHDS

If you need closed captioning, please check the chat box for the link!





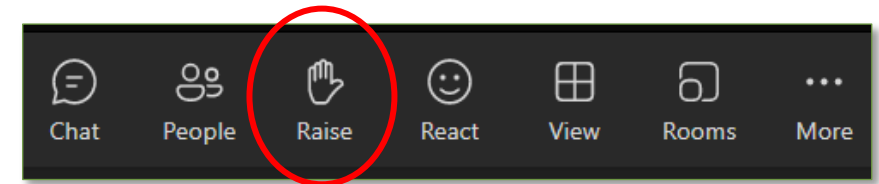
- **Welcome & Ground Rules**
- **What is the IFSP?**
- **DD Waiver Slots in Virginia: What You Need to Know** – Nicole DeStefano, Director of Waiver Network Supports, DBHDS
- **Questions & Answers Panel** – Anne Camporini, Michelle Guziewicz, and Melissa Sullivan, DBHDS
- **Council Business and Adjourn**

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- Tonight's main session is being recorded and will be posted to YouTube.
- Please be respectful of our presenter, panelists, and other attendees.
- Please place your questions in the chat!
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 - Please identify your region when you are asking your question.
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- **This meeting is hosted by the IFSP's Regional Councils.** If you have questions about IFSP-Funding, please visit the My Life, My Community website's Funding page: <https://mylifemycommunityvirginia.org/ifsp-funding>
- **Remember that tonight's meeting is public, so please refrain from sharing personal information.**

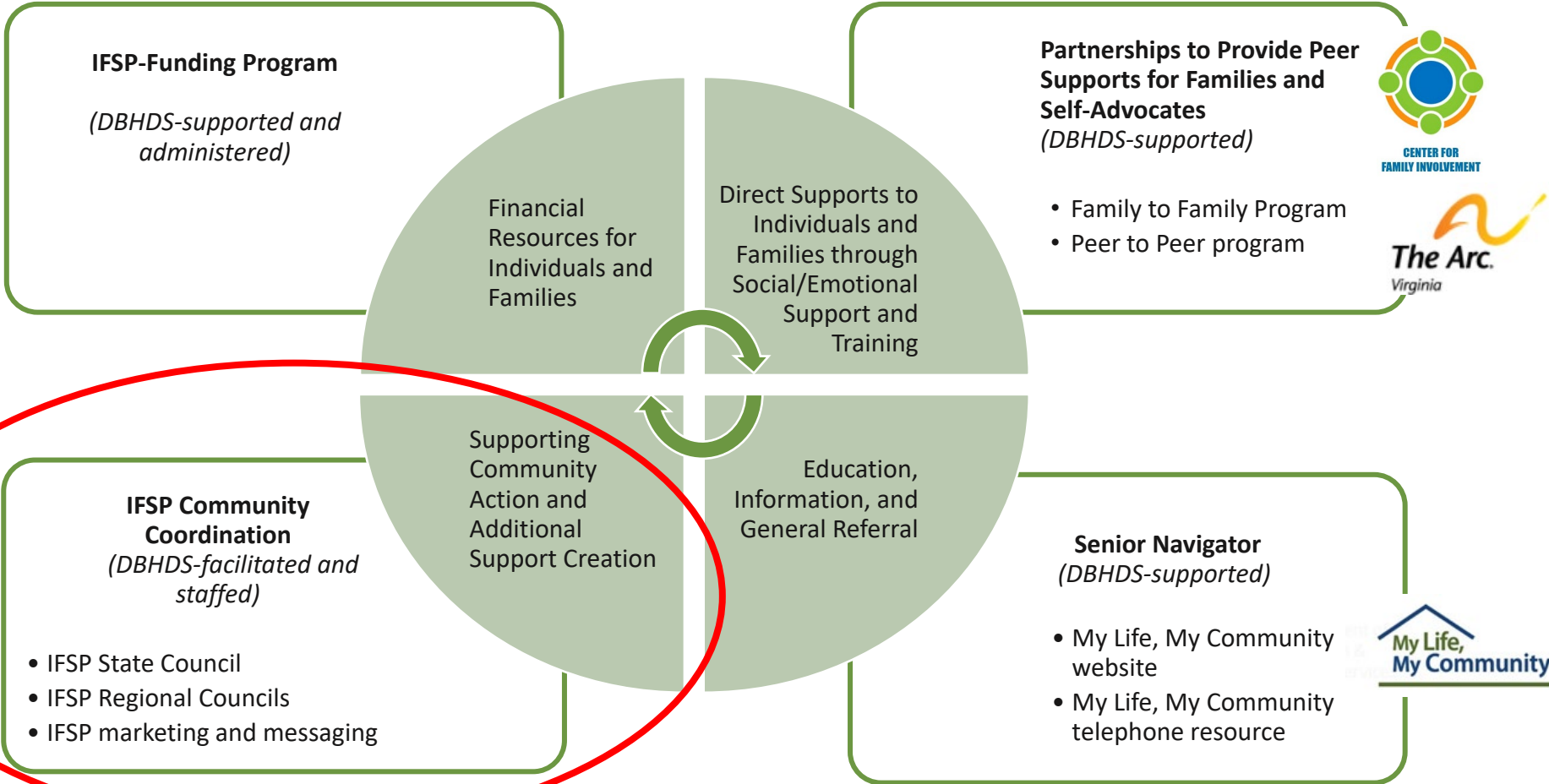
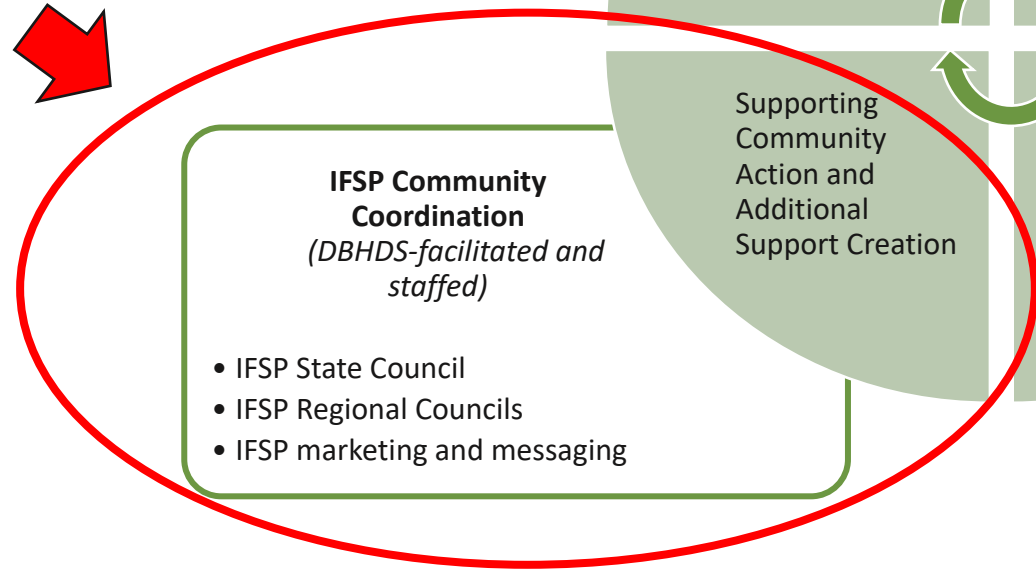


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You are here!



Tonight's speaker: **Nicole DeStefano**

Nicole has worked within the Virginia state and local government system for over 12 years and has past experience with adults and children with mental health concerns of over 17 years in 3 different states: Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Her experience with people who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities is lifelong, as she had a family member who lived with an intellectual disability.

Nicole obtained degrees in Psychology and Political Science from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is originally from Connecticut, but enjoys living in a warmer climate with her partner, David, and Australian Shepherd furbaby, Ruby. She enjoys traveling and believes that experiencing new cultures enriches your life and allows you to be a more open person.





Anne Camporini

Regional Support Specialist
Region 3



Melissa Sullivan

Regional Support Specialist
Region 2



Michelle Guziewicz

Community Resource Consultant





1. Who is the Support Coordinator? Is that a person from a CSB?

- **Nicole:** Sometimes they have been called Case Managers. Support Coordinators assist people in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other supports essential for living in the community and developing their own desired lifestyles. They provide assessments, support, coordination of services, monitoring the implementation of the ISP, monitoring the quality of services and supports. Part of the Support Coordinator's monitoring of services includes visiting the program sites that are licensed, the individuals' homes, and reviewing all of the documentation every 30 or 90 days based on the individual's needs. Support Coordinators are the first point of contact to know what services are available within your area. However, not all Support Coordinators are assigned to people from CSBs or BHAs because not every CSB or BHA has the resources to provide case management. If you want active case management, you can request it, and if they have the resources they can provide it.

2. Are students with IEPs eligible for DD Waivers?

- **Nicole:** Maybe. An IEP alone does not qualify an individual as eligible for a DD Waiver. The individual needs to meet the criteria for eligibility. To be eligible for a DD waiver, an individual must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Have a developmental disability that identifies age of onset;
 - ii. Have significant functional limitations in major life activities, as documented on the age-appropriate version of the Virginia Individual Developmental Disabilities Eligibility Survey (VIDES) form;
 - iii. Meet Medicaid financial eligibility criteria; and
 - iv. Indicate willingness to accept waiver services within 30 days of slot assignment.

3. Are you required to have Medicaid BEFORE you are approved for a DD Waiver?

- **Michelle:** You do not have to have Medicaid in order to have a waiver. However, you will need to apply and get Medicaid after receiving a waiver.





4. What happens if you accept a DD Waiver, but you are not eligible for Medicaid?

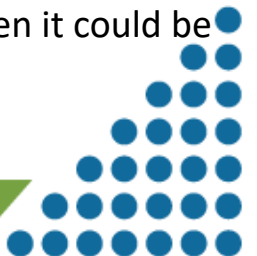
- **Melissa:** Typically, a Waiver slot can assist with being approved for Medicaid. However, if the end result is that you do not get approved for Medicaid, then we will have to take the slot back because one of the requirements to have a Waiver slot is financial eligibility.
- **Michelle:** When they are looking at Medicaid for someone who has gotten a waiver, they're only looking at the person's income and resources – not the family's, at this point. This does happen periodically, but in my experience this has not happened very often.
- **Nicole:** New legislation was put into the General Assembly this for people who apply for SSI and SSDI where income has been taken into consideration and there has been a change in the eligibility factor. Currently, DBHDS is waiting to hear from DMAS and get their interpretation in order to better answer this question.

5. Of the three DD waivers, which services do speech therapy, OT, PT, and ABA therapy fall under? Are they covered by a DD Waiver?

- **Nicole:** Start by referring to [the service grid from The Arc of Virginia](#) that has a description of each Waiver service. But to go through each service would be through therapeutic consultation for that specific therapy.
- **Anne:** Therapeutic consults are available through the FIS and CL Waivers.

6. Do you retain a waiver year after year? Do the slot counts for each year include only new people, or both existing and new?

- **Nicole:** If you have a waiver, you are assigned that waiver unless you are not utilizing it. If you are not utilizing the waiver, then it could be released or asked to be removed.





7. **If a disabled person currently on Medicaid and receiving self-directed services from another state is planning to move to Virginia, how do they start the DD Waiver process? Are DD Waivers in Virginia recognized in another state, and vice versa? Does the Waiver transfer for state to state? happens if you accept a DD Waiver, but you are not eligible for Medicaid?**
- **Michelle:** The first step is to reach out to the Community Services Board in whatever locality to you are planning to move to. This will help you establish yourself and get on the Waitlist in Virginia.
 - **Nicole:** If you are residing in another state when you are assigned a slot, you would have to either immediately move to Virginia or you would have to decline the slot because you are not residing within Virginia. Virginia does not provide services to anybody who does not live in the state limits.
 - **Michelle:** Waiver services do not transfer from state to state. For example, if you have a waiver in Virginia and you move to Tennessee or another state, you would have to give up your Waiver slot in Virginia and start again in Tennessee or that new state.
 - **Deanna Parker (Director of Community Network Supports, DBHDS):** The DD Waivers program is authorized by the federal government but is a state-based program, meaning the state decides the waivers population, eligibility, and prioritization. No two states have the same programs or operate their waiver in the same way. DD Waivers are not necessarily transferable, and this would depend on the rules of a particular state's program.
8. **Is anyone considering a grocery-style Waiver system redesign so that people can choose the services they need within a certain budget while still meeting criteria?**
- **Nicole:** This question is something that DBHDS cannot directly address, because this would become part of the Waiver regulatory fashion, which is something overseen by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).





9. Why would someone be unwilling to accept a DD Waiver slot?

- **Nicole:** Families can be fearful that accepting a BI or FIS waiver means they will not get a CL waiver in the future. The individual and their families are the ones who need to decide whether to accept a waiver.
- **Michelle:** Sometimes, families can be worried that they will not be able to change an individual's waiver if their needs change in the future – this is a myth. Other times, families anticipate an individual's needs being higher in the future even though they are currently receiving needed services, so they might not accept within the 30-day period.

10. How many days does an individual have to accept a DD Waiver slot?

- **Nicole:** On Day 1, the slot is assigned. Within 7 days, the Support Coordinator will notify you. Then you have 15 calendar days to accept or decline.

11. If you do not accept a DD Waiver Slot, will you be placed back on priority one? What do you do if you decline, but then there is a need such as independent living?

- **Melissa:** Yes, you can be placed back on priority one. If you are offered an FIS slot and you feel like you need a CL slot, you can decline the FIS slot and be placed back on the Waitlist. But if you are offered the slot that you need, like that CL slot for example, and you still choose to decline because you do not want to start services within 30 days, that's different because that would be like you were not willing to accept services within 30 days.

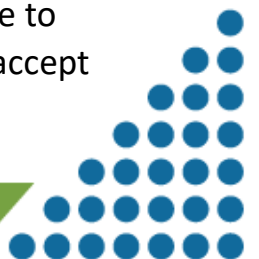
12. If you already have a therapist before accepting the Waiver slot, can you continue to use that therapist? Or do you have to use a therapist that's approved by Medicaid?

- **Nicole:** The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is the state agency that would best address this question, as DMAS is the reimbursement entity.





- 13. If someone is awarded a slot, but cannot find a service provider in a timely manner, will they lose the DD slot? For example, if a child is awarded a DD Waiver slot but does not have a residential group home available to move into within 1 year, do they lose the DD Waiver slot?**
- **Anne:** The current time frame for people new to the Waiver is 150 days. There is a new proposal that would extend that to 365 days. However, you are encouraged to choose another service and access Waiver services so you can keep your slot if you can't get the service that you really want. For example, is there another service that could allow you to keep your slot and would be beneficial to you? DBHDS wants people to use the services that are available to them, even if they have to wait a little bit for services or providers to become available.
 - **Nicole:** Individuals and families should connect with their Support Coordinator if they cannot find that service immediately. The Support Coordinator should complete the Retain Slot form so they can retain your slot for the next 30 days. Right now, it is for 150 days, but as Anne stated, after 2025 it will be 365 days.
- 14. Under the current structure of the Waiver slot assignment, are all Waivers disbursed only to those with a priority one Waitlist status?**
- **Nicole:** For the Community Living (CL) and Family and Individual Supports (FIS) Waivers, yes – the individual would be identified on the Priority One Waiver Waitlist. If the individual is in need of a Building Independence (BI) Waiver, the individual may be on any of the three priorities.
- 15. During the course of these 3,440 Waiver slot disbursements, will the Commonwealth of Virginia approve pay rate increases to providers, their staff, and case managers to support the infrastructure needed to support individuals with making choices to receive services?**
- **Melissa:** Yes, you can be placed back on priority one. If you are offered an FIS slot and you feel like you need a CL slot, you can decline the FIS slot and be placed back on the Waitlist. But if you are offered the slot that you need, like that CL slot for example, and you still choose to decline because you do not want to start services within 30 days, that's different because that would be like you were not willing to accept services within 30 days.





16. **Outside of the announced 3,440 DD Waiver slots planned over the next 2 years, will there be any additional slots budgeted (part of normal annual budget)? Could there be more than 3,440 slots released during 2024 and 2025?**
- **Nicole:** At this time, DBHDS has not been made aware of any changes or additions. The 3,440 DD Waiver slots funded is part of the Commonwealth of Virginia's biannual budget.
17. **Are guardians of an individual with DD eligible to serve on a Waiver Slot Assignment Committee (WSAC)?**
- **Anne:** Guardians are eligible. However, the guardians of a child on the Waitlist, a loved one of someone on the Waitlist, or providers of services are not eligible to serve on a WSAC.

Please continue to the next slide for questions about the CCC Plus Waiver, the DD Waiver Waitlist, and DD Waitlist Priority Statuses.





18. **Can someone who is eligible to receive the CCC Plus Waiver also be on the DD Waiver Waitlist? If they are offered a DD waiver slot, how should that transition occur?**
- **Nicole:** Yes, if you are receiving the CCC Plus Waiver and are eligible for the DD Waiver, you may be placed on the DD Waiver Waitlist. However, if you are offered a DD Waiver (BI, FIS, CL), you must accept that DD Waiver within 30 days as part of the DD Waiver eligibility and transition from CCC Plus to DD Waiver. Your local CSB Support Coordinator should assist you with the transition.
19. **Can children qualify for the CCC Plus Waiver? Are CCC Plus Waiver services age-based? For example, a child may not be capable of personal care, but personal care is a needed service.**
- **Anne:** Please contact [your local Virginia Department of Social Services](#) office for access to the CCC Plus waiver.
20. **Does the DD waiver offer more benefits for younger children than the CCC Plus Waiver? Is there a point of contact to help families understand and navigate choosing the best service options when a decision is required?**
- **Anne:** The DD Waivers and CCC Plus Waiver have some overlapping services that they provide. However, they are different waivers that target a broad range of supports. Please review this [DD Waiver vs. CCC Plus Waiver Fact Sheet from DMAS](#) to review what each offers. It is best to connect with your local CSB to discuss individual pros and cons for each individual situation.
21. **If a child under the age of 18 with a priority one Waitlist status gets a DD Waiver slot, what services or Waiver type can that child get? It seems that the CCC Plus Waiver has more services for children under the age of 18.**
- **Anne:** Please visit the DMAS website for [information about the CCC Plus Waiver](#). You can also review this [DD Waiver vs. CCC Plus Waiver Fact Sheet from DMAS](#) to review what each offers.



**22. How long can someone be on the DD Waiver Waitlist? How long is “too long”?**

- **Nicole:** If your need is high, you need to be connected to your Support Coordinator and/or CSB, ensuring that you're updating them regularly. If you are in priority three and you are identified as someone who is planning for the future, you could be on the Waitlist for a while because it is not an immediate need. If you're not in immediate need but if you think you will be within the next year, you should be talking with your Support Coordinator or CSB about moving that forward.

23. If an individual is currently on the DD Waiver Waitlist, are they required to utilize the Community Services Board's case managers to obtain a Waiver slot? Are there private case managers in Virginia that do the same work as CSB case managers, and how do you access them?

- **Nicole:** CSB/BHA Support Coordinators are not required before an individual is assigned a DD Waiver slot. Once the individual is assigned a DD Waiver, then the individual may have the option for privatized support coordination, if that is available within your area. Privatized Support Coordination is only available for individuals identified for DD Case Management, not ID Case Management. If you would like support coordination services before being assigned a DD Waiver, this may be available depending on the CSB/BHA or area, but not billed through DD Waiver. Please note that there are differences between case management and support coordination.

The CSB/BHA is the primary access to being assessed for DD waiver functional eligibility.

24. If DSS takes 45 days to approve a Medicaid application or benefits, why should an individual or their family submit the “retain slot form” to stay on the Waitlist?

- **Nicole:** A Retain Slot Form is submitted by the CSB/BHA Support Coordinator. This is done only to retain the waiver slot that was assigned, and not to remain on the DD Waiver Waitlist.





25. Does an individual on the DD Waiver Waitlist, their parent, or representative have access to the Priority Needs Checklist form?

- **Nicole:** The individual, parents, or representatives do not have direct access to the individual's Priority Needs Checklist, as this resides within WaMS. However, the checklist template and guidance are present on DBHDS' website and are available for you to review with your CSB/BHA.

26. How does an individual request a new priority assessment?

- **Nicole:** If you have a change that happens in your life, go to your Support Coordinator, or CSB if you have not been assigned a Support Coordinator. This is where priority needs would be assessed and determined to see where you might meet that level for priority one, two, or three.

27. If a child has a terminal condition, does that automatically put them on priority one?

- **Anne:** Not necessarily. Especially, if the condition is being managed. The priority need criteria for medical conditions states, There are physical care needs or medical needs that cannot be managed by the primary caregiver even with support coordinator/case manager-arranged generic or specialized supports.

28. Can you explain the "transition age" vs. "young adult" qualifier for priority one?

- **Nicole:** If the individual is receiving IDEA services through the age of 22, then that person is still eligible to receive services through the school system. Consider other funding opportunities or other services that could meet these needs before thinking about DD Waiver services. This criteria was included to ensure that these individuals can continue to access supports after receiving them through the school system.





29. If a single parent is the paid caregiver and there are no unpaid caregivers, does the person become eligible for priority one?

- **Anne:** The individual would be eligible for priority one Waitlist status if the single parent has a chronic mental and physical condition that puts the individuals in immediate danger and there are no other unpaid caregivers.

30. Unpaid caregivers living with an individual with a DD Waiver Waitlist priority two status can feel penalized for not meeting the requirements of priority one status. What are your recommendations for individuals with a priority two status who still have support needs for social engagement and employment opportunities?

- **Nicole:** Regarding employment opportunities it may be beneficial to connect with the [Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services \(DARS\)](#). DARS has [locations around Virginia](#) in your area that can assist and help to connect individuals with or without DD Waiver services with finding and accessing employment resources.

Connecting with the local CSB/BHA and/or local advocacy groups can be a great way to get connected with the social groups or activities within your area.

If you feel that your situation has changed, you may request a new prioritization at any time to see if you or your loved on meets priority one status.

31. If an individual has a priority two status on the Waitlist, what community supports are available to help them while they wait for their slot assignment?

- **Nicole:** As each individual is unique, so can be community resources around the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is best to connect with [your local CSB/BHA](#) for specific community supports and resources within your identified area.





Before we wrap up ...

Don't forget to let us know what you think!

- Please scan the QR code to fill out the Satisfaction Survey!
- You can also click the link that is being shared in the chat.

THANK YOU!





- The recording and PowerPoint slides will be shared on the My Life, My Community website and on the IFSPCommunity Facebook page:
 - <https://mylifemycommunityvirginia.org>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/IFSPCommunity>
- Save the date!
 - **The next IFSP State Council meeting:** June 28, 2024
 - **Our next virtual Coordinated Regional Council meeting:** July 18, 2024
 - **In-person Coordinated Regional Council meeting:** Sept. 26, 2024 at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, VA
- To receive the latest updates from the IFSP, please make sure you are subscribed to our email list at <https://tinyurl.com/IFSP-List>





To our IFSP Council cohost:

Tia Webb

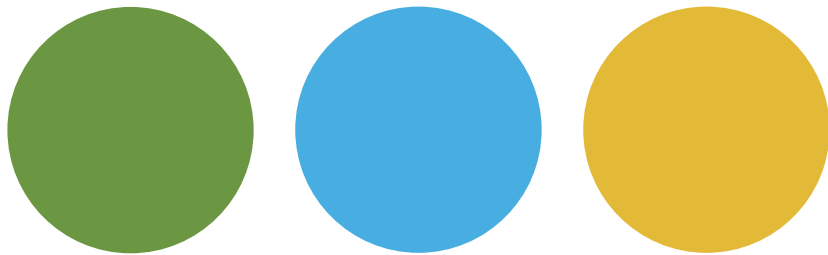
To our main session speaker and panelists:

Nicole DeStefano

To our Hamilton Relay captioner:

Ellen Kerr

Anne Camporini
Michelle Guziewicz
Melissa Sullivan



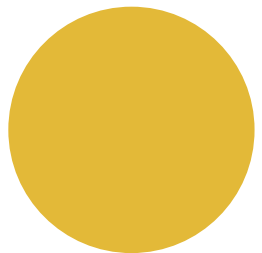
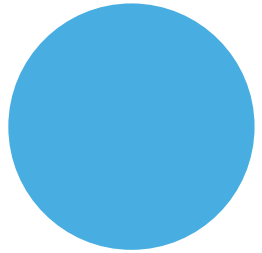
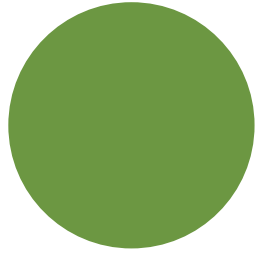


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Thank you!

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