VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

FOR THE RECORD

Leading The Connection (LTC) in WFD

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Building Resources

Invitation to Contribute

Help strengthen the online ALTCS community

We are looking for contributions to post on our ALTCS PROVIDER RESOURCES

Do you have ALTCS specific resources you'd like to share with the network?

click here!

Please use this form to share

Welcome to the Cultural Corner!



Each newsletter, we will discuss a topic involving those in the healthcare industry. For this issue we will be discussing artificial intelligence and public health.

The article, *The Future of Healthcare: AI, Public Health and the Digital Revolution*, talks about how AI is changing the future outcomes in healthcare. The article discusses how we're transitioning from treating illness to preventing it, using data-driven insights to intervene before problems arise. This requires not just technology, but cultural change in how healthcare systems, providers, and patients approach wellness. “By harnessing the power of AI to analyze big data, we can move from reactive disease management to proactive health promotion”.



You can read more about the future of health care here: click here!

Let us know what topics you'd like to hear more about by reaching out to workforce@azahp.org with your suggestions for future Cultural Corner topics!

Maricopa Community Colleges Expanding Workforce Opportunities Through Healthcare Microcredentials

As Arizona continues to address workforce shortages in healthcare and long-term care, employers are seeking flexible and responsive workforce development solutions. In response, Maricopa Community Colleges is expanding access to skills-based learning through innovative microcredential pathways designed to meet evolving employer and community needs.

Microcredentials are short-term educational experiences that validate specific workforce skills and competencies. They allow learners to quickly gain specialized knowledge and industry-relevant skills while supporting career advancement and workforce entry. At Maricopa Community Colleges, microcredentials are developed in partnership with employers and aligned with high-demand workforce sectors, including healthcare and behavioral health.

Healthcare microcredential pathways help students build practical, career-ready skills in areas such as patient care, behavioral health support, case management, peer support, and workforce professionalism. Many pathways are stackable, allowing students to apply earned competencies toward certificates and degree programs while creating flexible educational and career pathways for both traditional students and working professionals.

For healthcare employers, microcredentials provide an agile workforce development solution that helps address staffing needs while supporting employee retention and advancement. Employers benefit from workers who possess verified, competency-based skills aligned with industry expectations.

“The partnerships with AHCCCS healthcare plans and providers exemplify how Maricopa Community Colleges continues to bridge education and workforce development,” said Rochelle Rivas. “By embedding trauma-informed microcredentials within our coursework, we are equipping students with industry-validated skills that meet the immediate needs of Arizona’s healthcare and behavioral health employers while supporting clear, stackable career pathways.”

Maricopa Community Colleges Expanding Workforce Opportunities Through Healthcare Microcredentials

Since Fall 2024, Maricopa Community Colleges has awarded more than 4,350 microcredentials, demonstrating significant student engagement and workforce impact. Among the healthcare microcredentials being awarded are:



- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention — 421 awards
- Certified Professional Resilience Specialist — 402 awards
- Case Management Basics — 333 awards
- Case Management Advanced Skills — 319 awards
- In-Service for the Infant Family Associate: AzAIMH Endorsement — 49 awards
- Peer Recovery Support Specialist — 24 awards

Additional microcredentials continue to expand in response to industry demand, helping learners develop both technical and durable skills essential to Arizona's healthcare workforce.

"Microcredentials give students the opportunity to quickly build real-world skills while helping employers identify candidates who are ready to meet today's workforce needs," said Layla Bishop, Adjunct Professor.

Through these programs, Maricopa Community Colleges continues to strengthen Arizona's healthcare workforce pipeline by creating accessible, affordable, and employer-responsive educational opportunities that support students, healthcare providers, and communities across the state.

Click Here to Learn More

MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

2026 Arizona Healthcare Workforce Goals and Metrics Assessment (AHWGMA)

ATTN: Arizona Healthcare Provider Network

On behalf of the Arizona Healthcare Workforce Development Coalition (AHWFDC), we extend our sincere gratitude for your participation in the 2026 Arizona Healthcare Workforce Goals and Metrics Assessment (AHWGMA).

Your commitment to completing this important assessment plays a vital role in shaping the future of Arizona's healthcare workforce. The data you provided helps us:

- Gather critical, organization-specific workforce insights
- Analyze current and projected workforce needs
- Inform strategic initiatives and funding opportunities across the Arizona Network

We recognize the time and effort it takes to complete this assessment and appreciate your dedication to maintaining compliance and supporting statewide workforce development efforts.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to strengthening Arizona's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Arizona Healthcare Workforce Development Coalition



For more information, visit the **AHWGMA** page on the website.

Abuse and Neglect in the IDD Community: Risk Factors, Prevention, and System Respons - *Webinar Recording*

The Arizona Healthcare Workforce Development Coalition (AHWFDC) collaborated with the Arc of Arizona to organize and promote this webinar presentation, presented by:

Melanie Mills, State Director, The Arc of Arizona

Presentation Description:
Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) experience significantly higher rates of abuse, neglect, and exploitation than the general population. In this virtual session, Melanie Mills, State Director of The Arc of Arizona, will provide an overview of the unique vulnerabilities facing the IDD community, the warning signs of abuse and neglect, and the systemic barriers that can prevent effective intervention. Drawing from statewide advocacy and systems work, this presentation will explore how health care providers, insurers, and community partners can strengthen prevention efforts, improve reporting pathways, and promote safety and dignity for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.

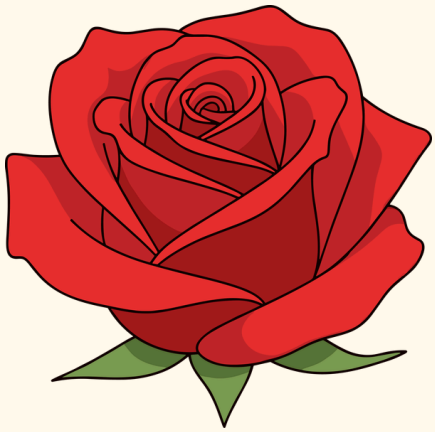
Visit the Website to Watch the Recording

click here!

Scroll down to 'Abuse and Neglect in the IDD Community: Risk Factors, Prevention, and System Response'

Growing Great Care

Featured Resources



R.O.S.E. (Resources/Outreach to Safeguard the Elderly)

R.O.S.E. is an Arizona-based nonprofit dedicated to protecting older adults from financial scams, fraud, and cybercrime through education and advocacy. The organization offers interactive presentations, educational resources, and ongoing outreach to help older adults, caregivers, and communities recognize common scam tactics and take practical steps to prevent financial exploitation. R.O.S.E. works closely with senior communities, caregivers, and local partners across Arizona to promote awareness and safety for adults age 60 and older.

Learn more or schedule a presentation: click here!

Growing Great Care

Upcoming Conferences for Senior Care Professionals

AZNHA Annual Conference – September 18, 2026

Join the Arizona In Home Care Association (AZNHA) for its **Annual Conference**, a one-day, in-person event designed specifically for **Arizona's non-medical, in-home care community**. This conference brings together owners, leaders, and industry partners for practical education, timely insights, and valuable networking focused on strengthening in-home care agencies across the state. Attendee registration opens in June.

👉 Learn more and save the date: **AZNHA Annual Conference**

Assisted Living Conference | October 15–17, 2026

The 2026 Assisted Living Conference brings together assisted living operators, entrepreneurs, and senior care professionals for three days of practical education, peer learning, and networking in Glendale, Arizona. Designed for those working in or supporting residential assisted living, the conference focuses on real-world strategies, proven operational models, and lessons learned from experienced providers actively operating and scaling assisted living communities.

👉 Learn more: **Assisted Living Conference**

Growing Great Care

Notable National Days for Elder & Senior Care

July – August – September - October
Highlights for Providers, Caregivers & Senior Communities

As we move into the summer months and early fall, July through October offers a range of national observances that invite us to honor older adults, elevate caregiver voices, and promote wellness across senior living and assisted care settings. Here are key dates your team can celebrate or integrate into programming.

July ☀️

- **National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month:** Highlights mental health needs of older adults in historically underserved communities.
- **National Park & Recreation Month:** Often leveraged by senior programs to promote physical activity, social connection, and outdoor engagement.

August 🚤

- **National Wellness Month:** Commonly used in senior care to promote healthy aging, self-care, and preventive health.
- **21st - National Senior Citizens Day:** Recognizes the contributions, achievements, and needs of older adults in the U.S.

September 🍂

- **Healthy Aging Month:** Dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles, prevention, and well-being among older adults. Widely used in senior services.
- **13th - National Grandparents Day:** Honors grandparents and their role in families and communities.
- **13th – 19th - National Assisted Living Week™:** Focuses on recognizing residents, staff, and quality in assisted living settings.
- **22nd – 28th - National Rehabilitation Awareness Week:** Highlights rehab services that support recovery and independence for older adults.

October 🎃

- **National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month:** Emphasizes dignity, choice, and protections for residents in long-term care settings.
- **1st - International Day of Older Persons** – A UN-recognized day widely observed in the U.S. to promote the rights and well-being of older adults.
- **11th – 17th - National Case Management Week:** Relevant for aging, behavioral health, and long-term services and supports (LTSS).
- **18th – 24th - National Healthcare Quality Week:** Often used by senior care and health systems to spotlight quality improvement and safety.

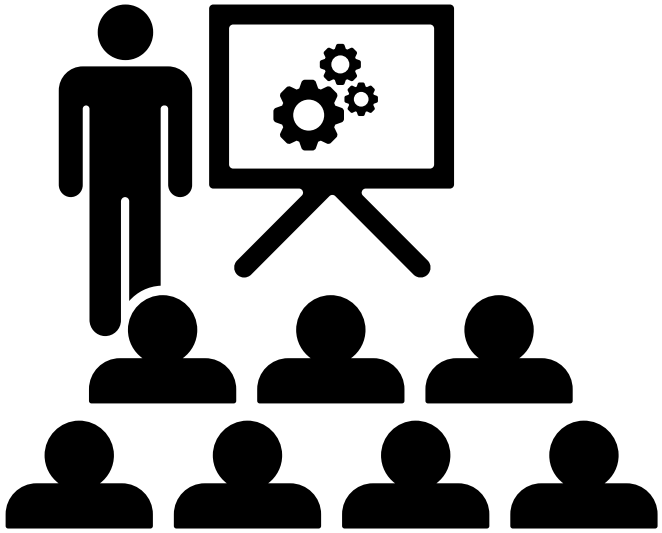
DDD Qualified Vendors PROUD Training Curriculum

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Training Unit has launched Providing Respectful Opportunities and Understanding De-escalation (PROUD), a new instructor clinic that replaces the previous Prevention and Support curriculum.

PROUD reflects current best practices and emphasizes a person-centered approach to supporting individuals through prevention, de-escalation, and redirection strategies, while reinforcing that physical interventions should only be used as a last resort. The curriculum also includes updated guidance for instructors who teach emergency physical support techniques in accordance with Article 9 requirements.

Agencies interested in becoming certified PROUD instructors or learning more about the training may access clinic information, registration materials, training schedules, and additional resources through the DDD Qualified Vendor Training website.

For more information and upcoming clinic dates, visit the DDD Qualified Vendor Training webpage or email the DDD Statewide Training Unit for information on curriculum.



AWFDC/A Rebranding → AHWFDC/A

*We're officially adding **Healthcare** to our name.*

Arizona Workforce Development Coalition (AWFDC)
→ **Arizona *Healthcare* Workforce Development Coalition (AHWFDC)**

Arizona Workforce Development Alliance (AWFDA)
→ **Arizona *Healthcare* Workforce Development Alliance (AHWFDA)**

AZ HEALTHCARE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COALITION

AZ HEALTHCARE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

It reflects what we have always done, strengthening Arizona's healthcare workforce, and it makes our purpose clear everywhere our name appears.

FROM COMPLIANCE TO COMPETENCE
AZ HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COALITION

Resources

- AHCCCS | News & Press Releases
- Center for the Future of Arizona
- DDD | Workforce Development
- The 5 Pillars of Direct Care Job Quality

SIGN UP FOR THE DDD SHOUT NEWSLETTER **HERE**!

Learn More

AZ HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Click here to learn about the Az Healthcare WFD Coalition.

AZ ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS

Click here to learn about the AzAHP.

CONTACT US

If you have any inquiries or concerns, please be sure to email **workforce@azahp.org**