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**TO:** Executive Directors, DSN Boards CEOS, Contracted Service Providers, Residential and Day Program Directors

**FROM:** Janet Brock Priest, Associate State Director of Operations

**DATE:** February 4, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Communicate to Connect: Communication Workshop Series for Contracted Providers

Communication plays a crucial role in ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive the support and services they require to thrive. It is imperative that we recognize the significance of effective communication and strive to understand the unique needs of the individuals we serve.

- Understanding the unique communication styles and needs of individuals allows for tailored supports and services.
- Clear and accessible communication ensures that individuals have access to information about their rights, available services, and opportunities for personal and professional growth.
- Effective communication empowers individuals to express their needs, preferences, and goals.
- Open and respectful communication builds trust between service providers and individuals.
- Effective communication can also foster a culture of inclusion where individuals feel valued and respected.

As part of our ongoing efforts to prioritize effective communication with individuals with disabilities, DDSN will continue to partner with the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) to offer another in-person Communication Workshop Series for providers designed to equip staff with the necessary tools to effectively engage with individuals with disabilities.

The Communication Workshop series will be held regionally this year. As noted, these are all in-person event. Each session will be held from 9am-3pm. All supplies will be provided, and space is limited. Please sign-up via links provided. For more information, contact Becky Peters at [Becky.Peters@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:Becky.Peters@ddsn.sc.gov).

See chart below for the date, topic, and location of upcoming workshops in this series.

Low Tech Communication Tools (Make It/Take It)	
In-Person Training Workshops	Location
February 12th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Pee Dee Regional Center

714 National Cemetery Road, Florence 29506

*Low Tech Communication Tools (Make It/Take It) continued*

<b>In-Person Training Workshops</b>	<b>Location</b>
February 20th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Coastal Regional Center 9995 Jamison Road, Summerville, SC 29485
March 14th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Midlands Regional Center 8301 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203
April 30th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board 364 Evergreen Skills Road, Laurens, SC 29360

**Becoming a Communication Partner**

<b>In-Person Training Workshops</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 4th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Coastal Regional Center 9995 Jamison Road, Summerville, SC 29485
June 25th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Pee Dee Regional Center 714 National Cemetery Road, Florence 29506
July 9th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Bill Floyd Training Center 750 Dixie Drive, Newberry, SC 29108
July 16th: <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a>	Midlands Regional Center 8301 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203

