Central West
Learning & Development

Learning Matters
October-December 2026

DDS Learning Website



Lee Rams | Christine Sheedy | Amanda Purchase | Felicia Spiess

Welcome back to Fall, Learners!

We are excited to share our quarterly calendar for October through December, 2026!

The link to download our quarterly calendar is below, with all currently scheduled training dates, times, and registration links. Please share this with colleagues and supervisees, and feel free to reach out to the relevant contact if you have any specific questions or concerns.

You will notice that some trainings are not offered this quarter, and we will have limited availability to offer agency-requested trainings and consultations over the next few months. Please bear with us while we get ready for a spectacular 2027.

Looking forward to learning with you all!

~Central/West Learning & Development Team

Quick Class Links and Schedules

Click below to access a printable calendar of events including Registration Links, Dates, and Course Descriptions

Fall 2026 Training Schedule

***Please Note**: Several offered classes satisfy the DDS New Employee Orientation requirement. Please see the specific class description for details.*

Due to temporary staffing constraints, we currently have limited capacity for agency training requests.

For questions related to a specific training or training registration, you can reach out to the identified trainer:

- PABC (regular or recertification), Front Office Safety, Basic Human Rights, PBS, Verbal De-escalation, First Aid/CPR, Teaching & Learning, Formal Fire Safety, contact **Lee Rams**
- Neutral Writing, Teams and Communication, Getting to Know You, See Me as a Whole Person, Teaching Sexuality in Everyday Life, What's Their Name, Knowing Our Place, Ya Gotta Have Friends, Person-Centered ISP, Person-Centered Approaches, Self-Determination, Write SMARTER, Not Harder, and the Sexuality Training of Trainers Series, contact **Felicia Spiess**
- **The following courses are not currently being offered:**
  - **I/DD and Dementia, Community Connections, Communication Enhancement Series, Supervisory Series**
  - For inquiries on these or other trainings not listed above, please email **DDS.CentralWestTraining@mass.gov**

As of January 9, 2026, **Eliana Clinton**, Community Systems Director for Central West region, will be temporarily overseeing the Learning & Development department. Please contact Eliana **ONLY** if you are unable to have your questions answered via the email options above.

Individual Training Landing Pages

- **Autism 101**
- **Basic Human Rights**
- **Community Connections**
- **CPR/FA/AED** - **DDS ONLY**
- **Positive Behavior Supports** (PBS)
- **See Me as a Whole Person**
- **Self Determination**

- De-Escalation Strategies
- Dementia LIVE! NEW!!!
- Formal Fire Safety
- Front Office Safety
- Getting to Know You
- Human Guide for Vision Loss & Sensitivity (DDS ONLY- NEW!!!!!)
- Human Rights Officer
- Introduction to the Person Centered ISP
- Knowing Our Place: Understanding Professional Boundaries in the Workplace
- Neutral Thinking, Neutral Writing
- PABC
- Person Centered Practices Beyond the ISP
- Teaching and Learning
- Teaching Sexuality in Everyday Life
- Teams and Communication
- Trauma
- What's Their Name? Supporting Gender Diversity
- Ya Gotta Have Friends

Series
(May Require Prerequisites)

- Sexuality Trainer of Trainers

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Get In Touch