



Gary Brandyberry



The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information and support to all Rhode Islanders.

The Peer Assisted Health Initiative (PAHI) is one of eighteen programs within RIPIN. PAHI assists adults with special healthcare needs in accessing services including independent living, education and vocational resources.

RIPIN's mission is to inform, educate, support, and empower people to be equal partners in advocacy for education, health, and their socioeconomic well being.

Each year RIPIN serves more than 65,000 Rhode Islanders.

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network  
175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401.727.4144 800.464.3399  
[www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org)

Gary Brandyberry is the RIPIN Peer Resource Specialist at Rhode Island Hospital's APC Specialty Clinic.

As an adult with MS, over the last 14 years Gary has progressed through many stages, services and supports

Gary's goal at the clinic is to help patients effectively navigate their way through the challenges they may face with their diagnosis and treatment.

Contact Gary at  
401.444.1630  
[gbrandyberry@lifespan.org](mailto:gbrandyberry@lifespan.org)



## Peer Resource Specialist Services

to support people with **disabilities**, **chronic conditions** and **special needs**

available at  
Rhode Island Hospital  
APC Specialty Clinic

593 Eddy Street, APC Bldg.,  
5th Floor, Room 521  
Providence, RI 02923

401.444.1630



## Who are Peer Resource Specialists?

Peer Resource Specialists are adults who have had obstacles in their own lives and now offer support to others with challenges such as chronic illness, disability and special healthcare needs.

Peer Resource Specialist are trained to support patients with special healthcare needs successfully transition from pediatric care to adult medical practices as well as assist adults with special needs in accessing community, independent living, education, and vocational resources.

A Peer Resource Specialist can make a difference in **your life!**



## We can help you!

### Support and Understanding

We are friendly listeners who have experience living with a chronic illness or disability. We can share our own story, and also offer mentoring and support.

### Knowledge

As consumers of many statewide supports, we have gained valuable knowledge about programs that can help you. We have received comprehensive training about resources in Rhode Island.

### Health Information

We provide information about wellness, smoking cessation, healthy weight, prescription assistance, medical equipment, mental health, and insurance.

### Community Resources

You can look to us for information about housing, transportation, independent living, utility assistance, recreation, support groups, employment, education, and more.



## Rhode Island's Peer Assisted Health Initiative



This program was created to assist primary and specialty care medical sites in meeting the needs of youth and adults with special healthcare needs.

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network is a partner in the program. RIPIN employs ten Peer Resource Specialists on-site in medical and specialty practices. The RI Department of Health, Office of Special Healthcare Needs, administers the program.

Other partners include the RI Dept. of Human Services (Office of Rehabilitation Services), Rhodes to Independence, Southern Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Dept. of Mental Health and Retardation, Dept. of Corrections, Governor's Commission on Disabilities, RIPTA, Housing Resource Commission, Independent Living Centers, Dept. of Education (including the Transition Council), Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Minority Health Promotion Centers, Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, NAMI, CranstonArc, United Cerebral Palsy of RI, netWORKri, Disability Law Center, and other disability organizations.

For an appointment with the RI Hospital's APC Specialty Clinic Peer Resource Specialist

Gary Brandyberry call 401.444.1630