



Tuesday, September 1, 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
8:45-9:00 am	Welcome, Overview of Whova Platform, Opening Comments	Candida Walton, ODP Alexander Gawn, ODP Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens, ODP
9:00-9:05 am	Supporting Families	Francine Hogan, PA Family Network
9:05-10:00 am	Listening to Families: What the Data Tells Us—and What We Can Do Next Families are at the heart of supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout their lives. This keynote will explore findings from the National Core Indicators® (NCI®) Family Survey, highlighting both national trends and Pennsylvania's results. We'll examine what families say is working well, where challenges remain, and what these findings mean for communities, service systems, and Regional Collaboratives. Participants will leave with practical ideas for using data to strengthen supports, foster partnerships with families, and guide meaningful action.	Laura Vegas, NASDDDS Lindsay DuBois, HSRI
10:00-10:10 am	Break	
10:10-10:15 am	Wellness Moment: Reflexology with Ernie	Ernest Roundtree, PA Family Network
10:15-11:00 am	Charting the LifeCourse® in Action: Practical Tools for Meaningful Transition Planning Transition planning is most effective when it reflects what matters to students and families while preparing for successful adult lives. This interactive session introduces the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Framework and demonstrates how its principles and practical tools can strengthen person-centered, transition-focused planning. Participants will explore strategies for using CtLC to facilitate meaningful conversations, identify strengths and needs, connect students to community supports, and develop coordinated plans that align with students' visions for the future. Through examples and hands-on activities, attendees will leave with practical resources they can immediately use to enhance transition planning, increase student and family engagement, and support improved post-school outcomes.	Hillary Mangis, Ph.D. Educational Consultant, PaTTAN Charting the LifeCourse™ Ambassador



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11:00-11:15	BREAK	
11:15-12:30 pm	Strengthening Regional Collaborative Partnerships with Schools Continuing the focus on transition planning, this robust discussion will provide you with proven strategies and resources to support individuals and families at transition age. Starting with establishing a strong working relationship with schools to learning the different approaches being taken around the state by Regional Collaboratives and AEs, you'll hear how you can strengthen your impact on families and individuals.	Facilitated by: Terri Salata, SAM Panelists: Evan Salom, Bucks County; Jessica Ashlock, Transition Coordinator, Bucks County; Mary Evrard, Allegheny County; Erin Grimm, Allegheny County IU; Joseph Salem Jr. and Erin Hoover, Schuylkill County; Doreen Milot, Schuylkill County IU29; Sarah Nahman and Cynthia Matthews, Wayne County; plus, more school counselors and family members
12:30 -1:15 pm	Lunch & Music – Grab your lunch and come back around 12:55 to enjoy some wonderful piano music by Colin Mekeel of Lancaster.	
1:15 – 3:15 pm	One Slide Celebration--Celebrating PA Regional Collaboratives For Supporting Families! Hear from many of our Regional Collaboratives as they share highlights from their initiatives and successes in supporting families over the past year. There will be time for interaction and discussion as we exchange ideas.	
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Personal Story Video & Closing Remarks	Candida Walton, ODP Glen Dunbar, Family Member & Dauphin County ID Committee
6:30 – 8:15 pm	REPEAT OF AFTERNOON SESSION One Slide Celebration--Celebrating Pa Regional Collaboratives For Supporting Families! Hear from many of our Regional Collaboratives as they share highlights from their initiatives and successes in supporting families over the past year. There will be time for interaction and discussion as we exchange ideas.	



Wednesday September 2, 2026

8:45 – 9:00 am	Welcome Overview of Whova Platform	Candida Walton, ODP Alexander Gawn, ODP
9:00 – 10:00 am Breakout 1a	From Conversation to Action: Leading Effective Regional Collaboratives Many Regional Collaborative leaders find themselves responsible for bringing people together, building momentum, and supporting local families without formal training in group leadership or facilitation. This session will provide practical tools for leading productive meetings, engaging diverse stakeholders, building shared ownership, and turning ideas into meaningful action. Participants will leave with strategies they can immediately apply to strengthen collaboration and move community priorities forward.	Kristen Loomis Greenidge, MBA Caitlin Bailey, PhD National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities
9:00-10:00 am Breakout 1b	From Lived Experience to Action: Building Leadership and Advocacy Together Every individual and family has experiences that can help improve services, strengthen communities, and change systems—but effective advocacy requires more than sharing a story. Building on the Everyday Lives keynote, From Lived Experience to Collective Leadership, this interactive session will explore practical skills for turning lived experience into focused and sustainable leadership. Participants will learn how to identify an advocacy goal, shape their experiences into a clear message, understand their audience, make a specific ask, build relationships, and move from individual concerns toward collective action. The session will center self-determination and examine how family members can support and amplify an individual’s leadership without speaking over their voice. Through real-world examples, reflection, and discussion, participants will leave with strategies they can use within their families, organizations, regional networks, and broader systems.	Dr. Josie Badger, DHCE, CRC; Executive Director, PA Governor’s Advisory Commission on People with Disabilities Panel of Self Advocates and Family Members
10:00 – 10:25 am	Break	
10:25-10:30 am	Wellness Moment: Yoga with Gretchen	Gretchen Laudenslager, SAU1



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10:30-11:30 am	An Introductory Look at the Integrated Resource Team (IRT) Strategy This presentation provides an introductory look at the Integrated Resource Team (IRT) strategy, outlining its core purpose and how it strengthens coordination across service systems. Attendees will walk away with a clear understanding of the model's intent and how it shows up in the field.	Sarah Loizeaux and Brian Ingram, Training and Technical Assistance Managers National Disability Institute
11:30-12:45 pm	Lunch and Musical Entertainment: Grab your lunch and come back around 12:25 to enjoy some wonderful piano music by Colin Mekeel of Lancaster.	
12:45-1:10 pm	Recognition of Engagement Champions Recognizing and celebrating the achievements of several outstanding Regional Collaboratives	ODP Regional Leads for Supporting Families
1:15 – 2:15 pm	It Really Is All About The “Base”! Believe it. Become it! Build it!	Reverend Sally Jo Snyder, Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Break	
2:30-3:30 pm	Regional Collaborative Planning for Next Steps Sally Jo leads a discussion and planning for goals each Regional Collaborative can take from this year's conference and accomplish by the next conference.	Lead by Sally Jo Snyder
3:30-3:45 pm	Closing	Francine Hogan, PA Family Network Candida Walton, ODP