

*Everyday
Lives*



2024 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

JANUARY 9-11, 2024

HERSHEY LODGE

325 UNIVERSITY DRIVE

HERSHEY, PA 17033



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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Conference Wifi Access Code: odp2024



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Certificates of Attendance

Certificates for attending the 2024 Everyday Lives Conference will be emailed by the end of January after completion of the evaluation form. You can access the evaluation by going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/XGS3N56 or by scanning the QR code below.



Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Certificates are required to redeem continuing education units. The Everyday Lives Conference has been approved for 14 credit hours by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and 13.5 credit hours for Act 48 and Act 58. Instructions for redeeming credit hours can be found at www.everydaylives.org.

Download the Conference Mobile App

1. On your smartphone, visit <https://my.yapp.us/SHY36T> or use the QR code:
2. Follow the instructions on screen (it's a quick, two step process)

Already have the Yapp App installed?

1. Tap "Download existing app" or the green "+" button (top right)
2. When asked for the Yapp ID, enter: **SHY36T**
3. Press the device keyboard's enter button, or tap "Add" at top right



The conference program is on the app along with links to each exhibitor. You can also access announcements and engage with other attendees.

Health and Safety Precautions

We have all learned a lot in the last few years about how germs are spread, and with the holiday gatherings just behind us, we know that potential exposure to viruses like COVID, flu, RSV and even just the common cold are increased. Please be cautious about possibly spreading germs to others, even if you feel great. Using good hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, as well as paying attention in crowded areas will help keep everyone safer. You will find masks and sanitizing stations are setup throughout the conference in convenient locations. Masking is optional and please respect the safety of those around you.



What is Move Your Way?

The Office Of Developmental Programs (ODP) has partnered with the US Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (OASH) to promote its Move Your Way campaign! Move Your Way is the OASH's promotional campaign to help Americans find ways to fit activity into their schedules.

Most Americans do not get the recommended 150 minutes of weekly moderate intensity activity. Small activities, like walking the dog, gardening, or dancing, can add up to big health benefits! ODP wants to help individuals with disabilities develop healthy movement habits that help combat future disease such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and some cancers.

During the Everyday Lives Conference, we will be encouraging attendees to Move Your Way with scheduled group activities. Be sure to visit the Move Your Way table in the exhibition hall for more information.

Move Your Way Activities

Pedometer Challenge

Visit the Move Your Way table to receive a free pedometer and track your movement throughout the conference! When you receive your pedometer, you can enter in a raffle to win a prize! Winners will be announced during lunch on Thursday.

A Walk with The Deputy Secretary

Wednesday 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM Meet in Chocolate Lobby

Join ODP Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens for a walk around the conference center grounds.

Move Your Way Dance Party with DJ Kevin - Show Us Your Moves

Wednesday 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Red Room

Yoga with Gretchen

Thursday 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM Trinidad Room

SAU1 Self-Advocate and Power Coach Gretchen Laudenslager will lead attendees in morning yoga stretches.

Jogging with Zander

Thursday 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM Meet in Great American Lobby

Join ODP's Everyday Lives Conference Coordinator Zander Gawn for a light one-to-two-mile jog around the Penn State Hershey Medical Center campus across the street from the convention center. Go at your own pace for your own distance around the Jonathan-Eshenour Memorial Trail.

*Disclaimer - The Move Your Way activities are optional and voluntary. By participating, attendees recognize any risks such as physical activities may involve. Consult with your doctor before participating in physical activities or exercise.



Dear Everyday Lives Conference Attendees,

Welcome to the 2024 Everyday Lives Conference hosted by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)! Thank you for joining us for what is sure to be a stimulating venture as we share thought-provoking concepts around supporting the everyday lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). I want to emphasize how much we value your participation.

Providing access to quality services for individuals with disabilities is ODP's number one goal. As paradigms continue to shift throughout the service system, we strive to improve services for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. The 2024 Everyday Lives Conference reflects our commitment to service improvement and family support.

The conference will feature themes aligned with the 14 Everyday Lives Recommendations and Strategies developed by the Information Sharing and Advisory Committee (ISAC). Additionally, this conference, like everything we do, is guided by the foundation of Everyday Lives: Values In Action:

1. We value what is important to people with disabilities and their families, who are striving for an everyday life.
2. People with disabilities have a right to an everyday life; a life that is not different than that of all other citizens.

You will also hear from experts on critical issues like workforce and emerging ODP initiatives such as dual diagnosis, employment, and technology:

- Workforce shortages impact providers and supports coordination organizations across ODP's system. Pennsylvania is not alone in facing this issue and research on the problem and strategies to address it are important to understand.
- People who have dual diagnoses face some of the greatest challenges for true inclusion and being connected with their communities. We need to work together to develop best and promising practices and appropriate services and supports.
- Employment is a vital component of community integration. Only 18% of Pennsylvanians with I/DD have a job. Strategies to improve access to employment for people with I/DD can cut across disciplines.
- As technology continues to permeate our everyday lives, it is important for us to stay on top of current technological trends to improve supports and promote technological literacy. ODP's Technology Task Force has been established to keep up with emerging trends.

We encourage you to approach each session with an open mind and hope you enjoy the opportunity to gain new insights and form new connections.

Please remember to fill out the evaluation form. When you speak, we listen. The evaluations allow us to improve future conference and training sessions based on your input. We truly appreciate the time taken to provide us with your thoughts.

Thank you for joining us!

Kristin Ahrens

Deputy Secretary

Office of Developmental Programs

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024

CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. - Great American Lobby

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION

7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. - Great American Lobby

QUIET ROOM AVAILABLE

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Confection Hall Office

LIGHT BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. White/Blue Room

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Caitlin Bailey, PhD., Co-Director, Kristen Loomis, MBA, Co-Director National Leadership Consortium

Welcome – Resilient Leadership: Mending Connections and Trust in the Post-Pandemic Landscape AND Leading Organizations Where People Want to Work

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - White/Blue Room

COFFEE BREAK

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. - Great American Lobby

**BREAKOUT 1A - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
White/Blue Room**

Resilient Leadership: Mending Connections and Trust in the Post-Pandemic Landscape AND Leading Organizations Where People Want to Work

**BREAKOUT 1B 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Aztec Room**

Grant Writing and Professional Development

LUNCH AND TIME TO VISIT EXHIBIT HALL

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. White Blue Room

MOVE TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

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BREAKOUT 1C - 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Repeat of Resilient Leadership Session

BREAKOUT 1D - 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Repeat of Grant Writing Session

BREAK

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION – KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Robert Arnhold, Ph.D., CEO - Growing Together Aquaponics Inc.

Provider Program Development in a Post-Pandemic World

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. - White/Blue Room

TUESDAY MORNING KEYNOTE

Resilient Leadership: Mending Connections and Trust in the Post-Pandemic Landscape AND Leading Organizations Where People Want to Work

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Throughout the pandemic and after, leaders have shown incredible resilience (ability to adapt and be flexible) while promoting the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. We can learn from leaders who have focused on healing, recognition, building trust, and hope. During this session, the National Leadership Consortium will share lessons learned from leaders and other strategies and practices that you can use to build sustainability, engagement, and connection within your teams.

KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS:

Caitlin Bailey, PhD.
Kristen Loomis, MBA



TUESDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout sessions are 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and repeated at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Resilient Leadership: Mending Connections and Trust in the Post-Pandemic Landscape AND Leading Organizations Where People Want to Work

Caitlin Bailey, PhD., Co-Director
Kristen Loomis, MBA, Co-Director
National Leadership Consortium

Our field is busier and more stressed out than ever. Through our work, the National Leadership Consortium has consistently heard about challenges related to staff shortages, employee engagement, and organizational culture. The pandemic made these challenges worse. During this session, you will be a part of interactive discussions, exercises, and activities. You will learn strategies to make organizations where people want to work. Organizations that promote engagement, motivation, and trust keep staff longer and better support and promote inclusion, autonomy, and control for people with disabilities. You will leave this session with strategies, ideas, and resources you can use in your organizations.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
 (individuals, family members/
 caregivers and professionals)

Grant Writing and Professional Development

Robert Arnhold, Ph.D., CEO
Growing Together Aquaponics Inc

The purpose of this presentation is to provide you with information and the skills to develop grant applications for your agencies. After the session you will be able to:

- Identify the needs for your agencies to meet grant funders' priorities.
- Identify funding sources matching your funding needs.
- Develop specific parts of successful grant applications.
- Develop a budget for your funding needs.

 **Aztec Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
 (individuals, family members/
 caregivers and professionals)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

General Session – Keynote Presentation:

Provider Program Development in a Post-Pandemic World

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

This presentation will provide information on developing programs that focus on physical activity, health, job training, and employment for individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities have higher rates of physical inactivity and lower self-concept scores (how someone sees themselves) than their peers without disabilities. People with disabilities are also employed at much lower rates than their peers without disabilities. Developing physical activity programs and health promotion may improve self-concept and increase opportunities for employment.

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:

**Robert Arnhold, Ph.D.,
CEO, Growing Together Aquaponics Inc.**



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

CHECK-IN-REGISTRATION

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. - Great American Lobby

MOVE YOUR WAY ACTIVITY: A WALK WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. - Meet in Chocolate Lobby

LIGHT BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

7:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m. - White/Blue Room

QUIET ROOM AVAILABLE

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. - Confection Hall Office

PLENARY SESSION

Introductory Remarks

9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m. - White/Blue Room

Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary, PA Office of Developmental Programs

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Secretary, PA Department of Human Services

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Dr. Amy Hewitt, PhD. FAAIDD. Director, Institute on Community Integration at The University of Minnesota

Reflecting Forward: 30 Years of Community Living

9:15 a.m.–10:00 a.m. - White/Blue Room

**COFFEE BREAK (GREAT AMERICAN LOBBY) /
TIME TO VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL (NIGERIAN ROOM) / POSTER SESSION (CHOCOLATE LOBBY)**

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

BREAKOUT 2A - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

A Compassionate and Effective Approach for
Addressing Problem Behavior

BREAKOUT 2B - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Health, Wellness, and Safety Poster Session

BREAKOUT 2C - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

The Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, Engage
(RAISE) Family Caregiver Act: What It Means
for America's Caregivers

BREAKOUT 2D - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

AAC and Self Determination

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

BREAKOUT 2E - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Exploring Your 'Why?'

BREAKOUT 2F - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Bending Over Backward to Exceed the Everyday:
Promoting Student-Led Experiences within
Inclusive Post-Secondary Education

BREAKOUT 2G - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Trauma Conscious Choices: Empowerment for
Everyday

BREAKOUT 2H - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Be Prepared: Emergency Preparedness for the
Intellectual Disability & Autism Community

BREAKOUT 2I - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Transforming Co-Occurring Care: The START Pilot in Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties

LUNCH, VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL (NIGERIAN ROOM) & POSTER SESSION (CHOCOLATE LOBBY)
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **White/Blue Room**

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

**Dani Bowman, Founder & CEO of DaniMation Entertainment; Cast Member
of "Love on the Spectrum"**

Dani's Life Story: Building Employment Opportunities for Herself and Others
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. - **White/Blue Room**

VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL (NIGERIAN ROOM) & POSTER SESSION (CHOCOLATE LOBBY)
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

REPEAT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2A- 2I
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK (GREAT AMERICAN LOBBY)
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PLENARY PANEL

Entitled to What? Health and Service Equity for People with Disabilities and Intersectional Identities
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **White/Blue Room**

NETWORKING RECEPTION IN EXHIBIT HALL AND POSTER SESSION AREAS
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE CONTINUED

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Dinner Break on Your Own
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

MOVE YOUR WAY DANCE PARTY WITH DJ KEVIN AND DESSERTS—SHOW US YOUR MOVES
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Red Room

WEDNESDAY MORNING KEYNOTE

Reflecting Forward:
30 Years of Community Living
9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

The community living long term services and supports system was built in response to concerns about institutional care and the segregation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For 30 years we have been working to get it right and the pandemic set us back in big ways. We need to rethink and reimagine as the community system we have built does not work for everyone. We need to rethink what community living means and find new ways of supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. If you could rebuild the system, what would you design to ensure that we are empowering everyday life and that everyone has the most fulfilling life possible in communities where they truly belong? This session will explore options for building community supports anew.

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:

Dr. Amy Hewitt, PhD. FAAIDD. Director, Institute on Community Integration at The University of Minnesota



WEDNESDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Sessions are 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. and repeated 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

AAC and Self Determination

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Courtney Johnson

Many autistic people rely on direct support professionals for accessing care and living more independently, including some individuals who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). This session will review the importance of access to communication to ensure an individual's safety and autonomy. This session will also share the personal experiences of an AAC user receiving home and community-based services.

 White/Blue Room



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Exploring Your 'Why?'

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Jeiri Flores, Advocate

This session will help you explore your 'whys' through personal landmarks. Personal landmarks are the kinds of experiences and discoveries that are significant moments in our core and our identity. Personal landmarks are encouraged, tested, and established throughout our life. These are not only the positive moments of success but also of pain, uncertainty, and failure. Our landmarks are helpful for discovering ourselves and can help us to see the need for movement or change in our lives.

 Trinidad Room



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Bending Over Backward to Exceed the Everyday: Promoting Student-Led Experiences within Inclusive Post-Secondary Education

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Chris King, Millersville University Student

Dr. McKenna Killon, Director of Integrated Studies at Millersville University

Gabriela Hagi, Grant Coordinator, Pennsylvania Inclusive Higher Education Consortium

Inclusive post-secondary education (education after high school) promotes college experiences for students with intellectual disabilities. Chris King, a college student at Millersville University, will share ways he helps his self-determination and has student-led experiences. Student-led experiences are the activities that students take part in outside of classes. Chris will share his PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrow with Hope planning tool) and show how the PATH has directed his experiences and goals. Two post-secondary education professionals will describe best practices for inclusion and student-led campus participation, as well as provide reasons for choosing options that students value.

 Empire CD Room



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

MORE SESSIONS 

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Continued

A Compassionate and Effective Approach for Addressing Problem Behavior

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Dr. Greg Hanley, Ph.D., BCBA-D

A contemporary and trauma-assumed version of applied behavior analysis for consideration when working with autistic persons or those with intellectual disabilities, especially when problem behavior is probable, will be described. The values at the forefront of this compassionate ABA approach will be explained along with their implications for how to respond to both mild and severe forms of problem behavior.

Crystal A Room



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

PROFESSIONALS who serve persons with an intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disability with co-occurring mental health needs.

Health, Wellness, and Safety Poster Session

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Dr. Gregory Cherpes - ODP Medical Director

Join Dr. Cherpes for highlights from the poster session. The posters will discuss health, wellness, and safety. You will see 9 of the 25 posters and presenters will give an overview of their poster.

Aztec Room



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

The Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, Engage (RAISE) Family Caregiver Act: What It Means for America's Caregivers

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Nancy C. Richey, Member of the Federal RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act became law on Jan. 22, 2018. The Act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national family caregiving plan. The plan identifies actions that communities, providers, government, and others are taking and may take to support family caregivers. Family caregivers provide most of the long-term care in the United States. On September 21, 2022, the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers was delivered to Congress. It includes nearly 350 actions the federal government will take to support family caregivers in the coming year and more than 150 actions that can be done in other places to begin to build a system that ensures family caregivers have the resources they need to maintain their health, wellbeing, and financial security while providing support for others.

Wild Rose Room



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Continued

Trauma Conscious Choices: Empowerment for Everyday

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Jessica Reinhardt, Ph.D., NCSP, LP, Coordinator, School Psychology Program, Temple University

This session will provide opportunities to learn and share about the impact of chronic stress and trauma. You may reflect on your own stress responses and the stress responses of your loved ones. Additionally, you can use the power of your own lived experiences and co-construct an “everyday understanding” of common Trauma Informed Principles.

 **Magnolia AB Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Be Prepared: Emergency Preparedness for the Intellectual Disability & Autism Community

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Francine Hogan, Director, Diana Morris Smaglik, Manager, PA Family Network at Vision for Equality

It's widely believed that Emergency Preparedness is only important in areas with a high risk of natural disasters. We're here to tell you that is not true. Emergencies can strike anywhere, even in your own neighborhood. People everywhere are often asked to evacuate or “shelter in place” for many unexpected reasons. A local house fire, street flood, and local power outages are just a few reasons to be prepared. In this session, we will provide tips and skills you can put to use immediately. We will also show how to use the I-PREPARE Emergency Plan. This plan was designed by and for people with intellectual disabilities and autism. Session participants who receive or are waiting for waiver services and live in their own home or with friends/family, will be eligible to receive a “Go Bag” filled with over 100 items to help you in an emergency.

 **Magnolia CD Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

INDIVIDUALS
(with a disability and/or autism, their
family members, and caregivers)

MORE SESSIONS



WEDNESDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Continued

Transforming Co-Occurring Care: The START Pilot in Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Laura DeRiggi, Senior Director, Clinical Consultant, CBH/DBHIDS
Blerina Faruku, Asst. Director of Whole Person Support/Risk Mitigation/START Philadelphia

Nikita Weaver, Behavioral Health Program Management Analyst, DBHIDS

Kathy Davis, Allegheny County DHS Office of Developmental Supports, Promising Practices Manager

Loleda Moman, Resources for Human Development, PA START Allegheny, Program Director

Tiffani Kerber, Resources for Human Development, PA START Allegheny, Clinical Director

This presentation will show how the START model (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment) could transform the landscape of co-occurring mental health and intellectual disability/autism in Pennsylvania. By looking at how START was incorporated in two Pennsylvania counties, Allegheny and Philadelphia, this session will show its potential. Allegheny County's success, and Philadelphia's planned adoption show the impact START can have in enhancing the lives of individuals dealing with these co-occurring challenges. The presentation will dig into the innovative approaches and the promise of comprehensive care that ultimately empowers individuals to thrive in their everyday lives.

 **Empire Room AB**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

PROFESSIONALS who serve persons with an intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disability with co-occurring mental health needs.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Dani's Life Story: Building Employment Opportunities for Herself and Others

1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
 (individuals, family members/
 caregivers and professionals)

Dani will be talking about her journey on how she explored the profound impact of peer teaching on youth with autism, all through the lens of animation. Dani will also discuss the possibilities that lie with animation and peer-led education and techniques on how to help the autism community turn their passion into a career.

KEYNOTE
 SPEAKER:

**Dani Bowman, Founder & CEO of
 DaniMation Entertainment; Cast Member
 of "Love on the Spectrum"**



WEDNESDAY PLENARY & RECEPTION

Entitled to What? Health and Service Equity for People with Disabilities and Intersectional Identities

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Keith Jones,
President and CEO of
Soul Touchin' Experiences LLC



 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Panel Members: Imani Barbarin, Crutches & Spice Creator, Writer, and Disability Rights Activist
Andy Arias, disability program manager, policy development professional, actor and producer
Emmanuel Jenkins, We Stand 4 Something Founder & Director
Shawn Aleong, Student
Jeiri Flores, Advocacy Specialist/LEND Advocacy Co-discipline coordinator at the University of Rochester

This presentation will discuss the benefits and challenges of creating an inclusive community and how some of these challenges are socioeconomic (how people live and work in society) but more importantly are related to attitudes. The factors in society that create barriers to accessing health services for people of color and marginalized groups and how access can be improved will be discussed too. Breaking barriers to services are especially important for those with disabilities and intersectional identities. Intersectional identities are how people may be affected by things such as their race, gender, age, class, religion, weight, or other things. This session will have a panel of activists, advocates, policymakers, and thought leaders who will discuss these issues based on their lived experiences and share their vision for a more equitable system.

RECEPTION & POSTER SESSION

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

 **Poster/Exhibit Area**

Join the festivities over lite fare and beverages, with live entertainment provided by **Colin Mekeel**.

Colin Mekeel is from Lancaster and has performed at several ODP conferences. In addition to performing solo, Colin is also part of the jazz group, Temple Avenue, bringing his neurodiverse talents to this musical ensemble. Visit the exhibit hall and the Health, Wellness and Safety Poster Session to learn more about resources and innovation across the Commonwealth.

MOVE YOUR WAY DANCE PARTY

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Join DJ Kevin and Show Us Your Moves 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM, Red Room.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

CHECK IN/REGISTRATION

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. - Great American Lobby

MOVE YOUR WAY ACTIVITY: YOGA WITH GRETCHEN

7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. - Trinidad Room

MOVE YOUR WAY ACTIVITY: JOGGING WITH ZANDER

7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. - Meet in Great American Lobby

QUIET ROOM AVAILABLE

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. - Confection Hall Office

LIGHT BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. White/Blue Room

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

9:00 a.m.– 10:00 p.m. - White/Blue Room

COFFEE BREAK, VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL & POSTER SESSION

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

BREAKOUT 3A - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

DSP Certification through the NADSP E-Badge Academy

BREAKOUT 3B1 - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Bringing Fathers Forward: Engaging, Supporting, and Connecting Dads of Children with IDD

BREAKOUT 3C - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

The Arc of PA Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among People with Disabilities

BREAKOUT 3D - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Throw Away the Box

BREAKOUT 3E - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Change the Journey: Adding Adapted Movement Into Your Life

BREAKOUT 3F - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

The Importance of Being Heard & How IM4Q Supports an Everyday Life

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

BREAKOUT 3G - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Sexual Identity and Health

BREAKOUT 3H - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Supporting Families Using Charting the LifeCourse: How to Create and Use a Focused Trajectory

BREAKOUT I - 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Peer Support Services Across Pennsylvania and How We Are Expanding and Strengthening Programs

VISIT EXHIBIT HALL & POSTER SESSION

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (Exhibit Hall Closes at 1:00 p.m.)

LUNCH

12:15.m.– 1:15 p.m.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

1:15 P.m.–2:15 p.m. - White/Blue Room

REPEAT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3A & 3C THRU 3H

2:30p.m.–3:30 p.m.

BREAKOUT 3B2 - 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Lifesharing with Medically Complex Children—Keeping Families Together

THURSDAY MORNING KEYNOTE

America's Direct Support Workforce: The Past, Present and Future

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

This session will talk about the decades-long challenges facing the direct support workforce across the United States. The field continues to see an frightening decline in attracting new workers because of the increasing demands, competition from other industries, and economic reasons. This session will look at the data trends that effect the direct support workforce to offer concrete paths toward a more inclusive society for those with disabilities.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Amy Hewitt, PhD. FAAIDD. Director, Institute on Community Integration at The University of Minnesota

Joseph M. Macbeth, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals



THURSDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Sessions are 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. and repeated 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

DSP Certification through the NADSP E-Badge Academy

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Dan Hermreck, Director of Certification and Accreditation, NADSP

The National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) E-Badge Academy is a certification platform that allows Direct Support Professionals (and their supervisors) to earn electronic badges by completing accredited (officially recognized) training and describing how their work meets the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Core Competencies and the NADSP Code of Ethics. These badges can be stacked to meet the requirements for NADSP's DSP-I, DSP-II, DSP-III, and Frontline Supervisor certifications. This session will give background on the design of the program, best practices and lessons learned in other parts of the country, and some discussion about other's experiences.

 **Crystal A Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

PROFESSIONALS who serve persons with an intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, or other developmental disability with co-occurring mental health needs

Bringing Fathers Forward: Engaging, Supporting, and Connecting Dads of Children with IDD

Corey Ferguson, MHA, Statewide Manager, Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio, LifeCourse Nexus

Oftentimes, the journey as a parent of a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities looks different for fathers, yet the difference isn't always seen or understood. Hear one father's story of his journey in raising a child with IDD, and what he's learned that could be put into practice in supporting fathers. This session will also highlight Bringing Fathers Forward, a workgroup in Ohio focused on father engagement, connection, and support.

 **Empire AB Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

MORE SESSIONS



THURSDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Continued

The Arc of PA Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among People with Disabilities

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Sherri Landis, Executive Director, Emma Nolan, Manager of Government Relations & Health Initiatives, The Arc of PA

The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for everyone, but for some groups like the disability community, the impact has been overwhelming. This is even more the case for those in the disability community who live in rural areas and those belonging to racial and ethnic minorities. The Arc of PA is working on a project funded by the PA Department of Health that aims to identify healthcare barriers that people with disabilities have. The Arc of PA released a report that provides proposed solutions. Input on this report was provided by people with lived experience, family members, and professionals in healthcare and disability communities. This presentation will share the solutions that the State can do to achieve health equity for people with disabilities.

 **Magnolia AB Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Throw Away the Box

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Jenkins, We Stand 4 Something Founder & Director

Boxes are used to contain what's inside, whether it's goods, or ideas, or the traditional way of doing things. We are often asked to "think outside the box." We're being asked to think (and act) outside our comfort zone and outside of what we've become familiar with. While we are busy thinking outside the box, the box is still there. The box stays and in it are all the traditional ways of doing things, the things we are familiar with. Join Mr. Emmanuel Jenkins, Founder and CEO of the non-profit, We Stand 4 Something, Inc. as he explains why instead of just thinking outside the box, we need to Throw "the Box" Away.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Change the Journey: Adding Adapted Movement Into Your Life

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Dr. Beth Foster, Assoc. Professor in Adapted Physical Activity/Education

Audrey Houghton, Individual with Disability

Get ready to get moving YOUR WAY during this high energy presentation. This session will explore ways to increase safe and successful movement activities based on individuals' needs. Information will be shared on how to add adaptations to a skill, environment, or equipment to provide successful movement opportunities and increase activity throughout one's life, based on personal experiences and trial and error. Leave the presentation with goals to develop a functional movement program that is person centered to increase recreational and movement opportunities within communities and increase the health and well-being of us all..

 **Aztec Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

THURSDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The Importance of Being Heard & How IM4Q Supports an Everyday Life

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Lee Stephens, PA ODP IM4Q Statewide Lead

Jennifer Farmerie, PA ODP IM4Q Western Region AAW Lead

Guy Caruso, PhD, Temple University's Institute on Disabilities IM4Q Technical Advisor

Mary Kay Cunningham, MSW, Temple University's Institute on Disabilities IM4Q

Christine Greene, St. Francis University, IM4Q Local Program Director

The panel will explain what the Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) is, its process, and the importance of participation in a survey. They will explain how ODP, the technical advisors, counties, and local programs work together with the goal to improve the quality of life for everyone receiving services in PA. They will share positive outcomes of IM4Q interviews. Questions are welcome and links to additional IM4Q information will be shared.

 **Magnolia CD Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Sexual Identity and Health

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Andy Arias, disability program manager, policy development professional, actor and producer

Join us for a presentation on Disability Sexuality and Health Awareness, designed for individuals with disabilities. This session looks at the important connection of disability, sexuality, and overall health. The presentation looks at the unique challenges individuals with disabilities face and will be a supportive environment for open conversation. The session will explore topics ranging from sexual health education to relationships and myths surrounding disability and intimacy. Andy's expertise goes beyond advocacy, as he shares insights and resources for making a positive and empowered approach to disability, sexuality, and overall well-being.

 **Trinidad Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Supporting Families Using Charting the LifeCourse: How to Create and Use a Focused Trajectory

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Candida Walton, PA ODP Supporting Families Director/
Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador**

Francine Hogan, Director, PA Family Network, Vision for Equality

Join us to learn about the principles and values of supporting families and how Charting the LifeCourse can help to bring those to life in real families. How Charting the LifeCourse can be used by families and teams to create a vision and identify and access supports and services to get there will be provided. You will hear some examples and may join in the conversation about how you can use Charting the LifeCourse to plan and problem solve.

 **Wild Rose Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

MORE SESSIONS



THURSDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Peer Support Services Across Pennsylvania and How We Are Expanding and Strengthening Programs

 **Empire CD Room**

THIS SESSION IS REPEATED 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

David Measel, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition

Jessica Sprout, Certified Peer Specialist Supervisor, Recovery InSight, Inc.

Treasure Gallagher, Peer Services Program Representative, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

During this panel discussion, the speakers will provide information regarding:

- The Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition's mission/vision, role, and current and future work to help expand, strengthen, and advocate for peer support service within Pennsylvania.
- Recovery Insight, Inc will share a realistic look into the roles and duties of a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) and CPS Supervisor, the importance and positive impact of the work, and areas in which peer support services need to be expanded and strengthened.
- The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will share information on current work being completed to continue to advocate for, expand, and strengthen peer services.

This discussion will cover the qualifications, training, expansion of services by adding family peer support services, offering endorsement/skill enhancement training, and others.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Lifesharing with Medically Complex Children—Keeping Families Together

2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Jennifer Harniman-Crangle, LSW, Family Facilitator, PCHC

Monique and Deacon Lawrence, Lifesharing Family

Jolanda Stringfield, Administrator of Community Based Programs, Divine Providence Village

Hear the inspiring journey toward Lifesharing with medically complicated children in Pennsylvania. United by a shared vision for Deacon, their work centered on providing a safe and nurturing environment for him with his family in the community. Monique and Deacon will share how their lives have changed and how Deacon is living his best life.

 **Empire AB Room**


WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Centering the Human in Human Services

1:15 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

 **White/Blue Room**



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

ALL AUDIENCES
(individuals, family members/
caregivers and professionals)

Human-centered organizations must be able to understand and impact the systems that influence the lives of the people they support and the people they employ. Organizations and professionals must also be able to empower individuals meaningfully and effectively. The work of becoming a human-centered organization starts with purposely influencing the culture of the organization in specific ways. Dr. Evans will discuss ways and opportunities for support systems to empower the people they serve and employ and move us all closer to a better world.

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:

Dr. Syard Evans, CEO
Arkansas Support Network



Poster Exhibition

Wednesday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM & Thursday, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Visit the Chocolate Lobby to learn about innovative models for encouraging healthy lifestyle habits when supporting individuals with disabilities.

Participating organizations include:

- Acentra Southwestern HCQU
- A-IBDHP
- Barber National Institute
- Bradford County ID
- Citizen Care
- Dysphagia Services of Southeast PA
- Jefferson Elder Care, Thomas Jefferson University
- Milestone HCQU West
- PA Family Network
- Philadelphia Coordinated Healthcare
- Quality Care Supportive Practices
- Round Hill Services
- Smartcare by Onewell
- Special People in Northeast
- Step by Step Inc.
- Temple Institute on Disability
- The Arc of Susquehanna Valley
- The Next Steps Programs
- UCP of Central PA
- Wesley Family Services of Western Pennsylvania
- YAI

Exhibit Hall

Tuesday, 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM Wednesday, 10:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Thursday, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Exhibitor Trivia Hunt

In your registration bag, you received a sheet with trivia questions about each exhibitor booth. Match the exhibitors with their trivia question to be entered in a prize drawing! Turn in your trivia question sheets to the Registration Area by 12:15 on Thursday.

Participating organizations include:

- Achieva Family Trust
- Alliance for Nonprofit Resources
- American Association on Health and Disability
- AngelSense Inc.
- ASERT
- Aveanna Healthcare
- The Bi Collaborative
- CARESPHERE LLC
- CIL
- Dani Bowman
- HCQUs
- I Prepare
- ISAC
- Institute on Disabilities, Temple University
- Move Your Way
- NADD
- OneWell
- PA Family Network at Vision for Equality
- PA Human Relations Commission
- PA Treasury/PA ABLE
- PALCO, INC
- PAR
- PATF
- PerformCare
- PIHEC
- PMHCA
- Project Transition
- Public Partnerships
- Quilting Booth
- SAU1
- Special Olympics
- Spectrum Friends
- StationMD
- Steve Frock/Chris Dovey
- Sunrise Community of PA
- TEM Care
- Wesley Family Services
- Woods Healthcare

SPEAKER BIOS

Shawn Aleong is a talented and ambitious African American male who lives with cerebral palsy. He is a human rights, disability rights, and civil rights advocate. Shawn is a self-proclaimed trend-setter and known for breaking down barriers and stereotypes that marginalize black males and individuals with disabilities. Shawn is currently a Legal Studies and a Finance student in the Fox School of Business where he is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Business Law and Finance with a minor in real estate. Shawn prides himself in being actively engaged both on and off campus. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is also the Senior Advisory for Temple Student Government and holds a seat on the executive board for the Black Law Student Association, Pre-Law Division. As an active member of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Shawn also finds time to support his passion for advocacy by participating in the Advisory Board for the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University.

Kristin Ahrens, M.Ed. is the Deputy Secretary for the Office of Developmental Programs. Previously Kristin served as the Director of the Bureau of Policy and Quality Management in Pennsylvania's Office of Developmental Programs. Before joining the Office of Developmental Programs, she served as the Policy Director for the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. Ms. Ahrens' 25 years of experience working with people with disabilities spans from advocacy and community education to providing supported living, family support and self-directed services and includes development and management of several self-directed models. Prior to moving to Pennsylvania, Ms. Ahrens was the Director of Self-Determination Resources, Inc. (SDRI), a regional brokerage serving adults with I/DD, in Oregon. Ms. Ahrens has a Master's in Education and Disability Studies Certificate from Temple University.

Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH was appointed Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in June 2023. Prior to this role, Secretary Arkoosh served on the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners from January 2015. As Commission Chair, Secretary Arkoosh was committed to strengthening services for children, veterans, and seniors. She led the efforts to eliminate street homelessness of veterans and streamline delivery of human services. Drawing on her background as a physician, she oversaw a multi-pronged, integrated response to the opioid overdose epidemic, including issuing a standing order in 2015 to enable participating pharmacies in Montgomery County to dispense the overdose antidote naloxone at the request of any member of the public. As a physician and public health professional, Secretary Arkoosh was at the center of Montgomery County's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, leading a data- and science-driven approach to the unprecedented challenge. Arkoosh's leadership was praised during the county's response, especially her transparency and public communication throughout the pandemic. Secretary Arkoosh is also a staunch advocate for maternal health and reproductive rights, and previously served on the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee. Prior to stepping into public service, Secretary Arkoosh was Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Arkoosh is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and received a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She performed her residency at Jefferson Medical College in Anesthesiology with a special focus in Obstetrics. She has an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University.

Robert Arnhold, Ph.D. is professor emeritus from Slippery Rock University where he spent 33 years preparing undergraduate and graduate students for careers serving individuals in health and physical activity careers. Currently, he serves as CEO of Growing Together Aquaponics, Inc. (GTA). GTA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide individuals with disabilities with job-training skills leading to competitive, inclusive employment. Program completers will serve as stewards of active and healthy lifestyles and improved quality of life.

SPEAKER BIOS

Andy Arias, a seasoned disability program manager, policy development professional, actor, and producer, is a disabled, Latinx, and queer individual. As the Component Manager for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at Georgetown University's National Center for Cultural Competence, he leads initiatives promoting cultural competence, diversity, equity and inclusion. Previously a Policy Advisor for the U.S. Department of Labor, Andy collaborated on employment policies. He's acted alongside Tom Hanks and Mark Ruffalo in entertainment, advising on accessibility. As a producer, his films like "The Unicorn Closet" explore intersectionality. Beyond entertainment, Andy advocates for ADA compliance, inclusion, and equality, earning national recognition. His leadership created a youth program benefiting over 150 disabled young adults, and his corporate work expands disability awareness.

Caitlin Bailey, Ph.D. is the Co-Director of the National Leadership Consortium. In her role, she leads the development and coordination of all research and evaluation projects and technical assistance and support to organizations and disability sector leaders as well as strategic planning initiatives for the Consortium. Caitlin brings significant knowledge and experience in research, evaluation, training, development, and facilitation of leadership development programs for the disability service sector and the Federal government. Caitlin has served on the Boards of Directors for the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals, the Alliance for Citizen Directed Supports, and the advisory committee for NAQ.

Imani Barbarin is a disability rights and inclusion activist and speaker who uses her voice and social media platforms to create conversations engaging the disability community. Born with cerebral palsy, Imani often writes and uses her platform to speak from the perspective of a disabled black woman. In the last few years she has created over a dozen trending hashtags that allow disabled folk the opportunity to have their perspectives heard while forcing the world to take notice. #PatientsAreNotFaking, #ThingsDisabledPeopleKnow, #AbleDsAreWeird and others each provide a window into disabled life while forming community. Imani is from the Philadelphia area and holds a Masters in Global Communications from the American University of Paris, her published works include those in Forbes, Rewire, Healthline, BitchMedia and more. She runs the blog CrutchesAndSpice.com and a podcast of the same name.

Dani Bowman, MBA is on the autism spectrum. She founded her company, DaniMation Entertainment, at age 14 in 2009 and launched DaniMation UK in 2019. She graduated with a BFA in Animation in 2018 and an MBA in Global Strategy and Leadership in 2020. Dani has premiered 14 animated short films, a PSA, and a musical at San Diego Comic Con. Over the next 14 years, Dani has led summer animation camps around the country, initially with Joey Travolta's Inclusion Films, and then expanding out on her own, adding programs at the University of South Florida, Plymouth University and Brunel University London in England, teaching over 2,500 youth with autism and other different abilities. In 2020, Dani pivoted to teaching animation from in-person to online with 1-Week Animation Workshops and One-on-One classes.

Guy Caruso, Ph.D. is the Western Region Coordinator for Temple University's Institute on Disabilities and has been an IM4Q Technical Advisor for 25 years.

Gregory Cherpes, MD has been the Medical Director for the Office of Developmental Programs since 2015. Previously, he has served as the Director of Behavioral Health at The Center for Prader-Willi Syndrome of The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh; the Medical Director for Child, Adolescent and Developmental Disability Services at Allegheny East MH/MR and is the former Medical Director of two of the state's Health Care Quality Units. He earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin and completed a residency and fellowship at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh. He is board certified in general psychiatry as well as child and adolescent psychiatry. Dr. Cherpes' clinical, research, and educational efforts have been devoted to addressing the healthcare needs of people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

Mary Kay Cunningham, MSW is an IM4Q Technical Advisor for Temple University's Institute on Disabilities and has served as the Assistant Director of Technical Assistance for 15 years.

SPEAKER BIOS

Kathy Davis, BS is the Promising Practices Manager at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Supports. Kathy received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and has worked in the intellectual disability/autism field for 25 years in various roles including direct care, supports coordination, and administration/oversight. The Promising Practices Team was initiated in 2018 to provide technical assistance to our residents and the teams who support them, to build system capacity and to focus on the removal of barriers and “silos” that interfere with individuals receiving the services that they need. The team’s mission “every person and every family we partner with will have the resources and opportunities they need to live a happy, fulfilling life” informs the work of the team each day. The START pilot activity in Allegheny County is managed under the umbrella of the Promising Practice Team.

Laura DeRiggi is a Senior Director and Clinical Consultant with CBH/Philadelphia PBHIDS. She has 35 years of experience with expertise in clinical practice, policy development, and integrated case management systems.

Syard Evans, Ph.D. is the CEO at Arkansas Support Network. She has a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Education and Research. Dr. Evans received an international Award of Excellence from CQL in 2022. She is the President of the Arkansas Waiver Association, a member of the Arkansas Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Walton College Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s Advisory Board at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Evans is a TEDx speaker, was a member of the 2018 Arkansas Business’ Class of 40 Under 40, and is a frequent speaker at national and international events.

Blerina Faruku, DNP is Assistant Director of Whole Person Support/Risk Mitigation for START Philadelphia. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice with 19 years of diverse healthcare experience. She advocates passionately for whole-person care within the START Philadelphia initiative.

Jennifer Farmerie is the IM4Q Western Region AAW Lead for the PA Office of Developmental Programs. She has worked in ODP’s Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations and has supported the Adult Autism Waiver for the past 7 years.

Corey Ferguson works within the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities where he is the Statewide Manager for the Ohio LifeCourse Nexus, focusing on education, engaging, and empowering Ohio families and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities via multiple programs and initiatives implemented to support them in pursuing their best lives. Corey and his wife have three children, all of whom received Individual Education Program (IEP) services. His oldest child has significant disabilities and medical complexities, including quadriplegic cerebral palsy. His life experience has cultivated extraordinary passion for supporting, empowering, and encouraging families who have a loved one with developmental disabilities.

Jeiri Flores is a Puerto Rican disability rights activist from Rochester, NY. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in the study of Sociology and African-American Studies at SUNY Brockport in 2012 and her Masters’s in the study of Human Development at the University of Rochester in 2023. Jeiri serves as a resource for residents in her community by connecting them to existing services and supports. As a disability advocate, Jeiri shares her unique perspective at various colleges and conferences, where she introduces attendees to the struggles and invisibility that people with disabilities face. She provides insight regarding inclusion, citizenship, disability intersectionality, and challenges that remain unaddressed by society. She hopes to influence young disabled people to fulfill their purpose and create a new narrative for what it means to be disabled.

Elizabeth Foster, Ph.D. is an associate professor at West Chester University in adapted physical activity/education (APA/E). She is the Health and Physical Education and APA/E program coordinator and graduate coordinator of the APE graduate certificate program. She is currently the director for Camp Abilities in Pennsylvania, which is a developmental sports camp for youth with vision loss. Dr. Foster has presented internationally and nationally at conferences on research and various application-based topics on disability, adaptations, and assessment within the field of APA/E and adapted sports. Dr. Foster was named the 2012 Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance APE teacher of the year. In addition, Dr. Foster has been involved with various adapted sport organizations and disability organizations promoting physical activities, fitness, adapted sports, and aquatics for all individuals with disabilities.

SPEAKER BIOS

Treasure Gallagher is a Shippensburg University graduate who has a diverse array of experiences working with children with autism and behavioral health diagnoses, adult and juvenile criminal justice (to include Drug Courts), individuals diagnosed with Substance Use Disorders, prevention of human trafficking, as well as with children and youth and their families. Treasure has gained experience in the states of Pennsylvania and Ohio and has held a variety of roles throughout her 20+ years of service, with most of her work being in the areas of juvenile justice and children and youth. Treasure's work passions including the prevention of human trafficking and peer support services, which is what brought her to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' Policy Division where her focus is on strengthening and enhancing peer support services across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Christine Greene is St. Francis University's IM4Q Local Program Director. She has been with the IM4Q program for 25 years, both as a monitor and program director.

Gabriela Hagi is a passionate advocate for inclusive higher education, currently serving as the Grant Coordinator for Pennsylvania Inclusive Higher Education (PIHEC). This pivotal role came to fruition after Millersville University was awarded the Transition and Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) grant by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education. From a young age, Gabriela has been deeply committed to working with marginalized populations. Recognized as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion in her professional sphere, she also holds an executive position on the Millersville University President's Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion.

Gregory Hanley, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA is the owner, founder and CEO of FTF Behavioral Consulting. Dr. Hanley has been applying the principles of learning to improve socially important behaviors of children and adults with and without disabilities for 35 years. He started in direct care and management roles in ICFs/MR (1990-1994), worked on the Neurobehavioral Unit at the Kennedy Krieger Institute (1994-1997), was degreed at the University of Florida (2001), was tenured at the University of Kansas (2006), and developed and directed the Behavior Analysis Doctoral Program and Life Skills Clinic at Western New England University (WNEU; 2007-2019). Dr. Hanley is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Div. 25), past Associate Editor of The Behavior Analyst, and past Editor of Behavior Analysis in Practice and of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. He has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals and several book chapters primarily focused on the assessment, treatment, and prevention of problem behavior and sleep problems, teaching strategies for developing life skills, and empirically-derived values for practitioners.

Jennifer Harniman-Crangle, LSW is a pioneering professional dedicated to transforming the lives of medically complicated children in Pennsylvania. As the State's first Family Facilitator, she passionately facilitates their transition from pediatric facilities to thriving within their communities alongside their families.

Dan Hermreck, B.S.Ed., has been supporting the professional development of Direct Support Professionals in various roles since 2003. He was the Training Coordinator at TARC in Topeka for 16 years. Dan served as the primary skills mentor for both the first group of DSPs at TARC in 2008 and the first group of Frontline Supervisors at Butler Community College in 2015 to earn NADSP certifications. After many years working on direct support workforce development and advocacy issues, he became NADSP's Director of Certification and Accreditation in 2018 and oversees the operation and development of the NADSP E-Badge Academy.

Amy Hewitt, PhD, has an extensive background in the disability field. She has worked in various positions over the past 40 years to improve community inclusion and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families. Her career began as a Direct Support Professional and she currently employs DSPs to support her brother-in-law who lives with autism, addiction, and chronic medical conditions. She is the Director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration and conducts research, evaluation, and demonstration projects about community services for children, youth and adults with disabilities and the direct support workforce. She has authored numerous journal articles, curriculum, technical reports, including a book entitled Staff Recruitment, Retention and Training. Dr. Hewitt is the editor of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, a journal of the AAIDD. She is a Past President of the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) and Past President of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).

SPEAKER BIOS

Francine Hogan began her journey into the disability field when her now 23-year-old son Michael was diagnosed with autism, ID, and Tourette syndrome. Currently, Francine is the Director of the Pennsylvania Family Network at Vision for Equality and responsible for planning, budgeting, and overseeing the successful execution of the program. Francine brings the family voice to multiple systems. She has been published in the Positive Approaches Journal and is recognized nationally as a speaker on Supporting Families. Francine has diverse cross disability experience, as well as experience in community organizing, person-centered counseling, curriculum development, pre-employment transition services, and grant management.

Audrey Houghton is a woman with down syndrome who just transitioned into a group living house with two other women and attends an active day program. She continues to try to eat healthier and move her body to maintain her wellness and health.

Emmanuel Jenkins is the founder of We Stand 4 Something, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to help people who have disabilities pursue their goals, whatever those goals might be. Emmanuel's viewpoint is that people who have disabilities should live without limits and that "If you put your heart, mind and soul into the situation, you can do anything you want". He serves at the pleasure of Governor Markell on the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens, the State Council for People with Disabilities, and the Employment First Oversight Commission. Emmanuel is a motivational speaker, as well as a certified trainer, teaching people with disabilities to recognize, report and respond to abuse. Emmanuel has devoted much of his time to helping people. At the age of 11, he began volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club, working with children and teaching them how to set and attain life goals. Emmanuel volunteered over 1500 hours, demonstrating the principles of a positive and determined mind. He devoted his time to being a mentor and positive role model for the many students with whom he worked.

Courtney Johnson is a 26 year old autistic adult with multiple disabilities - including traumatic brain injury, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and other conditions. She is a graduate of the Tennessee's Partners in Policymaking program, as well as earning her Bachelors of Science degree from East Tennessee State University. She has presented at various workshops, conferences, panels, and guest lectures. She also established her university's first student-led group for students with intellectual, developmental, and cognitive disabilities. Courtney is active in disability advocacy and runs a website to compile resources for autistic people and their families. She is currently serving a governor-appointed term on the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, representing the First Tennessee development district.

Keith Jones is the President and CEO of SoulTouchin' Experiences LLC, an organization aimed at bringing a perspective to the issues of access inclusion and empowerment, which affect him as well as others who are persons with and without disabilities. Most recently Keith was awarded the Partners for Youth with Disabilities Inaugural Oswald Mondejr Innovator Award as well as the 2023 ax Starkloff Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council for Independent Living.

McKenna Killion, OTD is the Director of Integrated Studies at Millersville University, an inclusive post-secondary education initiative. As director, McKenna collaborates with the university and surrounding community to ensure students with intellectual disabilities serve valued roles on campus. McKenna received her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy from Duquesne University, where she developed individualized materials to support students with disabilities in building meaningful connections within the campus community. Through her work and research, McKenna is an advocate for authentic inclusion for college students with intellectual disabilities.

Chris King is a third year student at Millersville University. His major is Integrated Studies with a concentration in Writing and Social Justice. He is a member of the Alliance for Social Change as well as the Millersville Marching Band and Concert Band. Chris is a strong advocate and mentor for college students with disabilities.

Sherri Landis has served as the Executive Director of The Arc of Pennsylvania, the state's oldest advocacy organization for people with IDD. Sherri began her career in the political arena, working in campaign management and government affairs, and as the executive director of a trade association. Prior to joining The Arc of Pennsylvania, Sherri was the first executive director of the DREAM Partnership, a non-profit focused on establishing post-secondary education programs at Pennsylvania colleges for people with IDD.

SPEAKER BIOS

Monique Lawrence, a trailblazing advocate, and her son Deacon, hold the distinction of being PA's inaugural family to embrace the transformative lifesharing services. With Monique's unwavering commitment, Deacon is flourishing in the embrace of his mother and two sisters, living his best life.

Kristen Loomis, MBA is the Co-Director of the National Leadership Consortium programs, services, products, and activities. Kristen has worked with the National Leadership Consortium since 2012. Her work has focused on developing and coordinating training and technical assistance for leaders across the intellectual and developmental disabilities field. Kristen received her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and her Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Strategic Leadership from the University of Delaware.

Joseph Macbeth is the Chief Executive Officer and President of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) and has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for 40 years - beginning as a Direct Support Professional. Macbeth is recognized as an international leader in the advocacy & movement to recognize direct support as a profession and for the past decade has been a highly sought-after speaker and contributor on the workforce challenges that affected the intellectual and developmental disability service system. During his years with NADSP, he has built a membership of more than 150 service provider organizations representing nearly 60,000 direct support professionals, partnered with other national organizations to influence public policy reform and created the first national certification program using a digital badge platform called the E-Badge Academy where tens of thousands of direct support professionals currently receive recognition for their demonstration and objective review of their skills. Macbeth co-authored the Report to the President, "America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis: Effects on People with Intellectual Disabilities, Families, Communities and the U.S. Economy" for the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID, 2017).

David Measel has a degree in Political Science from Wayne State University and is a Pennsylvania Certified Peer Specialist, CPS Supervisor, and National Certified Peer Specialist. In addition to these certifications, he has also completed the enhanced skill trainings of Certified Older Adult Peer Specialist and Certified Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Facilitator. In 2015, David became the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition where he completed a number of projects that have helped enhance Peer Services in Pennsylvania. In partnership with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Temple University, David was the lead individual charged with the creation of a three-day Certified Peer Specialists in Crisis Services Training, which went "live" in 2015.

Loleda Moman, M.S. is the PA START Allegheny Program Director. She has been with Resources for Human Development for six months and has worked in social services for more than 20 years. Loleda earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Carlow University, her Master of Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh and her Master of Organizational Leadership from Point Park University. Loleda is passionate about advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves. She strongly believes standing together is what makes the community stronger.

Emma Nolan, MPH is the Manager of Government Affairs and Health Initiatives at The Arc of Pennsylvania, where she advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and provides legislative updates on key issues pertaining to disability specific policies and practices. Emma graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biobehavioral Health and minor in Rehabilitation and Human Services and continued her education at The Penn State College of Medicine to receive a Master's of Public Health.

Jessica Reinhardt, Ph.D., NCSP LP is a nationally certified school psychologist and licensed psychologist. She is the Coordinator of the School Psychology Program at Temple University. Her overarching professional interests include mental health of children and adolescents, culturally-responsive counseling, trauma-conscious teaching and consultation, and assessment of neurodevelopmental disorders.

SPEAKER BIOS

Nancy Richey brings both personal experience as a family caregiver and professional experience as Pennsylvania's first statewide facilitator of the Supporting Families Initiative from 2015 to 2018. Working within the Policy Bureau of the Office of Developmental Programs, she contributed the family perspective in policy creation and operations. In this role, she authored our state's first application to join the national Community of Practice. Unique to the approach, and unlike any other states, was the creation of Regional Collaboratives intended to empower and reflect local communities, their needs, and their cultures in creating new and meaningful ways to support families. Earlier in her career, she was a leader in the PA Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and their Families. Her other professional experiences have included human services, community organization, and writing. As a parent of an adult son with autism and intellectual disability as well as having been a primary caregiver for elderly parents, Nancy knows well the experiences of supporting the daily social, medical and emotional needs of loved ones. Nancy is passionate about supporting families to envision everyday lives for all and helping all who touch families' lives to share in and communicate that collective vision. She is a native of Williamsport, an honors graduate of Lycoming College.

Diana Morris Smaglik has been both personally and professionally involved in the disability community for more than 33 years due to her son being medically complex. Early on, she became determined to help other families travel the long, involved road that leads to an Everyday Life. As Manager of the PA Family Network, Diana has been involved in supporting families in the intellectual disability/autism system for more than seven years. She creates person/family-centered workshops, presents, and facilitates the activities of the Network of Family Advisors. She is an Ambassador for Charting the LifeCourse.

Jessica Sprout is a Certified Mobile Peer Support Specialist/Supervisor and works for Recovery Insight, Inc. Before her work at Recovery Insight, Inc., she has had an array of experiences working with adults in residential housing, behavioral health hospital, and children with autism and behavioral health diagnosis. Jess has always had a passion for mental health which stemmed from her personal experience finding her wellness through tough times and struggles with family members. She recognizes her growth and continues to work through her journey. Jess has worked hard to make a five-year person goal to become a peer support specialist, which was in January 2023, and which was reached in December of 2023. She continues to spread positivity with others that come into her life.

Lee Stephens has been the IM4Q Statewide Lead for the PA Office of Developmental Programs for more than 18 years after having a 13-year DSP career.

Jolanda Stringfield, the esteemed Administrator of Community Based Programs for Divine Providence Village and the Communities of Don Guanella, is a visionary leader with a profound commitment to fostering a community-oriented approach for children. Embracing the belief that children thrive best within their loving families, she guides her Lifesharing team with unwavering dedication.

Candida Walton, MA is the Supporting Families Director for the Office of Developmental Program for Pennsylvania. She is also a LifeCourse Ambassador and the Subject Matter Expert on Charting the LifeCourse at ODP. Candida serves as the facilitator for the state with the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families Across the LifeSpan and leads the PA State Leadership Team for Supporting Families. She has worked for ODP for 15 years and also has prior experience working in the mental health field. She earned her Master's Degree in Psychology from Duquesne University and her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Philosophy from Seton Hill University.

Nikita Weaver is a Behavioral Health Program Management/Analyst. Nikita has dual master's degrees in public health and clinical counseling. She brings 15 years of dedicated support for individuals dealing with co-occurring mental health disorders and intellectual disability/autism spectrum disorder.

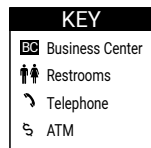
CONFERENCE MAP

Key

- Great American Hall
- Cocoa Ballroom
- Chocolate Ballroom
- Monarch Ballroom
- Tower Suites
- Offices
- Restaurants
- Prefunction Areas
- Guest Registration and Lobby
- Wall Dividers

Tower Level

Main Level



GENERAL SESSIONS, BREAKFAST & LUNCH

QUILTING AREA, AND EXHIBITORS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY EVENING RECEPTION & POSTER SESSION

WALK-IN REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Confection Hall Level

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

RELAXATION ROOM

Session Rooms are indicated by this icon throughout the program.

