

**PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES SUMMIT**  
**AUGUST 14 – 15, 2025; STATE COLLEGE, PA**

## FINAL AGENDA

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025**

|                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 11:00 AM<br>Reg Desk 1              | ON-SITE CHECK IN/REGISTRATION OPEN  |   |
| Noon<br>President's Hall 1&2        | LUNCH (INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION)<br><br><i>12:20 – 12:50: Virtual Speed Networking on Whova</i>   |   |
| 1:00 PM<br>President's Hall 1&2     | WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS  | Candi Walton, Supporting Families Director, PA ODP<br>Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary, PA ODP  |
| 1:15 PM<br>President's Hall 1&2     | SUPPORTING FAMILIES IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT!  | Francine Hogan, PA Family Network   |
| 1:45 PM<br>President's Hall 1&2     | ONE SLIDE CELEBRATIONS, Part 1: CELEBRATING PA REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES FOR SUPPORTING FAMILIES  | PA Regional Collaboratives  |
| 2:15 PM<br>Break Area               | BREAK   |   |
| 2:30 PM<br>President's Hall 1&2     | ONE SLIDE CELEBRATIONS, Part 2  | PA Regional Collaboratives  |
| 3:10 PM<br>President's Hall 1&2     | LIFE COURSE AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS<br>Let's talk action! Quality management is a great way to connect the Life Course tools and principles with action plans. This session will provide an overview of the varied ways to attain quality by embedding Life Course into a quality management action plan. Let's reach meaningful person-centered outcomes and systems change. | Cathy Traini and Nancy Hampson, PA ODP  |
| 4:10 PM<br>President's Hall 1&2     | WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD?  | Roundtable Discussion   |
| 5:00 PM                             | DINNER BREAK (ON YOUR OWN)  |   |
| 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM<br>Deans Hall 1&2 | RECEPTION AND AWARDS<br>Connect with your peers who share a common vision and expertise. Recognize and celebrate the achievements of several outstanding Regional Collaboratives.   | Hear some amazing jazz and Broadway tunes from Colin McKeel. Colin is from Lancaster, part of the Temple Avenue band, and has performed at several ODP conferences. Dessert bar and salty snacks! |

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025**

|                                 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 7:30 AM<br>Reg Desk 1           | ON-SITE CHECK IN/REGISTRATION OPEN  |  |
| 8:45 AM<br>President's Hall 1&2 | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS   | Candida Walton, Supporting Families Director, PA ODP   |
| 8:50 AM<br>President's Hall 1&2 | STRENGTH IN NEURODIVERSITY: HOW TO CREATE A CULTURE WHERE EVERYONE CAN BELONG<br><i>Keynote Speaker: Daniel Wendler, PsyD</i> | Dr. Daniel Wendler is an autistic clinical psychologist who is good at some things (his cooking ability is limited to "puncture film three times and microwave"). He |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <p>Neurodivergent people (such as those with autism and ADHD), often struggle to find a place to belong. Often, our response is to focus on teaching neurodivergent people social skills or behavioral strategies. But what if there's a better way?</p> <p>The paradigm of neurodiversity offers a new pathway to understanding the experiences of neurodivergent people. Instead of viewing conditions such as autism and ADHD through the lens of deficit or disorder, we can view them simply as differences. By applying the social model of disability, we can develop environments that meet the unique needs of neurodivergent people, and equip them to thrive and find environments where they can genuinely belong and contribute.</p> <p><i>You'll learn: The core principles of neurodiversity and how neurodiversity helps us better understand differences such as autism and ADHD; How to understand neurodivergent differences, rather than viewing them as deficits or "problems to be fixed"; The implications of the social model of disability, and how environment creates ability; Challenges experienced by neurodivergent people and how to overcome them (including examples from Dr. Wendler's lived experience as someone with autism); Practical strategies for designing inclusive environments (including social and professional environments); Strategies for handling meltdowns and encouraging growth; Suggestions for neurodivergent people for unmasking and building better relationships.</i></p> | <p>speaks professionally for many organizations including Google, Accenture, and Harvard University, as well as state and federal government agencies. He is a bestselling author on neurodiversity, autism, and overcoming loneliness including "Neurodiversity and the Myth of Normal."</p> |
| 9:45 AM<br><b>Break Area</b>                | <b>BREAK</b>   |   |
| 10:00 AM<br><b>President's Hall 1&amp;2</b> | <p><b>BURNOUT</b></p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker: Daniel Wendler, PsyD</b></p> <p>Burnout is a silent epidemic. Studies find that nearly half of people suffer from burnout at any given time. For neurodivergent people and their caregivers, burnout can be even more common. But while burnout is common, it's not inevitable. There are proven techniques to help you recognize burnout when it's happening, recover from burnout, and protect yourself and your loved ones from becoming burned out. Dr. Daniel Wendler will teach the best strategies for living a burnout-free life, with a particular focus on the needs of neurodivergent people and their loved ones. You'll learn: Why burnout happens, and how to recognize and respond to it; How to engage in effective self-care; How to provide support to someone else who is struggling; How to set (and enforce!) healthy boundaries; Managing shame and self-image when seeking support or taking time off; Specific ways burnout affects neurodivergent people and their caregivers; When to seek professional mental health support.</p>  |   |
| 11:00 AM                                    | <b>BREAK/REFLECTION</b>  |   |
| 11:10 AM<br><b>President's Hall 1&amp;2</b> | <p><b>REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES AND COMMUNITY BELONGING: CRITICAL REFLECTION</b></p>   | <p>Daniel Wendler with self-advocates and family members from Self-Advocates United as 1 (Chris Moore, John Knorr, Matt Smith) and PA Family Network (Tina DiBiao, Darcy Elks, Chriss Gaus).</p>  |
| Noon  | <p><b>LUNCH/ NETWORKING</b></p> <p><b>12:20-12:50: Virtual Speed Networking on Whova</b></p>   |   |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1:15 PM<br><b>President's<br/>Hall 1&amp;2</b> | <b>AUTISM TOOLBOX TRAINING:</b> AuTT provides training on how to interact with individuals on the autism spectrum. AuTT uses their platform to prepare individuals on the spectrum and their families and caregivers for interactions with law enforcement, first responders and the court system. | <b>Jamiel Owens &amp; Cheryl Stehle, AuTT</b> |
| 2:30 PM  | <b>BREAK</b>   |   |
| 2:45 PM<br><b>President's<br/>Hall 1&amp;2</b> | <b>ACTION PLANS</b>  | <b>All</b>                                    |
| 3:15 PM  | <b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>   | <b>Candida Walton, PA ODP</b>                 |

Please complete the Summit evaluation form using the link or in the email sent to you or by going to:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COPSummit> or using this QR code:

