



REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY  
PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

## Email Blast

# Announcing the Fall Session of the 20<sup>th</sup> Employment Supports Symposium: Connecting Talent to Opportunities

**October 1, 2020**

**Employment First Stakeholder Event (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)**

**Opening With:** Jim Donovan (Sun King Warriors)

**Keynote:** A Rally Cry for Employment for All! - Laura Owens, PhD (TransGen, Inc.)

**Description:** What determines whether a movement will be a “flash in the pan” or a real catalyst for long term change? For example, why did Occupy Wall Street diminish in a matter of months, while the Civil Rights and Women’s Rights Movements continue (even resulting in landmark legislation)? The success of any movement requires agitators, innovators and orchestrators. This presentation will review where we have been, where we are, where we have yet to go and how to get there. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, “We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now...This is a time for vigorous and positive action.” This is our time! We cannot be complacent, this is a time of action. We have a great opportunity before us to ensure that disability is no longer to be viewed as a barrier to employment!

Join us as we kick off the Employment Support Symposium a bit differently this year with our annual Employment First Stakeholder Event. Jim Donovan of Sun King Warriors will start us off with an energizing opener. Our opening keynote, Laura Owens, Executive Director of TransGen, will share on, “A Rally Cry for Employment For All”! Each Philadelphia Employment First Workgroup will share current outcomes and projected plans for the next year. Don’t miss this event to learn about what is happening around Employment First in Philadelphia and how you can be part of efforts to move employment forward!

### October Symposium Offerings

**10/6/2020 State of the State Panel (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.)**

**Panelists:** Charlotte Brickhouse, PhD (School District of Philadelphia), Shari Brightful (Philadelphia OVR), Laura Cipriani (PA ODP), Kathy Fogel (Philadelphia OVR - BVRs), & Mary Anderson Hartley (446 Bridges)

**Description:** No one will dispute, this has been one rough year! The system we work within has been challenged in ways like never before. Join us for a discussion where our panelists share updates on services and supports on both a state and city level.

**10/7/2020 How to Tell Stories That Open Hearts and Change the World (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)**

**Leah Lamb, Transformational Storyteller**

**Description:** Storytelling opens our minds to possibilities. It is an art that can be incredibly transformative. Storytelling is also very personal and full of meaning, inspiration and awe for both ourselves as well as our listeners. Are you ready to go beyond using formats and templates in writing and sharing stories and learn how to reach the place where authenticity and magic reside within us all as we walk a storytelling journey? Do you want to learn how to activate your create spark and engage and command the presence and listening of your audience? Join this session and plan to not only look inward, but also leave with creative tools and techniques that will make a difference as you share stories.

**October 7, 2020**  
**\*\*\* October Special Event \*\*\***  
**Fall Music Fest!! (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)**

**Description:** Join us for an evening spotlight with artists from a variety of genres (music, writing, and more). This event is free for all, but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**.

**10/8/2020 Facilitated Brainstorming & Graphic Facilitation (2:00 – 3:30 p.m.)**

Allison Smale (KenCrest Services)

**Description:** The human services field is bursting with opportunities to collaborate with internal and external partners, but how do you bring people together in positive, effective, and creative ways; ensuring full participation and buy-in? This interactive session will focus on how to utilize Facilitated Brainstorming and Graphic Facilitation in meetings and as planning tools, while supporting successful employment outcomes. You will have the opportunity to participate in a live facilitated brainstorming session and practice skills using these tools on your side of the virtual session screen. We encourage you to have some blank paper or a sketch pad on hand as well as a few markers in order to practice skills during the session.

**10/13/2020 Building Future Leaders Panel Discussion (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.)**

**Panelists:** Meghan Casey, Desmond Coates, Andrea Cosigny, Chelsea Lutts, Natasha Nunez, & Alec Weinstein (SPIN, Inc.)

**Facilitated by:** Judy Dotzman (SPIN, Inc.)

**Description:** SPIN's commitment to Employment First not only prioritizes that employment is the first and preferred outcome for people, but in addition, prioritizes leadership development at all levels of the organization by investing in the career and professional development of its employees. SPIN assures that every position and every employee has the opportunity to avail themselves of education, training and development that will enable their leadership development, career pathing and advancement. Today's session will highlight the professional and career development opportunities at SPIN while sharing the personal and professional navigation experiences of the panel, which includes members of SPIN's Employment Services Team, facilitated by SPIN's Executive Director.

**10/14/2020 In Our Own Voice (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)**

Amy Federer & Shadiqua Smith-Spann

**Description:** This presentation will provide a personal perspective of mental health conditions, as leaders with lived experience talk openly about what it's like to have a mental health condition. NAMI's "In Our Own Voice" presentations change attitudes, assumptions, and ideas about people with mental health conditions.

**10/20/2020 What I Wish I Knew In My Employment Journey (10:00 – 11:30 a.m.)**

Sandy Ho - Lurie Institute for Disability Policy

**Description:** For many people with disabilities in this country employment is an aspirational dream, or in reality a side hustle that involves balancing access to services alongside professional responsibilities. Seeking employment involves putting yourself out there, and for people with disabilities the stigma around disability remains a pervasive barrier. But on the other hand, support services, programs, and disability rights agencies are promoting the right to work, and access to employment for people with disabilities. How can a person with a disability juggle these conflicting messages? This presentation will draw from the employment experiences of the presenter, and highlight concrete take-aways for employers and professionals in the field working with consumers, clients, and people with disabilities and their families. The themes that will run throughout this presentation include: intersectionality, people of color, LGBTQIA+, youth with disabilities, mentorship, among others. This presentation will be a balance of personal reflections and provide concrete examples to illustrate actions that the field of employment can take to foster true inclusion.

**10/21/2020 Visible vs. Invisible Disabilities - A Cross-Disability Look at Employment Disclosure (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)**

Panelists: Daniel Angelis (Advocate), Liz Humphrey (Advocate), Andrew Vizuete (Networks for Training and Development, Inc.)

Facilitated by: Suzanne Erb (Networks for Training and Development, Inc.)

**Description:** Disability disclosure has always been a hot topic for people with disabilities, whether it be on the job, in school, or just in everyday life. Join a panel of people with visible and invisible disabilities, as they share their thoughts and opinions about disability disclosure in the workplace and, possibly, beyond. The panelists will provide their own perspectives on all aspects of disability, and will share their opinions for workers with disabilities, employment professionals, and employers. There will also be time for your questions and comments.

**10/22/2020 Best Practices & Collaboration in Secondary Transition (2:00 – 3:30 p.m.)**  
LaQuenta Montañez (School District of Philadelphia)

**Description:** Collaboration with community agency partners results in opportunities to share ideas, resources, and information to improve post-school outcomes for transition-aged students with disabilities. This overview discusses the importance of effective collaboration, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and agency involvement, and provides practical tips and resources for parents, educators, and students.

**10/28/2020 My Person-Centered Journey (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)**  
Elizabeth Humphrey (Advocate)

**Description:** Person-centered planning has helped many people achieve a better life of their choosing. Liz Humphrey shares her achievement of a life of her choosing, and her personal experiences on her "*Person-Centered Journey*"!

**10/29/2020**

**ENDNOTE: Full Accessibility & Inclusion in the Workplace (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)**  
AJ Nanayakkara (Johns Hopkins Health System - JHHS)

**Description:** Advancing Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) is a core value of many organizations. Inclusion is incomplete without individuals with disabilities, but disability inclusion is often understated and sometimes ignored in D&I initiatives. Through guidance specific to individuals with disabilities and broad cultural sensitivity best practices, this interactive discussion will show how disability concerns can be integrated into a broad diversity training. Attendees will receive practical guidance for how organizations can foster cohesion of diverse individuals within teams, including supporting colleagues with disabilities.

**~~ REGISTER NOW ~~**

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY**

**Fall Symposium Events: \$60.00/person**  
(A limited number of scholarships are available  
for self-advocates and their families.)

Contact [Jessica Stover](#) for information and questions around registration.

Additional sessions scheduled through November and December 2020.