

# Everyday Lives

2022 Virtual Conference Program



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## Overview

The Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs thanks you for joining the 2022 Virtual Everyday Lives Conference! The Everyday Lives Conference seeks to provide valuable information to Individuals with an intellectual disability and/or autism, their families, and support professionals to help empower individuals to live their ideal everyday lives.

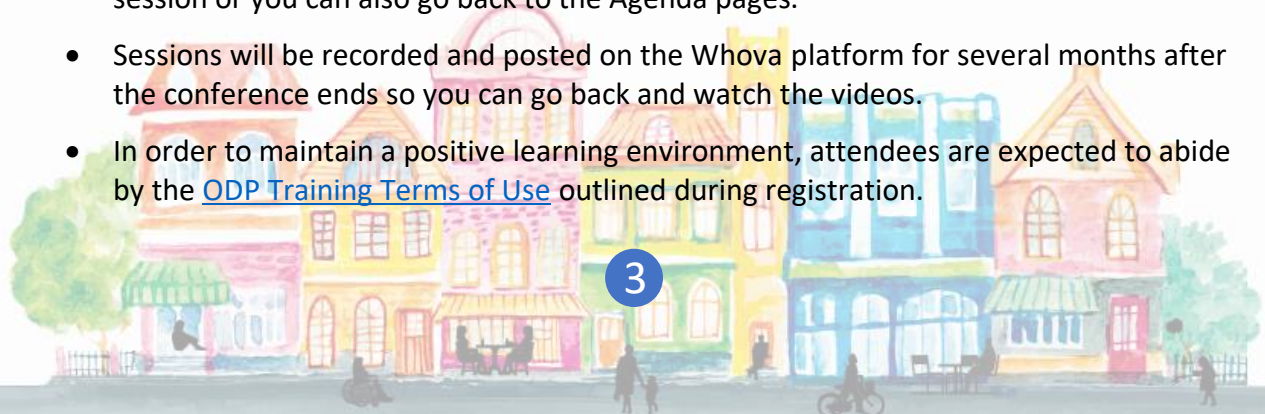
The 2022 Everyday Lives Conference theme is *An Everyday Life in a Changing World: A Focus on Wellness and Resilience*. Conference material will focus on individual and community well-being as we carefully navigate our everyday lives during the current phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sessions are open to all. Each conference track offers sessions for individuals & families and professionals. Sessions conducted by self-advocates for self-advocates are available throughout. *Please note, session times may be subject to minor change. Please refer to the Whova agenda for each day's up-to-date schedule.*

## Virtual Platform: What to Expect

This year's virtual conference will be using a platform called Whova. [A Whova walkthrough video can be found here.](#) Here's what you need to know about connecting and features of the platform:

- A few days before the conference begins, all those registered for the conference will receive a link for the Whova platform. At that time, you'll be able to log on using the email address you used when you registered. Only one person can use the email address. You can log on through your computer or laptop or download a mobile app to your smartphone.
- Once you have logged on to the platform, you'll be at the Conference home page. There will be links on the side of the home page, just like a web site. You'll be able to click on the Agenda page and see all the sessions included for the Conference and even create your own agenda by selecting the sessions you plan to attend.
- On each day of the Conference, you will log on and go to the general Agenda page or your Personal Agenda page. A few minutes before each session begins, the link will be active, and you will be able to click on the link and join the session.
- As each session ends, you will follow instructions on the screen to move to the next session or you can also go back to the Agenda pages.
- Sessions will be recorded and posted on the Whova platform for several months after the conference ends so you can go back and watch the videos.
- In order to maintain a positive learning environment, attendees are expected to abide by the [ODP Training Terms of Use](#) outlined during registration.



## Communication & Connection

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

9:00 am – 4:20 pm

### **Opening Remarks**

9:00 am – 9:15 am

ODP Bureau of Policy & Quality Management Director Jeremy Yale, Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens and PA Department of Human Services Secretary Megan Snead provide opening remarks for the 2022 conference.

### **Opening Keynote - Listen Up: The Many Ways We Communicate**

9:15 am – 10:15 am

Dr. Wendy Ross presents on different forms of communication. Communication is more than speaking. How do we communicate if we are nonverbal? How do we understand each other without words? This session will explore ways that we connect meaningfully without words.

### **Everyday Lives Recommendation 1: ODP's Commitment to Communication**

10:15 am – 10:30 am

ODP Special Populations Unit Manager Lea Sheffield provides an overview of the Information Sharing and Advisory Committee (ISAC) Everyday Lives: Values in Action Recommendation 1 – Assure Effective Communication.

### **Piano Entertainment**

10:30 am – 11:15 am

Pianist Colin Mekeel provides entertainment for the day's lunch break.

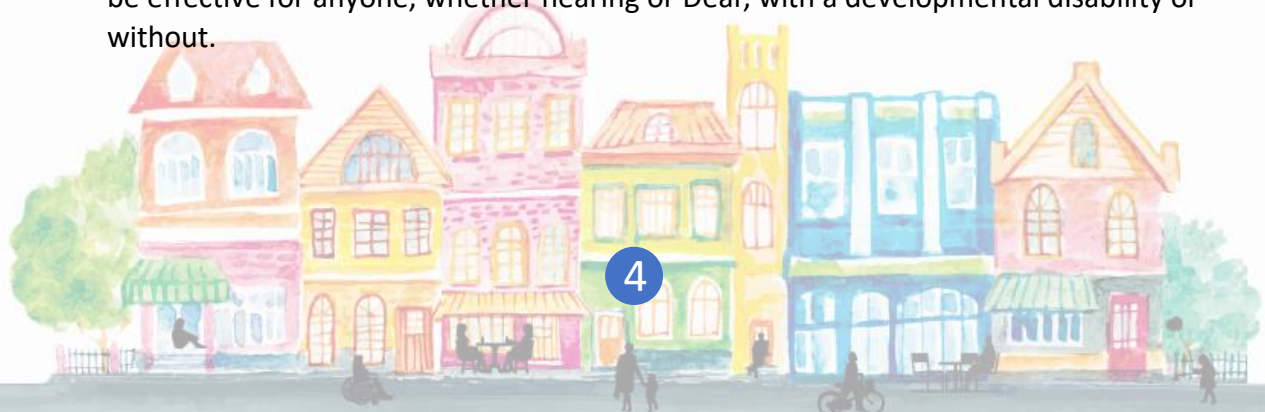
### **Break**

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

### **Standing Where Trauma and Communication Intersect**

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

ODP Deaf Services Coordinator Lori Milcic and Special Populations Professional Emily Burger present on the impact of trauma on communication and the ability of a person to connect and explore the world. There will be a focus on how information deprivation can create lasting effects that mimic the trauma experience. Information deprivation can occur in any population and the tools/techniques discussed in this presentation can be effective for anyone, whether hearing or Deaf, with a developmental disability or without.



### **Accessibility in the Arts**

*1:00 pm – 2:00 pm*

Art-Reach Deputy Director Charlie Miller presents on arts accessibility. Accessibility in the Arts is becoming a national movement that requires us to take a hard look at ways in which people with disabilities have been left out of the joy of experiencing the arts. This presentation will introduce the various programs administered by Art-Reach, a Philadelphia-based non-profit that works with the cultural sector to make what they do, and how they do it, more accessible to people with disabilities and low-income communities.

### **Break**

*2:00 pm – 2:15 pm*

### **Communication and Language Development: The Critical Role of Relationships**

*2:15 pm – 3:15 pm*

Dr. Robert Gallen presents on the development of communication and language skills as developed through interaction with the infant and toddler's important people. The talk will include a discussion of key milestones and strategies for promoting early childhood communication and language development.

### **Closing Keynote - Meaningful Communication In My Everyday Life**

*3:15 pm – 4:15 pm*

Communities belong to all people, and all people belong in communities. To truly belong, each person needs to communicate. It is how we let others know how we feel, what we want, and what we need. Our families, friends, communities, and support systems need to empower people to speak up in the way that works for them. In this session, you will meet people with disabilities and their families. Each of them communicates in different ways. Learn about their path to speak up and be heard in the way that works for them. SAU1 members and employees will present this session - Alexa Brill, Brittany & Anita Wright, Joe Chandler, Joshua Harper, William Brewer, Oscar Drummond, Sierra Shipton and Thalia Dafermos share their stories.

### **Closing Remarks**

*4:15 pm – 4:20 pm*

Everyday Lives Steering Committee Chairperson Alexander Gawn provides closing remarks for day one of the Everyday Lives Conference.



# Community of Practice for Supporting Families Regional Collaborative Summit – Day 1

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

9:00 am – 3:45 pm

## **Welcome Exploring the What and How**

9:00 am – 9:55 am

Community of Practice for Supporting Families (CoP) State Team lead Candida Walton and Central Region Co-Lead for Supporting Families Kelly Barley introduce the summit agenda, and dive into the structure of the Regional Collaboratives and their relationship with the LifeCourse Nexus.

## **Back to Basics – What are we supposed to be doing as a collaborative?**

10:00 am – 11:00 am

ODP Regional Supporting Family Leads Catherine Traini and Nancy Armstrong, and Pennsylvania Family Network Program Manager Diana Smaglik offer tips and guidance for structuring a regional collaborative.

## **Break**

11:00 am – 11:15 am

## **One Slide Celebration**

11:15 am – 11:45 am

Regional collaboratives present on practices they have found successful.

## **Lunch Networking Session**

11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Network with fellow conference-goers at randomized virtual tables that offer video chat capabilities.

## **STAR Power Workshop**

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Join the PA Family Network for an interactive session that encourages everyone to look at the Integrated Supports Star as a diverse tool. Participants will focus on a selection of unique scenarios that involve a vision and look at how the Star can be used to find supports, develop supports, address needs, and problem solve. Space is limited, due to the interactive nature of this workshop.

## **Break**

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm



### **Help for Those Experiencing Anxious Moments**

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm

The American Psychological Association reports that rates of anxiety and depression among U.S. adults were about 4 times higher between April 2020 and August 2021 than they were in 2019. The past couple years have been marked with a myriad of anxiety-producing events. While fear, worry, and anxiety are almost inevitable in the face of the uncertainty that we are collectively facing, there are simple, yet effective, evidence-based techniques that reduce the angst we feel during anxious moments. In this presentation, participants will learn and practice coping strategies to reduce anxiety. Vision for Equality unpacks these tools.

### **Some Simple Ways to Enjoy the Day**

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm

In our busy world, being “on the go” is often the norm, which can cause or increase stress. There is always something that needs to be done and we often find ourselves stuck in the past or dreaming about the future. In doing so, we tend to miss the present. However, intentionally being in the here and now allows us to enjoy our day a bit more. In this presentation Vision for Equality will teach participants ways to savor moments and have more meaningful days. The strategies taught will be based on neuroscience and mindfulness theories.

## Community of Practice for Supporting Families Regional Collaborative Summit – Day 2

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

9:00 am – 3:45 pm

### **Welcome: Finding the Balance – Services & Supports**

9:00 am – 10:00 am

ODP and PA Family Network (PAFN) lead exercises to develop meaningful Resource Maps for families by including integrated local supports and peer-to-peer supports. Regional Collaboratives will provide examples of their work.

### **The trajectory IS the agenda! How are you using your trajectories?**

10:00 am – 11:00 am

PAFN and ODP supporting families leads walk attendees through the LifeCourse trajectory and how it can be used to support individuals in a larger context. Regional Collaboratives will provide tips for success.

### **Break**

11:00 am – 11:15 am



### **One Slide Celebration**

*11:15 am – 11:45 am*

Regional collaboratives present on practices they have found successful.

### **Lunch Networking Session**

*11:45 am – 12:30 pm*

Network with fellow conference-goers through lightly guided conversation at randomized virtual tables that offer video chat capabilities.

### **STAR Power Workshop**

*12:30 pm – 2:00 pm*

Join the PA Family Network for an interactive session that encourages everyone to look at the Integrated Supports Star as a diverse tool. Participants will focus on a selection of unique scenarios that involve a vision and look at how the Star can be used to find supports, develop supports, address needs, and problem solve. Space is limited, due to the interactive nature of this workshop.

### **Break**

*2:00 pm – 2:15 pm*

### **Determining what Families Need: Considerations and Best Practices for Survey Development**

*2:15 pm – 3:30 pm*

ODP Senior Clinical Consultant Amy Alford and Program Specialist Heidi Arva present on effective survey development. Are you a Regional Collaborative looking to support families beyond service identification? Do you want to know what families really want but do not know where to start? This session will explore how to create surveys using best practices in development and design to help Regional Collaboratives connect with families locally. Question development through the lens of Charting the Life Course framework and principles will be a primary focus throughout the session.

### **Closing Remrks**

*3:30 pm – 3:45 pm*

ODP Statewide Supporting Families Lead Candi Walton provides closing remarks for the 2022 Community of Practice Regional Collaborative for Supporting Families Summit.





## Supportive Technology

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

10:00 am – 3:20 pm

### **Introductory Remarks**

10:00 am – 10:10 am

ODP Director of Policy and Quality Management Jeremy Yale and Director of Community Services Lauren House explain the importance of technology in supporting individuals with disabilities and offers insight into the future of ODP initiatives in tech.

### **Keynote - Accessibility & Inclusive Design: Collaboration, Partnership, Innovation**

10:10 am – 11:30 am

Comcast Vice President of Accessibility Tom Wlodkowski and Comcast Product Experience Engineer Eve Hyppolite present on Comcast's commitment to accessible product design. Presenters will demonstrate products that increase independence for people with disabilities and explain the far-reaching impact of these technologies.

### **Lunch Break**

11:20 am - 12:25 pm

### **Increasing Independence Through Technology**

11:30 pm – 12:00 pm

Keystone Human Services Associate Executive Director Nathan Gerhard presents on his organization's partnerships with various technology vendors to increase the independence of people living in Community homes, Lifesharing homes and Supported Living.

### **An Everyday Life with Remote Supports**

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm

This panel focuses on the journey to support Emily and Stacey as they integrate remote supports into their everyday lives. Learn from the support teams that worked to assist Emily and Stacey including technology provider SafeInHome, supports coordinators, county administrators, and direct support professionals.

### **Lunch Break**

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm

### **Enhancing Quality of Life with Person Centered Cognitive Technologies**

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Founder and President of AbleLink Dan Davies presents on person centered technologies providers can use to enhance individuals' quality of life. Workforce shortages continue to increase, and low unemployment rates provides both additional challenges and additional opportunities that impact the lives of individuals with

intellectual/developmental disabilities. This session will focus on research-based cognitive support technologies and technology services that being used at agencies to support independent living in community settings, supported employment, access to transportation, and social connectedness. Numerous examples of the use of cognitive technologies used by different agencies across the country will be highlighted in this session.

### **An Everyday Life with Assistive Technology**

*2:00 pm – 2:45 pm*

Self-advocate Keri McKenna presents on her journey with assistive technology and communication. Keri shares her experiences in obtaining and using technology to communicate. She continues to lead those around her on how to use the devices and expand their skillsets so they can support her to have the life she wants.

### **Remote Supports - Opportunities for Safety and Independence**

*2:45 pm – 3:15 pm*

SafelnHome President Don Shirley presents on the implementation of remote supports in the person-centered process. How can agencies provide the least restrictive solutions while addressing safety, independence, and privacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities? Because the service reorients the locus of control to the person served there is increased opportunity for self-determination.

### **Closing Remarks**

*3:15 pm – 3:20 pm*

ODP Director of Policy and Quality Management Jeremy Yale and Director of Community Services Lauren House provide closing remarks for the day.



## Dual Diagnosis – Day 1

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

### Conference Welcome & Updates

9:00 am – 9:20 am

ODP Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens and OMHSAS Deputy Secretary Kristen Hauser give the opening and welcoming remarks for the 2022 Dual Diagnosis Conference. Dr. Gregory Cherpes, ODP Medical Director, gives the opening and welcoming remarks including the Overview of the Collaborative Capacity Building Initiatives.

### Dennis Marion Impact Award Presentation

9:20 am – 9:45 am

Dr. Dale Adair presents the Dennis Marion Impact Award. The Dennis Marion Impact Award recognizes local and state government employees whose initiatives, processes, and projects have led to significant improvements in Pennsylvania's behavioral health service delivery system.

### Opening Keynote - Behavioral Health Springboard

9:45 am – 11:15 am

Olmstead Agency Lead Dr. Dan Baker provides the keynote presentation on behavioral health tools and techniques for direct care. The field of disability supports has become aware of the experience of trauma among youth with intellectual or developmental disability, but as a larger field we have yet to weave trauma-informed care into the fabric of our supports. This session will explore the importance of trauma-informed treatment and highlight the critical need for considering trauma in promoting healthy development. This presentation will include hands-on tips and specific strategies to support transition-age people who have experienced trauma, but also will explore general themes of trauma-informed support for the lifespan, as well as for people without disabilities.

### Lunch Break

11:15 am – 12:30 pm

### Breakout Session A

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Attendees will choose their preferred breakout session:

- **Lessons from TRAIN: Increasing Capacity to Serve Neurodiverse Trauma Survivors**

Dr. Michael Murray and Dr. Jessica Bonatakis present on The TRAIN Project. The TRAIN (Trauma Recovery for Autistic, Intellectually disabled, and Neurodiverse individuals) Project seeks to help therapists with experience with neurodiverse



(autistic, intellectually disabled, other developmentally disabled) individuals grow their skills in trauma therapy. TRAIN is based on Judith Herman’s Triphasic Model and the Trauma Resiliency Model with appropriate developmental adaptations. It seeks to integrate relational, cognitive, exposure, and affect regulation approaches for this highly vulnerable population. Participants who attend this session will gain an understanding of the TRAIN program including the key concepts of reframing “symptoms” as trauma responses and “disorders” as needed adaptations. Particular emphasis will be placed on the safety and stabilization phase of recovery with takeaway suggestions and strategies for supporting neurodiverse individuals after disclosure/exposure and/or in the early stages of trauma recovery.

- **Reset From Burnout**

Dr. Veidre Jackson provides tools for managing workplace stress. One of the most significant difficulties that so many of us are experiencing is overload and burnout. As a result, many of us are navigating the need to create a greater sense of harmony between our load and our limits. Unfortunately, if caregivers, clinicians, community leaders, and educators are leading from a position of overload, they have no margin for themselves or for those with whom they serve. Participants will be provided tools to increase personal margin and manage toxic stress by exploring community care for themselves and those around them. The session framework will also support ways to translate self-care and community care into program systems, professional practice, and community environments.

- **Let’s Talk: All About Mental Health Concerns**

SAU1 Self-advocates talk about individual mental health and how to advocate for the services you or your loved one need.

### **Break**

*1:45 pm – 2:00 pm*

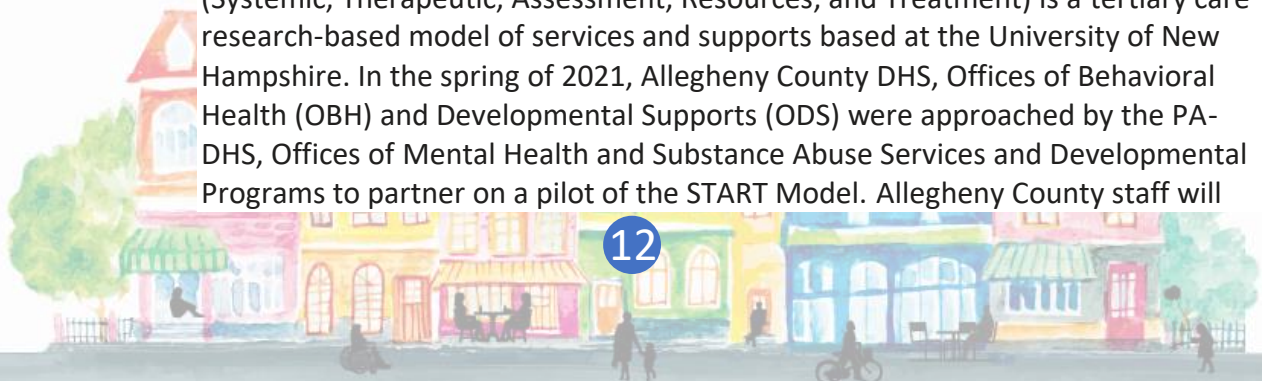
### **Breakout Session B**

*2:00 pm – 3:15 pm*

Attendees will choose their preferred breakout session:

- **The START Model**

Brenda Bulkoski and Denise Macerelli present on the START Model. START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment) is a tertiary care research-based model of services and supports based at the University of New Hampshire. In the spring of 2021, Allegheny County DHS, Offices of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Developmental Supports (ODS) were approached by the PA-DHS, Offices of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Developmental Programs to partner on a pilot of the START Model. Allegheny County staff will



share how they went about understanding the variety of ways this model could be utilized to support existing resources.

- **Creating Resiliency: Art-based Approaches to Cultivate Healing, Connection, and Hope**

Sahra Riccardi provides a basic introduction to Art Therapy and explores how art can foster resiliency, and create opportunities for self-determination for individuals with dual diagnosis. The presentation will outline ethical ways for non-art therapists to bring therapeutic art making into consumer programming. Participants will understand how to set up a safe, success-oriented art making experience and will participate in experiential learning to practice specific directives aimed at increasing agency and improving relationships.

**Closing Keynote - Today's ABA: An Effective and Humane Approach for Addressing Problem Behavior**

*3:15 pm – 4:30 pm*

Dr. Anthony Cammilleri, Senior Consultant and Director of Education for FTF Behavioral Consulting, delivers this keynote - A contemporary and trauma-assumed version of applied behavior analysis for consideration when working with autistic persons or those with intellectual disabilities. 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.

## Dual Diagnosis – Day 2

*Thursday, June 9, 2022*

*9:00 am – 5:30 pm*

**Welcome from Bureau Directors & Pennsylvania Updates**

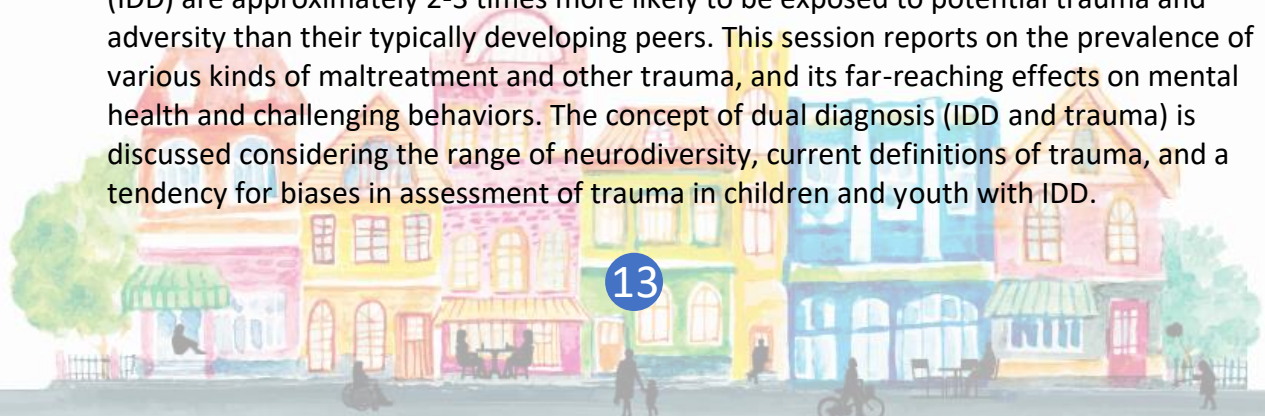
*9:00 am – 10:00 am*

ODP and OHMSAS bureau directors give welcoming remarks for day two of the conference.

**Traumatized Children with Developmental Disabilities: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of a Vulnerable Population**

*10:00 am – 11:15 am*

Dr. Daniel Hoover of the Kennedy Krieger Institute delivers this keynote presentation. Recent research suggests that children with intellectual and developmental disorders (IDD) are approximately 2-3 times more likely to be exposed to potential trauma and adversity than their typically developing peers. This session reports on the prevalence of various kinds of maltreatment and other trauma, and its far-reaching effects on mental health and challenging behaviors. The concept of dual diagnosis (IDD and trauma) is discussed considering the range of neurodiversity, current definitions of trauma, and a tendency for biases in assessment of trauma in children and youth with IDD.



## **Lunch Break**

*11:15 am – 12:30 pm*

## **Breakout Session C**

*12:30 pm – 1:30 pm*

Attendees will choose their preferred breakout session:

- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Effects on Physical and Behavioral Health**  
ODP Central Region Clinical Director Robin VanEerden explains the presentation of people who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the effects of this disorder throughout the lifespan. Many people on this spectrum are referred for services from all systems that include but are not limited to intellectual disabilities, mental health, drug and alcohol, autism, education, juvenile justice, and the department of corrections. Strategies to assist those with this disorder are unique and will be identified.
- **Trauma Informed ABA-based Programming: What We Have Learned Trying to Implement Today's ABA**  
Director of Research and Quality Improvement for Behavior Interventions Inc. Dr. Tim Caldwell provides this presentation. In 2020, Behavior Interventions Inc. made a commitment to utilizing the philosophy put forth by Dr. Greg Hanley and his colleagues to provide treatment with minimal to no use of aversive programming. The organization is currently training all BCBAs to utilize the practical functional assessment and skill-based treatment model, with the goal of using this form of ABA programming for every client that displays problem behavior. This presentation will cover how we have set up this type of programming including staff training programs, supervision, and logistical barriers that were necessary to overcome to engage in trauma-informed ABA.

## **Break**

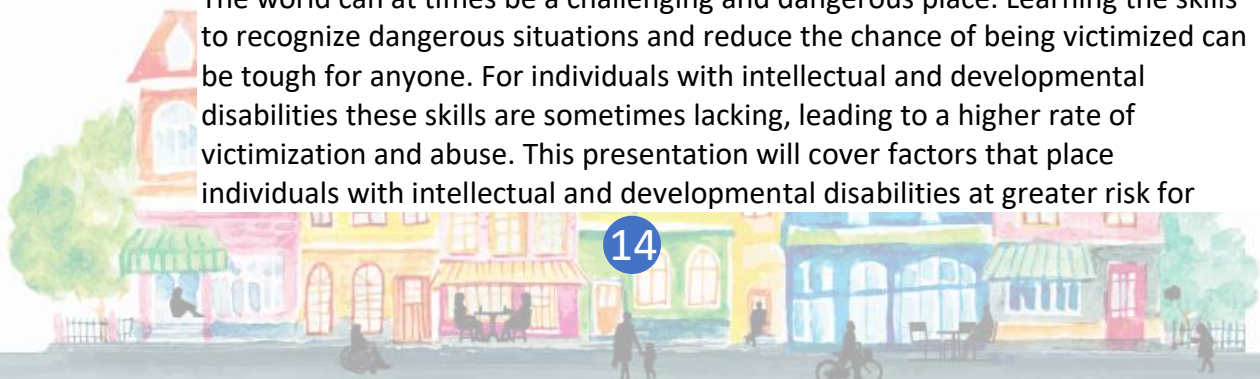
*1:30 pm – 1:45 pm*

## **Breakout Session D**

*1:45 pm – 3:00 pm*

Attendees will choose their preferred breakout session:

- **We Be Safe and Be Social: Reducing Risk and Building Relationships**  
Andrea Layton of ASERT provides tools for individuals to live healthy social lives. The world can at times be a challenging and dangerous place. Learning the skills to recognize dangerous situations and reduce the chance of being victimized can be tough for anyone. For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities these skills are sometimes lacking, leading to a higher rate of victimization and abuse. This presentation will cover factors that place individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at greater risk for



sexual abuse and assault, important skills to help reduce these risks, and ways to support individuals in recognizing and developing healthy relationships as a protective factor. Be Safe resource materials developed by ASERT will be shared throughout the session.

- **Addressing the Gaps and Overcoming the Barriers of Accessing Quality Healthcare**

Diana Smaglik of PA Family network provides this presentation. Approximately 6.5 million people in the United States have an intellectual disability (ID). Yet people with disabilities and their families report difficulty in finding appropriately trained and willing healthcare providers. The CDC reports that people with Intellectual Disabilities experience poorer access to quality healthcare and poorer health outcomes than people without ID. Join this panel of medical professionals and family members as they share experiences and explore how to overcome the challenges of finding appropriate healthcare providers. Learn what people with disabilities and their families need to know when looking for care. We will discuss best and promising practices, where to start, and even share resources you can use when your physician is interested but needs to learn more.

#### **Break**

*3:00 pm – 3:15 pm*

#### **Closing Keynote - Self-Determined Living Through Challenging Times: Resilience, Wellness and Trauma-Informed Approaches**

*3:15 pm – 4:30 pm*

Dr. Scott Michael Robertson will deliver this closing keynote address. He will present on how to empower diverse people who have both a developmental disability and one or more mental health conditions to thrive and improve quality of life. He will discuss how to drive focused supports for self-determined living, resilience and wellness, and trauma-informed approaches to help make this happen. Dr. Robertson will share his perspective as both a professional and a person with lived experiences. He brings key knowledge from his career as a social scientist, policy strategist, and service system expert with experience in community living and health and wellness, including mental health. Dr. Robertson's lived experiences as an autistic adult with mental health conditions also helps shape and inform both his work and this presentation.

#### **Closing Remarks**

*4:30 pm – 4:35 pm*

Dr. Gregory Cherpes, ODP Medical Director will offer the closing remarks for the 2022 Dual Diagnosis Conference.



## Employment

Thursday, June 16, 2022

9:00 am – 4:05 pm

### **Opening Remarks**

9:00 am – 9:05 am

ODP Policy Supervisor and employment Lead Laura Cipriani offers opening statements for the day's events.

### **Opening Keynote - Lifecourse, Community, and Determination: Finding Employment**

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Join Self-Advocate Nikki Nunez and PA Family Network Program Manager Diana Smaglik as they describe the journey that led not only to job retention, but job satisfaction. Eight years ago, Nikki was unsure of the next step she should take in her life. Having just graduated from a “job skills” program, the bi-lingual graduate was fearful of failure. She knew there were barriers in her way and wasn't sure what to do about them. Learn how her community connections with the local Center for Independent Living, two great Self-Advocacy support groups, and her belief in herself helped her to move forward. Hear how Nikki became an outspoken advocate for others who are trying to connect to services. In the last few years, she has found that using the LifeCourse Portfolio and learning about her options with services and supports has helped her to stay successful, happy, and connected.

### **Social Security and Work: Dispelling the Myths**

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Julia Barol of the Temple Institute on Disabilities presents on maintaining Social Security benefits while working. We often describe ourselves first by the work we do. If you receive Social Security benefits, it may feel like work is not an option for you. There are many myths that exist about going to work and losing your benefits and frequently this is a barrier to joining the World of Work. This session will help dispel those myths and show you how you can use Social Security's Employment Supports to go to work and maximize opportunities in your everyday life! You will understand that there are incentives to go to work and that you have options, and you will get information on who to contact for your unique situation so that you can make an informed decision about going to work.

### **Lunch Break**

11:30 am – 12:30 pm





### **LifeCourse: Paving the Way**

*12:30 pm – 1:30 pm*

PA Family Network Family Advisor Darcy Elks and Self-Advocate Mary Elks walk participants through Mary's employment journey and how the Charting the LifeCourse framework assisted on that journey. This presentation will share how powerful and practical the Lifecourse tools are in paving the way for employment. The presenters will highlight how the Lifecourse Framework provides direction, development, and encouragement throughout the journey of discovery, working, and moving into a career. Examples will also be offered on how the tools can be used to problem solve issues that might occur within employment.

### **Job Development in a Post Pandemic World**

*1:30 pm – 2:30 pm*

Griffin-Hammis Associates Senior Consultant Corey Smith presents on job development. These are very interesting times for new people to enter the workforce with a thriving economy. There are a growing number of options and strategies for people to work in community integrated settings. During this session we will review job development strategies that include the involvement of all important people in a job seekers life. We want to make sure that we help people attain employment that fits them well. A place where they work in an environment doing something that they want to do. A place where a job seeker feels like they fit in, have valued relationships with coworkers, work enough hours to be a valued team member, and make enough money lead an everyday life.

### **Plenary Panel – Accessing Employment**

*2:30 pm – 4:00 pm*

Disability employment specialists Everett Deibler, Melanie Whetzel, and Susan Schonfeld discuss accessibility in the workplace. Accessibility and accommodations play a critical role in creating a more disability-inclusive world. But knowing the types of accommodations that are available can be overwhelming and a person requesting an accommodation may fear being stigmatized or losing their job if they disclose their disability. Hear from a panel of experts as they describe the importance of accessibility and accommodations in employment and everyday life, an array of types of accommodations beyond modification to the building or work site, and real-life examples of accommodations that have been obtained by people with a disability that led to their successful careers.

### **Closing Remarks**

*4:00 pm – 4:05 pm*

ODP Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens provides closing remarks for the 2022 Everyday Lives Conference.



## Speaker Biographies

**Krista Abresch**, BSW, Bradford/Sullivan AE-Quality Manager received her bachelor's in social work from Mansfield University. For the past nine years she has been the Quality Manager for the Bradford/Sullivan Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Program. She was a Supports Coordinator for seven years prior to that. Abresch is QM Certified and has been a Certified Investigator for the past eight years. She is the lead for Lifesharing, Independent Monitoring for Quality and the Human Rights Committee. She is also heavily involved with her local Positive Practices Committee, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Committee as well as Plan of Safe Care and Drug Endangered Children. When Abresch is not at work, you will find her at the baseball field, football stadium, basketball court or wrestling mats cheering on her boys.

**Dr. Dale Adair** serves as the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) Chief Psychiatric Officer and the Medical Director for the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). In this role he provides clinical expertise and consultation to the Deputy Secretary of OMHSAS and the Secretary of DHS. He provides input and guidance into the policies which affect the provision of mental health and substance use treatment throughout the state. He has been a leader in the development of the vision for PA's First Episode Psychosis program; PA team efforts with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Accelerator-substance use disorder project; Centers of Excellence (COE) for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder; Health Equity; and served as Project lead for the PA Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Program. He is involved with numerous efforts aimed at suicide prevention and currently serves as lead on Pennsylvania's efforts to implement 988 as the new 3-digit number for the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline. He has worked on numerous projects for the Department with the aim of improving access and quality of care for Medicaid beneficiaries while containing costs. One of those projects is an Integrated Care Plan Program which requires the Physical and Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations to work together caring for shared patients. Past awards include the Governor's Award for Excellence in Leadership and the PA Rehabilitation & Community Providers Association Community Leadership Award. He is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

**Amy Alford**, M.Ed., BCBA, ODP Senior Clinical Consultant. Amy Alford is a Senior Clinical Consultant for the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations (BSASP), Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). She has been supporting children, adolescents, and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities for over 15 years in community, home, and school settings. She holds a master's degree in Special Education and in 2011, became a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Prior to joining the clinical team in 2008, Amy was a Behavioral Specialist for a provider in the BHRS (now IBHS) system. In her current role, she spends much of her time leading training efforts, survey development, and data analysis across ODP, while applying principles of Positive Behavioral Supports and Applied Behavioral Analysis.



**Nancy Armstrong**, ODP Program Representative, Charting the LifeCourse™ Ambassador, Co-Lead for the Western Region Supporting Families Initiative and Supports Coordination Lead for the West. She has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She has worked as a DSP, with survivors of domestic violence and their children, and as a Supports Coordinator; she has 8 years of experience working at ODP supporting individuals, families and system partners.

**Dr. Dan Baker**, Ph-D. NADD-CC,CCEP is the Olmstead Agency Lead, Positive Supports Specialist & Successful Life Project Clinical Supervisor, Quality Assurance and Disability Compliance Services for Minnesota, and the past president of NADDSP.

**Kelly Barley** is the Employment Lead and Supporting Families Throughout the Lifespan co-lead with the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Central Region office. She began her career with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) in July 2015 as part of the Human Services Program Trainee (HSPT) Program, where she rotated to three different program offices within DHS: The Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMPAP), Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), and Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). She began working at ODP full time in May 2016 as the Employment Lead for the Bureau of State Operated Facilities, and then as the ODP Statewide Employment Lead for the Bureau of Policy and Quality Management from July 2017 through February 2019. Prior to joining ODP, Kelly worked in various positions in the direct care realm of human services. She graduated from Penn State University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Nutrition Education at American University. Kelly has a brother with autism who propelled her interest in working in this field. She enjoys running, hiking, traveling, reading, cooking, and hanging out with her cat in her spare time.

**Julia Barol**, MEd, CESP is on staff at Temple University Institute on Disabilities working on Employment systems issues. She is also President of Transition Consults where her work focuses on creating meaningful days for people with disabilities. She believes that everyone should have to opportunity to live and work in their community and be able to self-direct their lives. She is president of the Pennsylvania chapter of APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First) and has been working to advance Employment First in Pennsylvania since 2012. She serves on the national APSE Board of Directors as both the Delegate Chair and the Mid-Atlantic States Delegate. Julia was a part of the initial cohort of the BPAOs and the roll out of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act and was certified as a benefits counselor in 2001. She has counseled many hundreds on work and its impact on benefits so that people can make informed decisions about their future, and she has trained groups on work incentives, Social Security benefits, and healthcare options for many years. Julia holds a Masters in Secondary Special Education and Transition from The George Washington University.



**Icylee Basketbill** is the parent of a 16-year-old daughter diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). She is a recent graduate from Chestnut Hill College with a bachelor's in human services & Psychology. Basketbill works as a PA Network Advisor for the Philadelphia region with the PA Family Network under Vision for Equality conducting formal workshop trainings for families as well as professionals on topics such as Healthy Relationships and Safety in the community and more. She provides mentoring support for parents, families, and people with disabilities to help navigate the system in all settings (home, school, and community) throughout the lifespan.

**Jessica Bonatakis**, PsyD is an assistant professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health also at Penn State Health and College of Medicine. She is a certified PCIT International Within Agency Trainer and TF-CBT therapist. She has clinical and training expertise in trauma across the lifespan.

**Christine Breakstone** is the Western Regional Coordinator for Self-Advocates United as 1. She has been an active family and self-advocate advocate in Venango County for over 20 years serving on many advisory boards and committees. She has two very independent adult daughters with disabilities. Christine studied political science at the University of Pittsburgh, and has her Associates in Leadership from Clarion University. She is a LifeCourse Ambassador and the SAU1 coordinator lead for the Statewide leadership team for Community of Practice, as well as active in her county's regional collaborative.

**Brenda Bulkoski**, M. Ed., Allegheny County DHS, Deputy Director, Office of Developmental Supports has been the deputy director of the DHS Office of Developmental Supports since September 2019. As deputy director Brenda L. Bulkoski oversees the daily operations of the Office of Developmental Supports. This includes assuring compliance with the Pennsylvania AE Operating Agreement, development of best practices, and maintenance of a strong and varied network of programs. Ms. Bulkoski has been active as an advocate for individuals living with intellectual disability and/or developmental delays since she started working as a DHS program specialist in May of 1994. She earned the position as OID Assistant Administrator in 2003. While in that role, Ms. Bulkoski worked along with the state, various administrative entities, providers, and other stakeholders to improve both the ID intake/registration process and service delivery and to initiate systems change. Through her membership in the Pennsylvania Association of County Administrators, Brenda has participated on a variety of subcommittees. She also participates on the Pennsylvania Residential Learning Collaborative that is developing best-practice guidelines as a resource for providers of residential services for individuals with ID. Ms. Bulkoski received her bachelor's degree in Child Development from the University of Pittsburgh and her master's in Special Education from Duquesne University.



**Emily Burger** MS, NCC, Special Populations Professional joined the team at Office of Developmental Programs- Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations in September 2021. She currently works with the communication supports available through Special Populations and the State Complex Children's Behavioral Health initiative. Emily has experience working in both programs to support mental health as well as those with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. Emily has a passion for supporting people to connect with the world around them and increase the knowledge and understanding of the lasting effects of trauma and how to focus on and build resiliency.

**Dr. Tim Caldwell**, Ph.D., BCBA-DI; Director of Research and Quality Improvement. Tim Caldwell, Ph.D., BCBA-D serves as the Director of Research and Quality Improvement for Behavior Interventions Inc., overseeing the behavioral research, staff training, and clinical development of ABA-based intervention throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. His main areas of clinical work include the development of staff training and programming implementation systems, as well as ongoing supervision of BCBA candidates and BCBA's. His research interests include, staff training, parent training, analytic behavior, advanced verbal behavior, derived relational responding, stimulus equivalence, verbal self-prompting, and verbal problem-solving. Tim is also an Adjunct Professor with Temple University's College of Education, The Pennsylvania State University's School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology teaching undergraduate and graduate-level courses in ABA.

**Anthony Cammilleri**, Ph.D., BCBA, LBA is a Board Certified and Licensed Behavior Analyst, as well as a Licensed Special Education Administrator, who was degreed in Developmental and Child Psychology from the University of Kansas. While completing his graduate studies, he served as the Principal of Century School in Lawrence, KS. Upon graduation, he served as a Behavior Analyst for the Somerset Hills Learning Institute in Far Hills, NJ. For the next 10 years, Dr. Cammilleri served as the Director of the Jane Justin School in Fort Worth, TX. After moving back to New England, Dr. Cammilleri served as the President/CEO of Crossroads School in Marlborough, MA from 2014 to 2019. Dr. Cammilleri specializes in the design of individualized curriculum sequences, the use of measurement systems to assess the effectiveness of those sequences, and in the staff training required for the implementation of both. He is best known for educational leadership that promotes the virtues of citizenship, friendship, and scholarship – the elements of an inclusive community whose members care for their world and one another and enjoy a lifelong love of learning. Currently, Dr. Cammilleri is an FTF Senior Consultant and Director of Education who helps organizations build behavior analytic capacity in the areas of cultural design, instructional design, staff training, policy development, and the practical functional assessment and skill-based treatment of severe problem behavior.



**Daniel K. Davies** Founder and President of AbleLink Smart Living Technologies has been closely associated with issues important to individuals with disabilities and their families all his life, as his oldest brother John lived with severe intellectual disability, as well as several significant physical disabilities. Mr. Davies has been actively involved in research and development of assistive technology for individuals with cognitive and other disabilities for over 20 years. He has served as Principal Investigator on numerous research projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institutes on Health, the Defense Advanced Research Programs Agency (DARPA), and the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. He has been on the leading edge of research into assistive technology for individuals with intellectual disabilities and consequently in 2006 was selected out of 951 nominations from 98 countries to receive the Technology Museum of Innovation's prestigious Katherine M. Swanson Equality Award for "pioneering information technology for individuals with cognitive disabilities." Currently he serves as Co-Chair of the Technology Special Interest Group for the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and was awarded the 2004 Technology and Media Leadership Award by the Council for Exceptional Children for "national leadership in the area of research and development of cognitive support technologies." Since 2001, he has held an appointment as an Adjunct Research Associate to the University of Kansas's Beach Center on Disability in recognition of his active role in the field of assistive technology research and development for individuals with intellectual disabilities. He has authored over 75 journal articles, book chapters and reports specifically on the use of assistive technology for individuals with cognitive disabilities and is an invited presenter at conferences nationally and internationally. Prior to founding AbleLink he worked as a human factors scientist in the aerospace industry, as well as in the human services field as a counselor/case manager providing direct care for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

**Everett Deibler** is currently a Learning Specialist at Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) where he coordinates college wide accessibility efforts and supports the SEED Program, which is the college's inclusive higher education initiative. Before joining LCCC, Everett has spent the last decade supporting thousands of youths and young adults in exploring their leadership, employment, and independent living goals with various organizations across Pennsylvania, including the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), LVCIL, and the Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network. As a person with a disability, Everett has committed his life and career to helping people with disabilities feel empowered and educating people without disabilities in hopes of creating a more welcoming and inclusive world.

**Tina DiBioso**, PA Family Network Advisor. Tina is the proud parent of a 22-year-old son with Down Syndrome. She has been a PA Family Network Advisor since 2016 and became a Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador in 2021. She is a lifelong resident of Bucks County.



**Stephanie Dodge**, BSW Bradford/Sullivan SCO Director graduated from Mansfield University with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. She is the Director of Bradford/Sullivan Supports Coordination Organization (Intellectual Disabilities/Autism). Dodge has worked within the SCO for the last 14/16 years. She has also worked as a special needs nanny in Washington D.C. She is currently the co-chair of our local positive practices group and am on a subcommittee for developmental disabilities awareness. She is a member of HEAL PA-a group of over 100 volunteers that is focused on the implementation of the Trauma informed PA plan.

**Oscar Drummond**, SAU1 Lead Power Staff is a founding member of Self Advocates United as 1 (SAU1) and was the Board president for the first ten years. Since 2018, he has worked as the Lead Power Staff. He is the liaison to the Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) Information Sharing and Advisory Committee (ISAC) for SAU1's Self Advocacy Support and Empowerment Project (SASE) and is part of the Provider Oversight Subcommittee. He also helps develop SAU1's Self Advocacy Power Network for All (SAPNA) trainings, is part of the Registry Taskforce, and is part of many other projects at SAU1.

**Darcy Elks** is an educator, parent, and advocate on behalf of people who are societally devalued. She is a national and international consultant. The focus of Darcy's work is to encourage attitudes and structures which promote social value and inclusion for people who have been devalued and excluded. Darcy's passion is to help create inclusive communities: communities where we are all welcome and where we can each use our gifts for the good of one another. Darcy is currently a Family Advisor with the PA Family Advisor Network and a Pennsylvania Education for All Coalition (PEAC) board member.

**Mary Elks** has had a very full employment journey. She started working and volunteering in High School. Her employment journey continued during her years at West Chester University and after she finished college. Recently, Mary landed her dream job which has become a career path – working in theater. Mary has aspirations of continuing on this career path and developing new competencies in a variety of areas of theater. She wants to encourage people to work, earn money, and live a good life.

**Carey Freeman**, Family Advisor, PA Family Network is part of Everyday Lives Conference as a dedicated mom to two autistic teens. Through LifeCourse Framework her family dramatically changed the way they spent our time. They stopped chasing curriculum and therapies and started living our life the way they wanted to. They took control of their VISION for their family. As her boys age, they are each beginning to take ownership of their own VISIONs. She has been given the opportunity to share her passion for helping others navigate systems and think outside the box as a Family Advisor with PA Family Network. She is a LifeCourse Ambassador encouraging families and those like her family to “Dream big”! Through using LifeCourse Framework tools and philosophies, her family has found it easier to get back on track. She is a former LTF chair, Temple C2P2, and PEALcenter Family Leadership Institute graduate. She has completed multiple trainings on inclusion, Special Education curriculum, and autism services from ARC, PDE, PATTAN, IUs, and more.



**Beatriz Frometa** is a parent and advocate. She started working with persons with Disabilities when her daughter was born 26 years ago. During this time, she's been privileged to meet persons with different cultural backgrounds. She is bilingual, and this opened the door to work with the Latino Community. In 2016, she started working with Vision for Equality under the PA Family Network. She works with families, and with the Interviews for the National Core Indicators (IM4Q). Frometa is an Ambassador for the Charting the Life course and a Council Member for the PADDCC and member for the ID Committee for Dauphin Co.

**Chriss Gaus**, PA Family Network Advisor and CtLC Ambassador. Chriss is a Family Advisor with PA Family Network and an Ambassador in Charting the LifeCourse. She has been involved in the disability community since her 10-year-old son was born and diagnosed with Down syndrome. Her and her family live in Mercer County and she runs a local disability support group there. She is a former Vice-Chair of LTFIV and continues to work with families receiving special education services. Chriss was instrumental in getting the Special Olympics program reestablished in her county, where she served as program manager for four years and she is currently the Committee Chair and a Den Leader for the Cub Scout pack that her son belongs to. Chriss has done a variety of conferences and trainings on disabilities and special education including the LifeCourse Nexus, Temple University's Competence and Confidence-Partners in Policymaking, National Down Syndrome Congress, The Arc of the United States Special Education Advocacy, The Peal Center Family Leadership Institute, COPAA, and PDE. Chriss also holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting and before getting involved in the disability community, she held the position of Assistant Controller for a manufacturing company. Chriss and her husband also have over 15 years' experience as small business owners.

**Robert T. Gallen**, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist and professor of practice at the University of Pittsburgh where he coordinates the Master of Science in Applied Developmental Psychology program. He was founding president of the Pennsylvania Association for Infant Mental Health and is a ZERO TO THREE fellow. He teaches courses in infant mental health and developmental psychopathology.

**Nathan Gerhard** is an Associate Executive Director for Keystone Human Services based in Sunbury PA. Nathan has worked in the Intellectual Disabilities field for 20 years and since 2018 has been focused on incorporating technology into ID Services.

**Chou Hallegra**, CFTP, CCATP is the program manager for the Systems Navigation and the Trauma Informed Care programs at Vision for Equality, as well as an independent mental health and inclusion consultant. Chou identifies as a differently-abled person and is the parent of three individuals impacted by developmental differences. She has been involved with different initiatives in PA for the past decade and has devoted her life to helping others with different abilities and their caregivers to live fulfilling lives. Furthermore, Chou is a certified family trauma professional, a certified clinical anxiety treatment professional, and a certified mindfulness coach.





**Dr. Gregory Hanley** Ph.D., BCBA, LBA has been applying the principles of learning to improve socially important behaviors of children and adults with and without disabilities for just over 30 years. He worked and trained at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, was degreed at the University of Florida, was tenured at the University of Kansas, and directed the Behavior Analysis Doctoral Program and Life Skills Clinic at Western New England University (WNEU).

Dr. Hanley has published over 100 book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals in areas such as the assessment and prevention of problem behavior, teaching tactics for young children, and evidence-based values. Dr. Hanley is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Div. 25), past Associate Editor of *The Behavior Analyst*, and past Editor of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and of *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.

He currently serves as a Research Professor at WNEU and CEO of FTF Behavioral, an international training and consulting group based in Worcester Massachusetts. This group of researcher-practitioners supports professionals attempting to create meaningful outcomes with practical functional assessment processes and skill-based treatments for addressing emerging and severe problem behavior, intractable stereotypy, food selectivity and mealtime problem behavior, and sleep problems.

**Francine Hogan**, Director of the PA Family Network at Vision for Equality has been involved with the disability community, both professionally and personally for over 20 years. Her advocacy work began when her now 22-year-old son Michael was diagnosed with Autism and Tourette Syndrome. Currently, Francine is the Director of the PA Family Network for Vision for Equality. She leads a team of Family Advisors and oversees the operations of this statewide initiative, which helps families plan, network, and identify the services and supports their loved one needs to lead an everyday life. In this capacity she also serves as a Statewide Lead for the PA Community of Practice for Supporting Families throughout the lifespan. Before joining Vision for Equality, she was the Program Specialist at the Anthracite Region Center for Independent Living. She was responsible for training, Person Centered Counseling, reporting, assisting with grant administration, and community organizing. Francine holds certifications in Person-Centered Counseling, Supports Brokering, Mental Health First Aid, Independent Living Skills, and the ADA. Francine has presented on disability related topics across the Commonwealth and nationally. She has developed and implemented curriculum on Pre-Employment Transition Skills, Training people with disabilities & First Responders to safely interact, LifeCourse Framework and HCBS Waivers to name a few.



**Daniel Hoover**, Ph.D. is a board-certified clinical child and adolescent psychologist at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He has 30 years of experience as a service provider, trainer, and clinical supervisor. He directs doctoral psychology training at the Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress. Dr. Hoover founded and directs the Horizons Clinic, treating children with developmental disabilities who are exposed to trauma; one of the few such treatment clinics nationwide. Dr. Hoover consults on a SAMSHA National Child Traumatic Stress Network grant entitled: Supporting Trauma Recovery for Youth with Developmental Disabilities. He has published numerous papers and chapters on the assessment and treatment of children with autism and intellectual disabilities exposed to abuse and trauma. He is the original developer of the Interactive Trauma Scale, a web-based graphic touchscreen measure of traumatic exposures and symptoms in children.

**Eve Hyppolite** has been a Product Experience Engineer and Storyteller at Comcast for nearly five years. In her current role, Eve supports the Product Experience Lab at the Comcast Technology Center in Philadelphia, where she leads senior executives and special guests through live and virtual product demonstrations focused on the suite of products under the Xfinity brand. A dynamic leader, Eve believes that the power of storytelling can increase awareness and understanding and inspire innovation in others. She is passionate about everything she does, including music creation and telling stories through song. Eve holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and legal studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

**Dr. Veirdre Jackson** is the CEO/Founder of Living Strong Consulting LLC. She is a woman pursuing her purpose, passion, and life's priority to share her belief that all children deserve the best education available. She is an award-winning author, educator, and entrepreneur who is recognized as a leading educational trainer in trauma informed practices and cultural competence. She is a veteran educator with over 20 years of experience supporting non-profit and executive leadership. Her commitment to leaders and organizational development is also elevated through her John Maxwell Team Certification which allows her to support leaders in sustaining growth and maintaining mission through trainings, mastermind sessions, lunch & learns, and coaching in such topics as *Today Matters*, *How to Be a REAL Leader*, *Becoming A Person of Influence*, and the *15 Invaluable Laws of Growth*. Her international radio show and podcast entitled *Living Strong: The Flip Side of Adversity* focuses on social issues and solutions impacting human resilience on Voice America Internet Radio, Spotify, iHeart Radio, Google Play, and Apple Podcast and reaches over 25K listeners with inspirational, authentic and practical stories from lived experiences by her guest cohosts who manage bad experiences to leverage lessons and create gains.



**Nicole Karnash** is a Family Advisor for the PA Family Network since 2018. She is a Common Law Employer and LifeCourse Ambassador. She has a daughter with Rett Syndrome, resulting in complex medical, physical, and intellectual challenges. Nicole is helping her daughter live an Everyday Life. She enjoys traveling, sunshine, biking, hiking, kayaking and a good margarita.

**Andrea Layton**, M.A., is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Behavior Specialist who currently works as part of the ASERT Collaborative in the Central Region as Assistant Director at Penn State College of Medicine. Over the last 20 years Andrea has worked in a variety of human service positions including Direct Support Professional, Supports Coordinator, Program Specialist, Assistant Clinical Director, and clinician at Penn State Hershey Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. During her time as Assistant Clinical Director at Keystone Human Services, she was able to travel to Moldova on three separate occasions, training staff in the country on how to support individuals with developmental disabilities in the community as part of Keystone's International Programs. Being involved in the development of the first community programs in the country for individuals with disabilities is one of the highlights of her career. For the last 6 years her work has primarily focused on furthering the ASERT mission by developing resources and training materials, maintaining the ASERT websites, and supporting the needs of individuals, families, and professionals through the statewide Resource Center.

**Kaye Lenkner** has been taught by hundreds of self-advocates throughout the years on the best ways to support professional self-advocates in their work. She started with SAU1 in 2007 and now works as the groups' Operations Manager, doing all of the boring stuff needed to make sure SAU1's work is funded, and mission driven. Kaye is the proud parent of three adult children, two of whom are strong self-advocates. She grew up in a family of 12 children and has decades of experience supporting people's rights, skills, and interests. Kaye lives in rural northwestern PA with her two senior puppies and three community cats on a beautiful acre of nature.

**Denise A. Macerelli**, LSW, ACSW, is Deputy Director for the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. She is a licensed and certified social worker who completed her graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Macerelli has spent more than 30 years in the behavioral health field with a dedicated career which has included direct clinical practice; supervision, training, and teaching; management and administration; grant writing; and behavioral health consulting. She has gained recognition for her work at the local, regional, state, and national levels in areas of policy, regulatory reform, and grass roots advocacy on behalf of individuals and families recovering from mental illness and substance use disorders. She has been an active member of numerous boards and committees of a number of community, provider-based, and professional organizations. Macerelli is recognized as a leader by professionals and the grass-roots community alike. Prior to her appointment to her current position, Macerelli has been instrumental in assisting the transformation of the Allegheny County behavioral health system through her contributions to several key initiatives including the recovery movement, development of certified peer specialists, the managed Medicaid HealthChoices program (Community Care Behavioral Health) and the resolve crisis network.

**Dr. Andrew McCormick MD** is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. His clinical interest focus on the care of people with Down syndrome and specifically navigating the transition journey from pediatric to adult healthcare. He provides and longitudinal and holistic program focused on building strong healthcare bridges.

**Lori Milcic MAP, CI, CT, QMHI, ODP Deaf Services Coordinator** has a unique skill set that blends knowledge of psychology and language development. Lori is one of the three Qualified Mental Health Interpreters in Pennsylvania, serves the state as ODP's Deaf Services Coordinator, and teaches interpreting part-time at Mount Aloysius College. She also holds a certificate in the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics, which focuses on the interaction of neuroscience and trauma, and she is currently working on her doctorate in Developmental Psychology, with a research focus on language deprivation. Lori has broad experience with communication assessments, advocacy, and training. Her deep calling is to create collaborative environments where effective access is provided for all people, no matter their communication preferences.

**Charlie Miller** currently works for Art-Reach, a Philadelphia-based non-profit that works to make the arts more accessible to people with disabilities and low-income communities. Charlie has experience in international peacemaking work in Palestine/Israel, Colombia, and the US/Mexico border. He currently serves on the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, a Governor-appointed role. Charlie was awarded the 2021 Brighter Futures Award for Cultural Arts. Charlie has been lucky enough to have two documentaries made by FreshFly Productions about projects he has conceived and produced. Charlie has served on various non-profit Boards, has consulted on various topics related to social justice programming, and has presented on peacekeeping work in Jordan, Germany, and the Netherlands.

**Jamie Mistretta** works for PA family network as a family advisor, and is a sibling of an individual with ID/A. She has worked as a DSP, an SC, and has also worked actively with an IHCS provider. She has a passion for working with this community and I am big advocate of supporting individuals live an everyday life. She is extremely thankful for her loved one with ID/A as she has helped shape my life in many ways.

**Michael J. Murray, MD** is an associate professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Penn State Health and College of Medicine. He is the director for the Division of Autism Services and the central region ASERT collaborative. He has clinical and training expertise in mental health and neurodiversity across the lifespan.

**Ninoska (Nikki) Nunez** is a bi-lingual self-advocate who lives in Hazleton. A graduate of Hazleton Area High School - including the VITAL House program - Nikki continues building her skills at a program called TRACE. Nikki is well known in her community as an avid Advocate for herself and others. She continues to help people, especially the underserved, find the connections they need to have an Everyday Life

**Sarah Pepper M.Ed.** is a school psychologist in training and sibling of an individual with a disability. She has worked as a graduate assistant for the Institute on Disabilities for the last 3 years and joined the PA Family Network as an advisor in 2021.

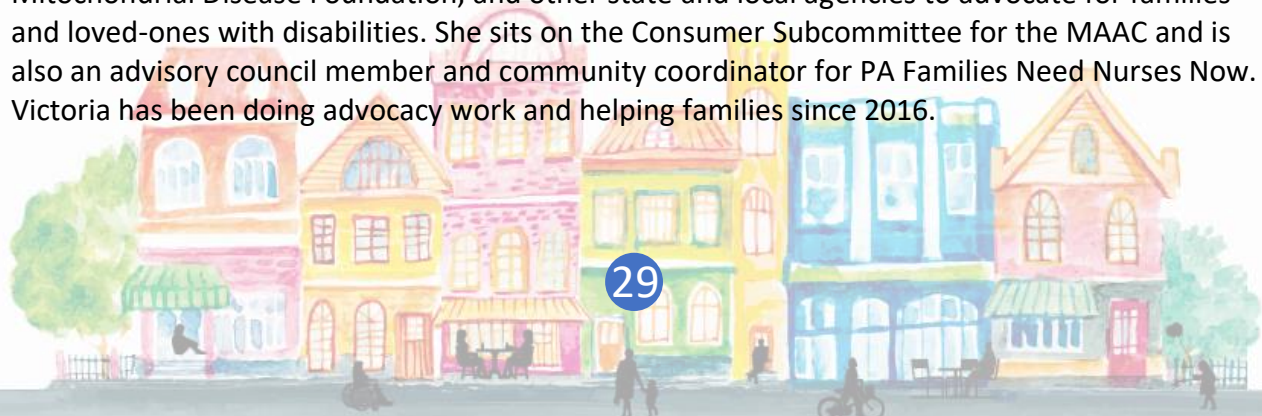
**Sahra Riccardi** is a Board-Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC) and Licensed Professional Counselor in Pennsylvania. She has over a decade of experience providing trauma-informed, strengths-based care to individuals with significant behavioral challenges. Sahra has developed Art Therapy programming for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism including offering ongoing support to families and direct support staff. Sahra is passionate about using creative, expressive, and experiential approaches to empower individuals of all abilities to achieve their goals.

**Dr. Scott Michael Robertson** is an autistic person and a social scientist, policy strategist, and consultant. He is an affiliate Research Professor in the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics (Department of Public Health) at Syracuse University. Dr. Robertson has served as a senior policy advisor in the federal Executive Branch and a Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Fellow in the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. He has also formerly served as the Founding Vice President of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), a national nonprofit organization based in Washington DC. While living in Pennsylvania, he served on the Advisory Board for the Bureau of Autism Services. He later served as a Council Member on the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. Dr. Robertson earned his PhD in information sciences and technology at Penn State University. In 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Dr. Robertson and his colleagues a Secretary of Labor's Exceptional Achievement Award. The Viscardi Center awarded him a Henry Viscardi Achievement Award for exemplary leaders throughout the globe who serve to champion the rights of people with disabilities and increase life opportunities. His other honors include a Service to the Citizen Award from Dorris Consulting International and a Jay S. Drotman Award from the American Public Health Association. He is an inductee of the national Susan M. Daniels Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame.

**Geysa D Rodriguez** was born in Newark NJ and raised in Stamford CT. She is Puerto Rican and has three girls, all born premature. Her middle daughter is on the Spectrum, and her youngest has a learning disability. She has been working in one of the CILs for the past 8 years and has an eagerness to learn more about people with disabilities.

**Wendy J. Ross, MD, FAAP** is a developmental and behavioral pediatrician who assesses and integrates the medical, therapeutic, and educational plans for children. In her other role as the inaugural Director of the Center for Autism and Neurodiversity at Jefferson Health, she helps to create opportunities for individuals with autism and intellectual and developmental disorders throughout their lifespan.

**Victoria Schiano** is a wife, advocate, and mother of a 5-year-old autistic son named Cole who battles Mitochondrial Disease. Victoria has worked with Little Lobbyists, the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, and other state and local agencies to advocate for families and loved-ones with disabilities. She sits on the Consumer Subcommittee for the MAAC and is also an advisory council member and community coordinator for PA Families Need Nurses Now. Victoria has been doing advocacy work and helping families since 2016.



**Susan Schonfeld**, Executive Director, Community Integrated Services. As Executive Director of CIS for over 30 years, Susan has overseen the agency's remarkable growth from a university pilot program to the region's largest supported employment agency serving over 2,000 people annually in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. Susan has become a "go-to" source of information and expertise in employment services for people with disabilities. She has worked on Senator Bob Casey's Employment Roundtable, sits on the board of Pennsylvania's APSE chapter, and works as a consultant for other states and organizations on implementing effective community-based employment models. Susan was the recipient of National APSE's Best Practices Award in 2014, earned for her unwavering commitment to the best interests of people with disabilities, along with her contributions to the Employment First movement. Susan earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education from The College of New Jersey and a master's degree in Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Don Shirley**, President of SafeinHome, has spent a career spanning five decades in healthcare technology and services. Don was a co-founder of Medibuy, the first company to bring online purchasing capability to the US Acute Care hospital market. As an award-winning Account Executive with Baxter Healthcare, and Vice President of Sales with Benefit Informatics. Don's focus has been on promoting independence, self-care, and self-determination for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and aging adults. Mr. Shirley holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Indiana University Bloomington and a Master's in Marketing from Loyola University Chicago.

**Diana Morris Smaglik** Manager, PA Family Network has been both personally and professionally involved in the disability community for over 31 years. When her oldest son turned 4, he developed a rare epilepsy known as Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome and became very medically involved. As a result, Diana became an avid advocate -determined to help other families travel the long, involved road that leads to supports, services and community life. She is currently the Manager of the PA Family Network and an Ambassador. Diana previously held the position of Marketing Director/Special Projects Supervisor at the Anthracite Region Center for Independent Living (ARCIL) for 8 years. In that role she wrote and supervised grants for various projects and programs, acted as a Person Centered Counselor, supervised the accessible transportation program and assisted with the support groups. Additionally, she developed and presented the Pre-Employment Transition Program which was offered in numerous High Schools. Diana was responsible for a variety of grants and projects prior to her work with ARCIL. She developed Community Safety curricula for Individuals with disabilities as well as 1st Responders, promoted inclusiveness within community organizations, offered workshops on education, inclusion, family support, welcoming, disability awareness, accessibility, and numerous other topics.

**Corey Smith** is a Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates. Corey provides consultation and training on job development, self-employment, and job coaching for people with disabilities, working with Employment Providers (CRP's), Families, Support Coordinators, educators, and community leaders across the country. At Griffin-Hammis we believe "there are an unlimited number of ways to make a living." We just need to support job seekers and team to develop effective strategies that work for people.



**Krista Smith**, AE Support Manager has been with SAM for over 17 years and started as a Supports Coordinator. She obtained her MSW while working full time and taking care of two children. I joined the AE Department approximately 12 years ago and helped coordinate her regional collaborative. She is the chairperson of her Regional Collaborative. She enjoys facilitating the collaborative and look forward to will come.

**Catherine Traini**, ODP Supervisor, Charting the LifeCourse™ Ambassador, Co-Lead for the Supporting Families Initiative and Quality Management Lead in the Western Region. She has a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology, social psychology and 30 years' experience working at ODP and at the county level to support individuals, families and system partners.

**Susanne Tuckerman** entered the world of disability in 2000 when her twin sons were diagnosed with autism. Since then, she has worked in a variety of roles in the disability field. She currently works at Vision for Equality. As a Family Navigator, she connects families with Autism and Intellectual Disability services, as a Family Support Specialist she works with the Trauma Informed Care Project to support families learning about trauma and how they can care for themselves while still caring for their loved ones. Sue has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Temple University. She lives in Northeast Philadelphia with her husband, her three sons, and their border collie "Leo the dog."

**Robin VanEerden** MS, LPC, NADD-DDS, CC, Clinical Director earned her Master of Science Degree from Shippensburg University in Community Counseling and acquired her License in Professional Counseling (LPC). She has acquired the first ever Dual Diagnosis Certified Clinician credential awarded by the NADD organization. Robin is an Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Therapist. Robin has served as the Clinical Director for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Disabilities, Central Reg She is the former Vice President of Integrative Counseling Services, PC in Harrisburg, PA. In 2019, Robin won the NADD Earl L. Loschen Award for contributions that have resulted in significant improvement in the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as mental health needs. She is a subject matter expert on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder "The Invisible Disability" and has articles published on the topic. Robin administers sexuality assessments for consent, knowledge, and attitudes. She also administers trauma informed assessment for people with problematic and sex offending behavior.

**Candida Walton** is the Supporting Families Statewide Initiative Director for the Office of Developmental Programs for the Commonwealth of PA. She is also a LifeCourse Ambassador. Candida serves as the facilitator for the state with the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families Across the LifeSpan. The strategies of the Initiative are organized within Recommendation #4: Support Families throughout the Lifespan from the Information Sharing Advisory Committee (ISAC) and methods embed the foundational principles of Charting the LifeCourse. You can reach her at [cawalton@pa.gov](mailto:cawalton@pa.gov).



**Melanie Whetzel**, M.A., CBIS joined the JAN staff as a consultant on the Cognitive/Neurological Team in February 2008. She has a fourteen-year history of teaching and advocating for students with disabilities in the public school system. Melanie holds a Master of Arts degree in Special Education, a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She most recently completed a graduate certification in Career Planning and Placement for Youth in Transition. As a member of the Cognitive/Neurological Team, Melanie specializes in learning disabilities, mental impairments, developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and brain injuries. She presents nationally on topics ranging from mental health impairments to conduct and performance issues, learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, brain injuries, and more. Melanie became a certified brain injury specialist in December 2014.

**Thomas J. Wlodkowski** is Vice President of Accessibility at Comcast, responsible for driving the design and development of inclusive experiences through product innovation and superior customer support. His vision to empower and delight people of all abilities with world-class entertainment, communications, and experiences has brought Comcast to the forefront of the accessibility space. Throughout his career, Tom has been a pioneer in the accessibility field. Blind himself, he has served as a champion for people with disabilities, working to improve usability of mainstream Internet, mobile, broadcast and cable television technology. Under Tom's leadership, Comcast launched Voice Guidance on X1, the industry's first talking guide, opened a dedicated support center for customers with disabilities, and created an accessibility lab to drive accessibility research and development. Prior to Comcast, Tom served as the Director of Accessibility at AOL and held positions at the WGBH Media Access Group, home to the Descriptive Video Service, Caption Center, and the National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM). A graduate of Boston College, Tom currently sits on the boards of Trustees of Adaptive Spirit, Disability:In, VisionLink in Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Chapter for Adaptive Sports. He also represents Comcast on the FCC's Disability Advisory Committee.

