



# INDEPENDENT MONITORING FOR QUALITY (IM4Q) Annual Statewide Training 2025 — July 29-30

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) through  
The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

## Making Everyday Lives Possible for 25 Years

### AGENDA— Tuesday July 29

#### 8:00-9:00 Registration and Refreshments

#### 9:00-9:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Kristin Ahrens – Deputy Secretary, ODP, PA  
Department of Human Services

#### 9:30-10:00 A Discussion with ODP

- Jeremy Yale – Bureau Director of Policy and Quality  
Management, ODP

#### 10:00-11:15

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

##### **Patrice: The Movie**

*Patrice: The Movie* is a documentary rom-com about the next phase of marriage equality: disability. Join the protagonist of the film, Patrice Jetter, her partner Garry, who is also in the film, and the director, Ted Passon in discussion about the making of the film and the fight to not only create marriage equality for disabled people but to stop cuts to Medicaid.

**NOTE:** Grab Some Popcorn! *Patrice: The Movie* will be available for viewing beginning Jul 21, 2025! All registrants will receive a link with full access to watch the film in advance of the Annual Statewide Training. Please take advantage of this opportunity to watch and learn more about our keynote speakers and come prepared to ask some questions. Enjoy!

##### **Presenters**

- Patrice Jetter and Garry Wickham – stars of the film
- Ted Passon – Film director

*(You can read about the presenters on the last page of this full agenda)*

##### **Facilitator**

- Izzy Kaufman – Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

#### 11:15-11:30 Break

#### 11:30-12:45

#### WORKSHOP #1

##### **A. Advocacy in Uncertain Times**

This year there have been many proposed changes to funding and programs that serve the disability and aging communities. This session will provide updates on policy proposals at the State and Federal level that will impact the disability community. Attendees will also learn information about how to get updates, be involved and how to share their stories with policymakers.

##### **Presenter**

- Jennifer Garman – Disability Rights Pennsylvania

##### **B. My Choices, My Decisions: Sexual Self-Advocacy in Everyday Life**

Join us for a fun and empowering workshop where you will learn how to advocate for yourself when it comes to your body, your choices, and your relationships! We will talk about what makes a relationship healthy – with friends, family, partners, and yourself. You will walk away with new skills, helpful tips, and easy-to-use resources to keep learning and growing.

##### **Presenters**

- Shawn Aleong, Izzy Kaufman, and Nova McGiffert –  
Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

##### **C. The Power of Considerations: What Can Happen When You Use Considerations**

Come join the panel to learn about how three local programs, with their administrative entities are using considerations as part of their quality improvement initiatives to impact change at the local level.

##### **Presenters**

- Karen Plummer – Voice and Vision, Inc.
- Sarah Chesterman – Bucks AE/County
- Katie Connolly – The Advocacy Alliance
- Beth Corbin – Huntington/Mifflin/Juniata AE
- Kelli Powers – Chatham University

##### **D. The Right to Communicate: Exploring Communication Data and Supports for Individuals Registered with the Office of Developmental Programs**

This session will focus on supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism with complex communication needs as they transition from school age through adulthood. What are the needs? What are the barriers? What are the available supports? This training will cover current data, research, and statewide initiatives to make communication accessible to Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities throughout life.

##### **Presenters**

- Lea Sheffield – Office of Developmental Programs
- Jen Lisberger and Cassandra Calia – Institute on  
Disabilities at Temple University

#### 12:45-2:00 Lunch

(continued)

**A. How We/They See Us: Disability Representation****Today**

Explore the current landscape of disability representation in the media, particularly in film and television. We examine the differences between media made for disabled people versus media made by disabled people, tracing examples from the 1930s to today. Participants will have multiple opportunities for reflection and discussion, especially as it relates to meaningful, authentic expressions of disability identity and representation in our current moment. Participants are invited to reimagine disability representations in mainstream media.

**Presenter**

•Jaggar DeMarco – Temple University

**B. Navigating Challenging Situations During Survey Interviews**

Join fellow Local Program representatives for an interactive session focused on addressing difficult situations that can arise before and during survey interviews. It will offer a safe space to share experiences, discuss real-world challenges, and explore effective strategies through open conversation and engaging role-play scenarios. Participants are encouraged to bring examples of situations they have encountered to help spark discussion and learning

**Presenters**

•Amy Austin–The Arc of Lancaster/Lebanon  
•Shannon Ludwig–The Advocacy/Alliance

**C. AI in Action: Improving Quality of Life for Individuals with Disabilities**

This presentation will explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities by promoting greater autonomy. We will discuss how AI can be applied across various aspects of daily life, helping individuals live more independently and improve their overall quality of life.

**Presenter**

•Joanna Behm – Messiah University

**D. Housing: Beyond the System and Alternatives for Tomorrow**

Join the grantees of the PA Developmental Disabilities Council's Housing (PADDC) Demonstration Grants for an informative and interactive discussion on the importance of choice of housing for people with disabilities using ODP services and supports. The Project Teams will share experiences and perspectives on the impact of the projects. These include lessons about the quality of supports, and ultimately the quality of life for people who choose to separate their services from their housing—enabling people to have real options other than a room in a facility—instead, creating a home of their own.

**Presenters**

•Marian Frattarola-Saulino and Pam Zotynia – Values into Action  
•Robert Zotynia – Advocate, Project Coordinator Housing Demonstration Grant  
•David Gates – Vision for Equality

**E. Take Your Disability Advocacy to the Next Level**

Join a discussion about how self-advocates can move from participating in a local self-advocacy group to taking on lead roles on committees/boards—even meeting with government officials to have their voices heard.

Hannah will share her personal journey and the real-life impact of finding and using her voice to influence change. Amy will discuss The Arc's role in supporting self-advocates: helping individuals identify what matters most to them, develop their own advocacy tools and confidently meet with decision-makers to elevate the priorities of people with disabilities.

Whether you are new to advocacy or looking to take the next step, this session will offer insight, encouragement, and actionable strategies to amplify your impact.

**Presenters**

•Amy Fisher and Hannah Sullivan –The Arc of Lancaster/Lebanon

**3:15-3:30 Break**

3:30-4:45

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

**The Path from an Idea to Becoming a Reality – IM4Q's 25 Year Journey**

This panel discussion will focus on how the idea of IM4Q started and how it has become the intricate framework for assuring individuals satisfaction and quality of life. Panelists who have been involved in the initial stages will share their experiences and thoughts on moving IM4Q into the future.

**Panelists**

•Bill Krebs – Advocate, Management and Steering Committee Member, Former Monitor  
•Dana Olsen – Former ODP Director, Quality Improvement Initiatives included IM4Q, Life Sharing, and Employment  
•Celia Feinstein – Consultant, Former Executive Director, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University  
•Nancy Thaler – Former Deputy Secretary of ODP

**Facilitator**

•Sally Gould-Taylor – Executive Director, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

**Graphic Facilitation**– Brittany Curry, Inky Brittany, Savannah, GA

**4:45-7:00 Dinner on Your Own**

7:00-9:00 NETWORKING SOCIAL RECEPTION

Raffle, Baskets &amp; Entertainment

(continued)

## AGENDA— Wednesday July 30

**8:00-9:00 Registration and Breakfast**

**9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Presenter**

- Lauren House – Bureau Director of Community Service, Office of Developmental Programs

**9:15 - 10:30**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

### What Has IM4Q Meant to You?

Panelists will share their experiences with being involved in IM4Q from their own unique roles as a monitor, family member, Local Program Coordinator, AE, Support Coordinator and ODP staff. Come and listen to how IM4Q has taken shape over the years and join in with sharing your own experiences with what IM4Q has meant to you.

**Panelists**

- Eric Haymon – Monitor, The Advocacy Alliance
- Lisa Tesler – Family Member, PADDC
- Sharon Beck – Local IM4Q Program, Montgomery County
- Aisha Williford – Supports Coordinator, Quality Progressions
- Lee Stephens – ODP Central Office
- TBA, Administrative Entity, County

**Facilitator**

- Guy Caruso and Mary Kay Cunningham– Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

**Graphic Facilitation** – Brittany Curry, Inky Brittany-Savannah, GA

**10:45– 12:00**

**WORKSHOP #3**

### A. The Vulnerability of People with Disabilities to All Types of Abuse: Awareness and Action

People being interviewed as part of IM4Q are often vulnerable to many types of abuse that monitors need to be aware of. This session will describe the dangers people with disabilities face; how to recognize these; and address them by writing a Major Concern.

**Presenters**

- Guy Caruso – Institute on Disabilities at Temple University
- Michelle Tessitore – Voice and Vision, Inc.

### B. How IM4Q and NCI Data is Used in ODP's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Process

Learn more about ODP's process for continuous quality improvement (CQI), specifically related to the use of IM4Q and NCI data. Learn about the various parts of the process, from ISAC Annual Reports to ISAC meetings, to how ISAC and ODP evaluate system progress and make decisions about current and future strategies for improving the Everyday Lives of individuals, to how these all fit together.

**Presenter**

- Tara Giberga – Office of Developmental Programs

### C. Social Connections and Support Systems

Social connections play a vital role in overall well-being, influencing mental, emotional, and even physical health. Strong relationships provide a foundation of support, whereas weak social ties may contribute to feelings of isolation. Some of the key areas of importance around social connections are: Social Fitness, Types of Social Support, Assessing Strong vs. Weak Supports in Your Life, The Seven Keystones of Support and Strategies on how to Improve Social Supports. Building and nurturing meaningful relationships helps foster resilience, happiness, and a stronger sense of community

**Presenter**

- Icylee L. Basketbill – Philadelphia Area Sexual Health Initiative (PASHI) at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC)

### D. Seeing is Believing – Believing is Seeing: The Power of Mindsets

Mindsets shape and govern what we see and believe about the world around us and are a potent factor in how people with disability are seen, interpreted, and treated. This brief presentation will bring the issue of mindset into sharp focus for us and give some pointers for how mindsets themselves can be changed. Even absent all sorts of other resources, a positive mindset can make a world of difference. Join us to explore how mindsets “work.”

**Presenters**

- Elizabeth Neuville and Pamela Seetoo - Keystone Institute

**12:00 – 1:00**

**LUNCH**

### Updates and Closing Remarks from ODP and the Institute on Disabilities

**Presenters**

- Ron Melusky – Division Director of Program Operations, Office of Developmental Programs
- Sally Gould-Taylor – Executive Director, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

(continue to registration)



## IMPORTANT

### The IM4Q Annual Statewide Training 2025 – July 29-30

#### REGISTRATION

- Cost is \$75 per participant.
- Register by July 16.
- Request accommodations at time of registration.

REGISTRATION FORM: <https://tinyurl.com/2z4w28cc>



LOCATION: The Hilton Harrisburg / 1 North Second Street / Harrisburg, PA 17101

The hotel will hold a block of rooms only until July 7.

Make room reservations by:

- calling the hotel at **1-800-Hilton (445-8667)** OR
- going online at <https://group.hilton.com/yaweng>

Use reference code 91Q



#### A special thanks to the members of the 2025 IM4Q Annual Statewide Training Planning Committee

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| •Amy Austin          | •Nancy LeClair  |
| •Pat Bowser-Elm      | •Shannon Ludwig |
| •Guy Caruso          | •Kelli Powers   |
| •Mary Kay Cunningham | •Laura Sippos   |
| •Shantha Edwards     | •Lee Stephens   |
| •Stephen Gensemer    | •Maureen Timlin |

### IM4Q—Making Everyday Lives Possible for 25 Years



Institute on Disabilities

#### \*Patrice: The Movie— About the Presenters

Patrice Jetter (she/her) stars in the documentary, *Patrice: The Movie*. She is a comic book artist, figure skater, miniature train enthusiast, cheerleader, bowler, Special Olympics athlete, quilter, snowboarder, gymnast, bocce ball player, crossing guard, horseback rider, cable access TV show host, anti-bullying advocate, clown, costume designer, camp counselor, and much more. Patrice spent years fighting against disability discrimination to become the first disabled crossing guard in her New Jersey town. She has been building elaborate model train sets for over 25 years and she's the only black and female member of the Model Railroad Club of New Jersey. Patrice has received over 100 medals from the Special Olympics, and she hosted her own weekly public access television show for four years. Patrice designed costumes for an internationally touring rock band, The Moldy Peaches.

Garry Wickham (he/him) stars in the documentary, *Patrice: The Movie* and has known Patrice for decades but they only started dating a few years ago. He wants nothing more than to become Patrice's husband which lead for him to become active in the fight for disabled marriage equality. Garry is Patrice's biggest cheerleader, partner-in-crime, and confidante. Garry competes in bowling and bocce ball, where he sometimes works as an official. He is a huge Notre Dame fan.

Ted Passon is an award-winning director whose films and series have played at the Sundance Festival, The Berlin Film Festival, The Toronto Film Festival, The Venice Biennale, Hot Docs, and many others. Awards for his work include a Peabody Award, the Gotham Award for "Best Nonfiction Series", a Dupont- Columbia Award, the Sundance Producing Award For Nonfiction, The "Unforgettable" Award at the Cinema Eye Honors, a Webby Award for "Best Feature Length Documentary", and the Audience Award at both the Camden International Film Festival and Hot Docs. His work has been twice nominated for an Independent Spirit Award including "Best Documentary" and "Best Nonfiction Series".

**DON'T FORGET!** Starting July 21, 2025 to July 28, 2025, you will have full access to watch *Patrice: The Movie*. All those who registered will receive a link to the full version of the film. Enjoy the movie and we look forward to seeing you at the IM4Q Annual Statewide Training!