

2019 NADSP Annual Conference: The Fifth One

Detailed Agenda

Friday, September 6, 2018 – Day One

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration for Pre-Conference Opens

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Direct Support Professional Leadership Summit: Pre-Conference Concurrent Sessions

****Must Register for the Pre-Conference Session to Attend****

Pre-Conference Public Policy Session A:

Advocating for Effective Public Policy Reform: It's Time for Direct Support Professionals to Take the Lead

Speakers: Amy Hewitt, Institute on Community Integration at The University of Minnesota, Liz Weintraub, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and Robert Espinoza, Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI)

Description: The presenters will discuss the current challenges facing the direct support workforce. The session will focus on the use of public policy advocacy that uses interactive activities to engage attendees with new strategies and solutions to make change at home. Additionally, the session will offer insight into why Medicaid is critically important to the direct support workforce and why it is in peril. Presenters will offer personal stories about the need to understand how Medicaid policy is linked to direct support professional wages, career ladders and building a viable profession. Participants will leave with tangible and practical ways to effect public policy and begin to lead a movement from within the direct support workforce that finally addresses the critical shortage of qualified direct support workers

Pre-Conference Leadership Session B:

Building Leadership Skills in Direct Support Professionals

Speakers: Caitlin Bailey, The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at The University of Delaware, Drew Smith, Community Bridges Consulting Group and Lynne Seagle, Hope House Foundation

Description: Learn how to build direct support leadership skills and abilities to your role and team. This session offers an opportunity to learn about your role as a leader, identify your

Session 2: Always Fresh. Always Relevant: How to Contribute in Frontline Initiative, Presented by Chet Tchetter And Julie Kramme, Institute on Community Integration at The University of Minnesota

Description: *The Frontline Initiative* has been the exclusive newsletter for direct support professionals for over twenty years. Each issue features articles written about topics that direct support professionals tell us are important to their professional development. During this session you'll have a chance to learn more about *Frontline Initiative* and how you can contribute to quality direct support practice across the country. We want to hear from you! We want to know what topics and issues are at the front of your mind in your practice. What are the challenges or issues you face in your work? What do you want to learn? What do you want to know more about? How would you like to be involved? What can you share with other direct support professionals? What stories do you have to tell? Why is this work important to you? What resources or speakers should we contact to contribute to *Frontline Initiative*? Finally, we will share with you some easy steps for writing an article, a story, or to share a resource in *Frontline Initiative*. This session is your chance to share and interact!

Session 3: The Direct Support Professional Role in Helping People at the End of Life, Presented by Rick Rader, MD, The American Academy on Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) and Orange Grove Center

Description: While the "P" in DSP defines us as "professionals," the very nature of the work encourages a personal attachment to the individuals we support. The "relationship" is what is unique about our work. How does the direct support professional, (as a professional) successfully balance and navigate the "grief" that comes with the loss that will always be a part of human interaction? We explore the various types of grief, the grieving process, and the hope for personal growth that comes with this critically important journey.

Session 4: Morale: Lifting Up, Looking Up, and Moving Forward, Speaker TBA, Vita Community Living Services

Description: "Morale is self-esteem in action." Feeling good about yourself, about the job that you do and about the agency that employees you reflects in everyday work performance. We know, instinctively, that when we get up to go somewhere to do work that's important, work that is acknowledged and work that transforms lives and we feel excited to get to it, our morale is shining through. Direct support professionals at Vita Community Living Services formed a committee where they and senior management could work out a plan to improve morale within the organization. This session will look at what they did and what they discovered. Participants in the session will learn ideas and strategies for improving morale and for engaging staff to discuss how they feel about the support they get and the resources they need.

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Break with Exhibitors

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Plenary Session – Documentary Premiere with Q&A

Invaluable: The Unrecognized Profession of Direct Support, Presented by Jerry Smith, The Institute on Community Integration at The University of Minnesota and a Panel of Leaders in Workforce Development

Description: Invaluable: The Unrecognized Profession of Direct Support, is a 45-minute documentary exploring the complex, underappreciated, and underfunded work of direct support professionals, the people who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living full lives as participating members of their communities. The documentary will be followed by a Q&A discussion, lead by filmmaker Jerry Smith. Watch the trailer [here](#).

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM ***John F. Kennedy Jr. Award for Direct Support Workforce Advocacy & Leadership Presentation and Cocktail Reception***

6:00 PM **Dinner on your own**



Saturday September 7, 2018 – Day Two

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM **Registration/Continental Breakfast**

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM **Welcome and Introductions - Joseph M. Macbeth and John Raffaele, NADSP**

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM **Plenary Session – *Beyond Why and Beyond Wings, Presented by Dave Hingsburger, Vita Community Living Services***

Description: Can someone else be your purpose? Can someone else be your mission? Can we in our need to serve objectify people with disabilities? Maybe providing human service is simply ... well, can't give that away here. Warning 'Farting' will indeed be discussed from the podium.

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM **Break with Exhibitors**

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM ***Breakout Series Two***

Session 1: One Provider's Credentialing Journey. Greg Miller, Penn-Mar Human Services and Dan Hermreck, NADSP

Description: Organizations are often challenged with designing credentialing programs for direct support professionals. The process of certifying/credentialing direct support professionals can be complex and daunting. This session will explore one organization's journey in designing, implementing and evaluating a direct support professional credentialing program. Hear from the Executive Director of Penn-Mar Services about the journey he is currently taking as he leads a groundbreaking credentialing initiative within his agency.

Session 2: Overcoming Technology Fatigue: Thriving in the Fast Changing World of Direct Support Professionals. John Dickerson, Quillo and Dylan Wright, Disability Cocoon

Description: Learn about DSP Technology Fatigue - what it is, how it makes you feel, steps to understand why this is happening (choice or mandate?), what do you do about it that goes beyond surviving but flourishing and finding essential resources for you! This interactive session will explore the many changing technologies that are coming your way, how you make them work to make your life easier and actually thrive - rather than wear you down. Come prepared to share, learn and leave with tools that will help you when you get home.

Session 3: Direct Support Professionals & Disaster Preparedness and Response. Kristen Thompson, Therap and Bob Irvine, California Vocations

Description: We all know the basics when it comes to disaster preparedness: do we have water, food, meds, etc., but what does it really look like? In this session we aim to facilitate an interactive discussion where all can share experiences of supporting people through natural disasters. From hurricanes to wildfires, the presenters will discuss what we did and what we wish we had done better to prepare, how we responded to the event and the long-term effects of the disasters.

Session 4: Removing Toxicity from the Workplace. Tony Thomas, Welcome House

Description: Many of us think about the residential and community living sites we work in as "family". The people we support and staff make up one big happy family - we hear this and feel this all the time right? And then there are those occasions when a new family member arrives (and new direct support professional recruit) and "all holy hell breaks loose. In this session we

are going to explore three techniques that you can use to bring order to your “family” and your work environment and to find peace out of the chaos.

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM **Break with Exhibitors**

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM **Plenary Session: Lessons Learned in Rural Psychiatry
Telepsychiatry: Dr. Jana Dreyzehner, MD, Life Connect Health, LLC.**

Description: Dr. Dreyzehner reflects on lessons learned along her journey from serving as a direct support professional in a Chicago group home for deaf adults with developmental disabilities to providing direct psychiatric services in rural Appalachia to founding a company to make team-based person-centered specialized behavioral health services accessible even in rural areas using telehealth.

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM **Lunch**

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM ***Breakout Series Three***

***Session 1: Shifting Your Perspectives from Direct Support Professional to Frontline Supervisor.
Monica Robinson, New Horizons Resources***

Description: Many outstanding direct support professionals are promoted into leadership positions without the proper training or understanding of the shift in their role from direct support professional to frontline supervisor. Many times, frontline supervisors continue doing the work of a direct support professional plus take on added responsibilities that come with the promotion. Their heart often stays connected to the role of a direct support professional and struggles to find a balance between managerial work and direct support. Becoming an effective frontline supervisor is not about finding balance between roles, it’s about shifting your perspective. As a direct support professional your role is to support the people receiving services. As a frontline supervisor it must shift to supporting the direct support professional. Learn how a shift in your perspective can help you become a more effective leader.

Session 2: The Alphabet Community: Who We Are and What We Need From You. Dave Hingsburger, Vita Community Living Services and Panel Members to Be Announced

Description: Most often when you see the, now familiar abbreviation, it’s presented with a small plus sign: LGBTQ+. That sign indicates that the community is larger and more diverse than it may, at first appear. LGBTQ2SIAAP is the present configuration of the ‘alphabet community,’ in Canada. Many people from outside the community have no idea what some of those letters mean. This session will do more than give a list of definitions, it will focus on both the depth and breadth of the community but also discuss the intersection between the LGBTQ2SIAAP community and people who have intellectual disabilities. Because we serve a fully human population and because we as humans experience a wide range of sexual and gender identities one can only expect that people with disabilities will too. This session will

discuss how to support those who come out and how to create a safe environment for people to be who they are without fear. All of the presenters are proud members of the LGBTTTQQ2SIAAP community and all work providing support to people with intellectual disabilities.

Session 3: To Be Announced

Session 4: Alternatives to Addressing the Workforce Crisis through Secondary Education and Industry Credentialing. Bethany Toledo, Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), Becky Sharp, Columbus Center for Human Services (CCHS), Kelsey Goodman, CCHS and Amy Schakat, Southwestern City Schools

Description: In this session, participants will learn about the Community Connections Career Partnership - Ohio program. This program C3P(O) exposes high school juniors and seniors to the field of direct support through a combined curriculum and internship program that creates an alternative pathway to high school graduation. This unique program was created through a partnership between the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). This session will provide an overview of the fundamental elements necessary to make a program of this nature successful, and highlight the various partnerships between local schools, organizations, providers, and other stakeholders.

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM Break with Exhibitors

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM Networking and Guided Group Discussions – Caitlin Bailey and Kristen Loomis. The Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at The University of Delaware.

Description: We want to hear from you! Our large group will work at their tables in facilitated discussions that will focus on what direct support professionals need, experience and expect from their practice. The session provides a unique opportunity to learn and share with colleagues from across the country in a unique networking session. We will collect the information that you share for future research purposes, articles and/or policy initiatives.

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM *Plenary Session: Metamorphosis: From Adversity to Leadership, Presented by Omayra Andino, The Institutes of Applied Human Dynamics (IAHD)*

Description: In our final session, you'll experience the heartfelt journey of one woman's quest to find her way through childhood adversity, filled with tragedy and loss, to a career in human services leadership. Ms. Andino will share the lessons she's learned along the way with the hopes of inspiring others to reach for their dreams despite life's challenges. You'll share moments of tears & laughter and leave the conference ready to face whatever life throws your way.