

2024 OIDD Training and Technical Assistance Institute Speaker Bios:

Session 1: ACL UPDATES

Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Johnson



Dr. Jennifer Johnson is currently serving as the Acting Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities (AoD), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living (ACL). AoD's mission is to equip individuals with disabilities of all ages with opportunities, tools, and supports to lead lives of their choice in their community. Its programs are working to create change and improve the lives of the estimated 61 million individuals with disabilities living in the US by advancing opportunities for inclusion and participation in the community, employment and financial well-being, and independence and self-determination.

Dr. Johnson has served as the AoD Deputy Commissioner since September 2019, with a focus on improving the quality, accountability, and evidence base of AoD's programs and initiatives. She supports planning and oversight of AoD's \$330 million budget that funds several disability programs and projects across the US and its territories. Her 30-year career in government, academia, national organizations, and local school systems demonstrates a clear commitment to improving opportunities for people with disabilities to lead full lives in the community, with emphases on diversity, inclusion, and advancing a diverse array of programs for underserved and unserved individuals and communities.

Before assuming her role as AoD's Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Johnson served as the Deputy Director of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) from July 2015 through August 2019, where she oversaw AIDD's \$185 million budget and the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, a Federal Advisory Committee. In this role, she provided strategic vision to ensure quality oversight and that programs were achieving sustainable results. During her federal

Training and Technical Assistance to Councils is funded by contract #75P00121C00067 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

career, she has contributed to multiple interagency committees and initiatives to ensure representation of the perspectives of individuals with disabilities in Departmental efforts. She is currently leading AoD's interagency initiative to improve the availability of health and prevalence data on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Prior to her tenure at AoD, Dr. Johnson conducted policy research at The George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development and taught graduate level classes on research methods, bilingual special education, and disability policy. She has also held positions in the Arlington County Public School system, at the Council for Exceptional Children, and at the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Dr. Johnson earned her doctorate in Special Education from The George Washington University and has a master's degree in early childhood special education from The George Washington University. She earned her bachelor's degree from Hollins University.

Speaker: David Jones

David Jones currently serves as the Director of the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Speaker: Sara Newell-Perez

Sara Newell-Perez is a Program Lead for the Administration on Disabilities, Administration for Community Living within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Since 2006, she has provided federal oversight to the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities program. As a Contracting Officer Representative II, Sara oversees the NACDD Training and Technical Assistance Contract (ITACC) as well as the Program Information Resources Management (PIRM) contract that provides statistical support for ACL program data. Prior to joining Federal service, Sara worked for the Arc of NY state and as a professional advocate in Washington DC. A native New Yorker, Sara is a graduate of the University at Albany.

Speaker: Jack Brandt

Jack Brandt currently serves as the Program Specialist in the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Speaker: Alison Cruz

Allison Cruz is the Developmental Disabilities Program Manager for the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) at the Administration on Disabilities

(AOD), within the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Allison works across several federal programs including State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&A), University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) and Projects of National Significance (PNS).

Allison began her work at ACL in 2014. Prior to joining the federal government, she served as the Deputy Director of Programs for the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. Her previous work includes Bilingual Speech and Language therapist and Special Education Itinerant Teacher in New York City.

Allison has worked in the disability field for 32 years and holds a Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology; Master of Science in Reading; and a Graduate Certificate in Program Evaluation.

Session 2: Office of Fiscal Operations

Speaker: Aaron Taylor

Aaron Taylor started his Federal service at HUD as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) in 2011. In his ten years at HUD, Aaron worked in two grant offices, the first office was focused on rural housing and economic development and the second office was focused on capacity building for local community development and housing organizations. In addition to the grant management responsibilities, Aaron also served as the Office of Community Planning and Development's (CPD) audit liaison officer (ALO). As ALO, he provided technical support and guidance to all CPD offices in the resolution of Office of Inspector General (OIG) audits.

Aaron next joined SBA as a supervisory program manager for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program. The SVOG grant program provided \$16 billion dollars to performing arts businesses deeply impacted by the COVID-19 shutdowns. Aaron was responsible for managing the fraud review and improper payment functions in addition to designing the SVOG program monitoring, audit, and closeout (MAC) processes for the 13,000 grantees. Aaron then joined NIH's Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA) as an Assistant Grants Compliance Officer. In this role, he was responsible for analyzing non-compliance concerns and developing corrective action plans for grantees that had individuals facing allegations of foreign interference, research misconduct, and harassment.

Aaron is currently serving as a supervisory grant management specialist in ACL's Office of Fiscal Operations (OFO). Aaron is responsible for leading the team that provides grant management support and fiscal oversight for ACL's Administration on Disability (AoD) and Center for Innovation and Partnership (CIP) formula grant programs. Aaron

Training and Technical Assistance to Councils is funded by contract #75P00121C00067 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

lives in Frederick, MD with his wife and two kids. He earned a master's in City and Regional Planning from Clemson University and a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry from McDaniel College (Westminster, MD).

Speaker: Vincent Woodward

Vincent Woodward started his government career at NIH as a Grant Technical Assistant. After completing his degree from UVA in 2016 he was selected as an HRSA Scholar. After graduating from the HRSA Scholar Program in 2017, he was selected as a Grant Management Specialist within the Division of Grants Management Office at HRSA. In 2020, he transitioned to a Budget Analyst position in the Grants Finance Division at HRSA. In 2021, he joined ACL as a Grant Management Specialist (GMS) within OFO.

Managing grants has been the focus of Vincent's federal government career. As a Grant Technical Assistant at NIH, one of his main duties was to review grants to ensure the solicitations met the rules and regulations of the Request for Applications Announcements before forwarding the applicants' grant proposal to an objected review panel. While at HRSA Vincent was assigned a diverse portfolio of grant award programs to monitor. Some of his major responsibilities for monitoring the grant awards was to ensure that the assigned grants complied with the regulations stated in the 45 CFR 75 & 2 CFR 200 as specified in the notice of award (NOA).

Vincent's current position as a GMS at ACL is a combination of all his previous experiences, where he works directly with Grant Recipient to aid in compliance with regulations. In addition, he also supports Grantees' issues related to fiscal matters and accessing databases to manage their grants. He is generally your first line of contact for any questions you have about your grant within the Developmental Disability Council and Protection & Advocacy formula grant programs.

Session 3: Leading for Engagement: Culturally Competent Practices to Engage People from Diverse Communities and Backgrounds

Speaker: Tawara D. Goode, MA



**Director, National Center for Cultural Competence
Principal Investigator, Leadership Institute for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence,
Director, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities,
Georgetown University Center for Child & Human Development
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Georgetown University Medical Center**

Tawara Goode is an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She has been on the faculty of the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development (GUCCHD), for over 30 years and has served in many capacities. She has degrees in early childhood education, and education and human development. Professor Goode has extensive experience as a principal investigator for federal and private sector grants and contracts. She is the director of the National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC) at GUCCHD. She is the new Director of the GUCCHD's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and focuses on national level efforts to advance and sustain cultural and linguistic competence in this field.

The NCCC has been in existence for the past 23 years during which Professor Goode was the director for 22 years. *The mission of the NCCC is to increase the capacity of health care and mental health care programs to design, implement, and evaluate culturally and linguistically competent service delivery systems to address growing diversity, persistent disparities, and to promote health and mental health equity.* Professor Goode is recognized as a thought leader in the area of cultural and linguistic competence and building the NCCC into a nationally and internationally recognized and award-winning program. She had a primary role in developing curricula, assessment instruments, professional development series, and other resources that support cultural and linguistic competence.

Professor Goode is actively involved in the development and implementation of programs and initiatives in cultural and linguistic competence at local, national, and international levels. These efforts address the needs of diverse audiences including health and mental health care, public health, social services, community/advocacy

Training and Technical Assistance to Councils is funded by contract #75P00121C00067 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

organizations, professional societies/organizations, and institutions of higher education. Professor Goode has conducted research on cultural and linguistic competence and its role in addressing health and health care disparities including: 1) a collaborative effort to create validated instruments to measure cultural and linguistic competence in health care settings; 2) a multi-site project to examine health disparities for populations at the intersection of race, ethnicity, and disability; and 3) a community-engaged study to examine if barriers to participation in research by racial and ethnic groups (other than non-Hispanic White) can be reduced by “truth and reconciliation” community forums designed to acknowledge past injustices and exploitation committed by researchers and research institutions and to foster reconciliation. Professor Goode is a member of the Community Engagement Module of the Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical Translational Science.

In addition to the GUCEDD, Professor Goode administers three grants from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities including the Leadership Institute for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence, Community of Practice on Cultural and Linguistic Competence, and Embedding Cultural and Linguistic Competence: A Guide for UCEDD Curricula and Training Activities. Each of these grants focuses on: 1) increasing the number and capacity of leaders to advance and sustain cultural and linguistic competence to respond to the growing cultural diversity among people with developmental disabilities; and 2) developing curricula and professional development for current and future professionals that will teach, provide services and supports, and conduct research with and on behalf of people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Professor Goode's publications include peer reviewed articles, book chapters, monographs, policy papers, guides and instruments that support cultural and linguistic competence in a variety of human service and academic settings. She has and continues to serve on numerous boards, commissions and advisory groups at the local, regional, and national levels that are concerned with the health, mental health, and well-being of culturally and linguistically diverse populations and communities in the U.S. its territories, and in tribal communities.

Session 4: Leading Engagement: Council Strategies for Engaging Diverse Communities and Backgrounds

Speaker: Tedra Jackson

Tedra Jackson is the Deputy Director of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, with responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of the Five-Year State Plan. Additionally, Ms. Jackson supports the council's Race, Equity, Access, Diversity, and Inclusion (READI) Committee, facilitates Michigan's Community of Practice on Cultural and Linguistic Competence, and co-leads the Michigan's Bridging Disability and Aging Community of Practice.

Speaker: Katheryne Staeger-Wilson

Katheryne Staeger-Wilson is a childhood burn survivor who has professionally worked in disability advocacy for over 29 years. Her passion is to encourage others to think differently about disability issues, through a disability studies lens; honoring the lived experience of disability when creating social justice and inclusive change. She received her BA degrees in psychology and criminology from Drury University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a graduate of Georgetown University's Leadership Academy for Cultural Diversity and Linguistic Competence. Katheryne is a Program Coordinator for the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council with a focus on grassroots advocacy and outreach. Previously, she was instrumental in leading the faculty at Missouri State University to create a disability studies minor. Katheryne has served on numerous boards to include the Board of Directors of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) as well as the Society for Disability Studies. Katheryne is the recipient of AHEAD's Professional Recognition Award and the Ronald E. Blosser Dedicated Service Award. She was one of twenty-five selected to participate in a U.S. Department of Education grant, Project ShIFT (Shaping Inclusion through Foundational Transformation) which focuses on the application of a socio-political model of disability and universal design. Her work has been published in journal articles regarding the importance of honoring the disability experience through the implementation of universal design and systems change. When not working, she enjoys getting lost in the wilderness while hiking and kayaking.

Speaker: Jackie Hayes

Jackie Hayes is a Program Planner and Diversity and Inclusion Program Specialist for the NYS Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD). She coordinates one of the CDD standing committees, the Community and Systems Change Committee (CSCC). As the Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, she helps embed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives throughout the agency. She is also the Language Access Coordinator for the CDD. Jackie holds a Ph.D. from the University at Albany in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies.

Speaker: Miguel Juarez

Miguel Juarez works with the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities. Miguel coordinates Partners in Policymaking, Language Access, and Latino Community Outreach and Training.

Speaker: Alison Whyte



Alison Whyte is the Executive Director of the DC Developmental Disabilities Council, leading grassroots efforts to engage families and advocates in systems and culture change through policy advocacy and program development. Alison has Co-Facilitated several systems change initiatives in DC, including the Supporting Families Community of Practice, Community of Practice for Cultural and Linguistic Competence, and the Bridging Aging and Disability Networks and Racial Equity Community of Practice. Alison engages with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to support person-centered practices, self-advocacy and leadership, employment, and initiatives that help people live and thrive in their community. Alison loves calling DC home, meeting dogs, biking around DC, and planning her next adventure.

Contact email: alison.whyte@dc.gov

Contact phone: 202-340-8563

Speaker: McKinley Rouse

McKinley Rouse has been a Program Officer for the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council since 2019. He worked 7 years as a drug and alcohol counselor in Berks County Pennsylvania and 3 years as a Social Worker for the State of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services. He regulated Personal Care and Assisted Living Facilities for the state of Pennsylvania. In 2013, McKinley was 1 of 22 credentialed drug and alcohol counselors in Pennsylvania who wrote test questions for the International Drug and Alcohol Counselor's certification exam. He regulated drug and alcohol treatment programs for the state of Pennsylvania.

Session 5: Leadership Development: Investing and Enhancing Council Member Leadership Skills

Speaker: Caitlin Bailey, Ph.D.

Caitlin Bailey, Ph.D., is the Co-Director of the National Leadership Consortium. In partnership with Kristen Loomis, Caitlin leads and oversees the strategic development, coordination, and implementation of all National Leadership Consortium programs, services, products, and activities. Caitlin has worked with the National Leadership Consortium since 2010. Her work focuses on developing and supporting National Leadership Consortium research projects and creating and facilitating training and technical assistance for leaders across the disability services sector. In addition to her work at the National Leadership Consortium, Caitlin is the former Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals, and she serves on the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Citizen Directed Supports. Caitlin has also been an instructor at the University of Delaware in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences and the Leadership in Disability Services program. Caitlin received her Bachelor of Science, master's degree, and Doctorate at the University of Delaware. (Contact Caitlin Bailey at cbailey@natleadership.org)

Speaker: Kristen Loomis, MBA

In partnership with Caitlin Bailey, Kristen leads and oversees the strategic development, coordination, and implementation of all National Leadership Consortium programs, services, products, and activities. Kristen has worked with the National Leadership Consortium since 2012. Her work has focused on developing and coordinating training and technical assistance for leaders across the intellectual and developmental disabilities field. Kristen received her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and her master's in business administration with a concentration in Strategic Leadership from the University of Delaware. (Contact Kristen Loomis at kloomis@natleadership.org)

Speaker: Brandi Monts, Executive Director of Washington Council

Brandi Monts found her passion for the developmental disabilities (DD) community early in life as she grew up with family members navigating and working within these critical systems of support. With most of her career spent in the DD field, her background includes residential services, supported employment, transition from school to work, teaching, government systems and consulting. Brandi worked for the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council in 1997 as membership support and returned in 2022 to fill the Executive Director role.

Speaker: Sydney Krebsbach

Sydney Krebsbach lives in Spokane Washington; she is an individual with Autism. Sydney is one of the two Co-Chairs for the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council. She also serves on the Spokane County Developmental Disabilities Advisory

Board. Sydney works for SNAP and University of Washington. Finally, Sydney has been a self-advocate for 6 years.

Speaker: Kristen Larson, Executive Director of Nebraska Council

Kristen Larson currently serves as the Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCDD). Kristen's passion for disability advocacy is a result of years of personal lived experience with her 30-year-old son, Carl, who has autism and an intellectual disability. Serving as Carl's advocate within the education and the HCBS waiver system led to her pursuit of a career focused on helping individuals and families who face the obstacles, challenges, and rewards that having a disability may pose.

Prior to her selection as the NCDD Executive Director in 2014, she served seven years at The Arc of Buffalo County in Kearney, Nebraska as the Executive Director/Youth Director. There she was recognized for her advocacy efforts in disability awareness, inclusive recreation, and experience with developing and implementing a wide variety of recreational and self-advocacy programs for individuals of all ages who have developmental disabilities.

As Council Director, Kristen serves on multiple state advisory boards, committees, and coalitions where she promotes DD Act principles, advocates for improved services, and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, and seeks opportunities to collectively address unmet needs and challenges. She believes in the power of collaboration and building strong alliances, as evidenced in NCDD's success and contributions with Nebraska's first Olmstead Plan, ongoing supported employment efforts, and strengthening Person-Centered Planning using the Charting the LifeCourse framework for Nebraska's HCBS recipients.

Speaker: Matthew Kaslon, Council Vice Chair, Nebraska Council

Matthew (Matt) Kaslon is currently the Vice Chair for the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCDD). Matt is a passionate self-advocate who experiences autism spectrum disorder and an intellectual disability. Matt has been involved in advocacy efforts for over 13 years. Matt's journey in disability advocacy started with his service with the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council. Governor Ricketts appointed Matt to NCDD in November 2019, and he is serving his final term through October 2025. Matt serves on some of the Nebraska Olmstead Plan's Workgroups, including the Housing Workgroup, Data Workgroup, and Employment/Education Workgroup. He was recently selected to serve on Liberty Healthcare's statewide Human and Legal Rights Advisory Committee (HLRAC). Matt is also a member of the Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC).

Speaker: Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Executive Director of Illinois Council

Kimberly is the Executive Director of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. Prior to taking the role with the Council, Kimberly worked as the Transition Manager for the country's 3rd largest school district, Chicago Public Schools, working to educate families and school administrators on best practice when bridging the gap between secondary and post-secondary settings. Prior to both of those roles, Kimberly started out as a teacher, but most importantly a family member of a person with I/DD. Kimberly has a passion for supporting systems change that results in individuals with disabilities having access to all facets of a full and engaged life on their terms. She has a background in Special Education, creating integrated housing models, providing direct support, person centered planning, and large system administration. Kimberly holds degrees in Special Education and Nonprofit Business Management.

Speaker: Bob Peterson, Illinois Council Member

Bob Peterson is well known in Illinois disability circles as a seasoned and impassioned advocate for community living. He served 9 years on the board of The Arc of Illinois, is now an Arc Mentor, and is an officer for the Arc's National Council for Self-Advocacy. Bob is currently a board member for the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. He has been involved with many advocacy organizations including Partners in Policymaking, The Self Advocacy Alliance, the Going Home Coalition, SABE, and UIC. He has served on advisory committees, testified at hearings, and spoken at rallies and press conferences. He can be found at numerous events talking to legislators and other movers and shakers in the disability field. Bob has been interviewed, quoted, recorded, and filmed by a few Media outlets. Bob likes movies, eating out, socializing with friends, time on his computer, and always advocating! The struggle for higher wages and real respect for direct support professionals is very important to Bob. As he says, "Without direct support professionals in my life, I don't have a life."

Speaker: David Deuel, Chair of New York Council

DAVE DEUEL, PhD is Senior Research Fellow Emeritus for the International Disability Center and Academic Dean Emeritus for The Master's Academy International (LA, CA). Dave served on the Disability Integration Leadership and Development Team for the American Red Cross and became a member of the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Thematic Group in the interest of people with disabilities in disasters. He has served on boards such as Children's Hospital (Los Angeles) and as Council member for the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. He currently serves as Chairperson for the New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Dave is married with four adult children, one daughter with a diagnosis of Down syndrome.

Session 6: Leadership and People with Developmental Disabilities: Supporting the Journey of Developing Leaders

Speaker: Lillian DeJean

Lillian DeJean (they/them) is from Broussard, LA and currently serves as the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum Coordinator (LAYLF.) Lillian was the youngest DD Council member in the country, being appointed to a four-year term at age 15, where they helped create LAYLF by chairing the Ad-Hoc Committee dedicated to initial planning and development. Prior to taking on the role of LAYLF Coordinator in 2023, they served as the Senior Coordinator at the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, tracking legislation, advising on voting accessibility issues, and providing analysis on disability-related legislation to internal and external policy teams. In their free time, Lillian enjoys reading, crocheting, buying many houseplants, and frequenting local coffee shops.

Speaker: Tai Nelis

Tia Nelis currently serves TASH in a part-time capacity as its Coordinator of Self-Advocate Engagement which includes work to support the Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC); she previously served TASH as its Director of Policy and Advocacy.

Before joining TASH, Tia worked as a Self-Advocacy Specialist at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at the Institute on Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a past President of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), a past President of People First of Illinois and served on the Illinois Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Nelis has been honored with the Burton Blatt Award by Illinois TASH, the Commissioner's Award from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and the Elizabeth Boggs Award from the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Ms. Nelis has drawn on her experience as a person with a disability to promote and demonstrate the benefits of empowering people with disabilities to effectively advocate for themselves. She has broad experience conducting training, providing technical assistance, and advocating for progressive public policies. Tia recently earned a certificate in Disability Studies from Syracuse University.

Ms. Nelis currently resides in Elmhurst IL.

Speaker: Wesley Witherspoon

Wesley Witherspoon is the current Chairperson of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities in California. Prior to serving as Chair, Wesley Chaired the Council's

Training and Technical Assistance to Councils is funded by contract #75P00121C00067 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Employment First committee. For the past 18 years, Wesley has worked as a consumer advocate at USC's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Wesley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and has received awards and recognition for his good work.

Speaker: Cindy Bentley, Director of People First Wisconsin



Cynthia "Cindy" Bentley is the executive director of People First Wisconsin and a fearless advocate for people with disabilities. She is a survivor who endured institutionalization at Southern Wisconsin Center to go on to become a leader in Wisconsin. Cindy leads other self-advocates across the state of Wisconsin in making our communities more accessible. Whether it's voting rights, long-term care, housing, community inclusion, mental health, employment or transportation, Cindy leads the charge. Cindy serves on several boards and works closely with other agencies/organizations that work for equal opportunities for people with disabilities. These include: The Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities Member and co-chair of its Opportunities and access Sub-Committee, Milwaukee County's Combined Community Services Board (CCSB) Board Member, Life Navigators Board Member, Wisconsin START Steering Committee Member, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD)-partner agent, The Survival Coalition of Disability Organizations The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition Partner, Shirley Ryan Abilities Lab-Home and Community Participant Council Member, and Member of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness. Cindy is a decorated Special Olympics athlete who has served on the Wisconsin Special Olympics Board and traveled the world as a Global Messenger.

Session 7: We Amplified: Maximizing Influence for Collective Success

Speaker: Sherron Washington



Sherron Washington, M.A. is a marketing and communication (marcom) professor, speaker and author who has imparted her wisdom and expertise for over two decades. She has an uncanny ability to develop simple, innovative, and results-driven marketing and communication. She is the founder and CEO of The P3 Solution, a full-service marketing, and communications (marcomm) firm located in the Washington, DC Area, that specializes in providing simplistic marcomm consulting and training.

Sherron has an extraordinary ability to create and cultivate environments that harness authentic interactions to generate synergy that flourishes into great vibes with captivating results. She uses a combination of her marcomm business acumen and expressive personality to create a distinctive and lasting presence that encourages and influences others to be more interactive. She understands the importance of remaining true in your communication efforts to facilitate interest and engagement that amplify results.

Session 8: Leading through Key Leadership Transitions: Before, During, and After

Speaker: Ed Holen

Ed Holen worked for the Washington State DD Council for 33 years, 28 of them as the Executive Director. In 2019, he retired from that position and in 2020 was asked to work with other Councils, as a consultant, to support their operations and transitions. He currently works with the Puerto Rico DD Council and is just finishing up his work with the Colorado DD Council.

Liz M. Candelario began working with the CEDD (DD Council in Puerto Rico) as the lead planner and is now the Executive Director of the CEDD. She is successfully leading the Council to be fully operational, attaining new credibility within the Territory, and being fully successful under the requirements of the federal DD Act.

Alexandra M. Mojica is the Senior Attorney on Staff with the CEDD. When first working on staff, she was the lead on the Council's public policy and advocacy efforts. She is now leading the Council's planning and results oriented operations.

Sarah Grazier is the newly hired Executive Director of the Colorado DD Council. She has experience working both within state government and in the private sector. She brings a wealth of experience and leadership to her new position.

Angie Moss was the Chair of the Colorado DD Council at the beginning of the transition from one Executive Director to a new Executive Director. This year she stepped down as Chair but remains a valued member of the Council.

TAI Planning Committee Members:

Luz Collazo has more than 20 years of professional experience. She has served, supported, and advocated for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to ensure their full participation and inclusion in the community. Luz co-leads the DC Supporting Family Community of Practice as a staff member of the District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council. She works closely with agencies and organizations to promote practices that encourage cultural diversity and linguistics competence for the inclusion of people with disabilities and seniors in the District of Columbia. Luz has previously worked at the Independent Living Center and the Puerto Rico DD Council. She has master's and doctoral degrees in industrial and organizational psychology.

Luz is the sibling of a person with a developmental disability. She believes that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the right to speak for themselves and decide how they want to live in an inclusive community.

Rickie Crandall hails from Salt Lake City, UT and has worked with the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council for the past six years and has been working in the disability arena most of her life. She believes in people and the power of relationships and education. In her free time, she enjoys being with her family and friends, enjoying all that life has to offer.

Training and Technical Assistance to Councils is funded by contract #75P00121C00067 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Morgan Davis is the Self-Advocacy Training Coordinator for the Council. In this position, Morgan supports persons who have lived experiences in developmental disabilities in delivering trainings and developing curriculum to increase advocacy skills among persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals in Oklahoma.

Morgan graduated with a General Studies associate degree from Rose State College in 2017 and completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology in 2020 from the University of Central Oklahoma. Morgan is a 2013 graduate of the Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum and a 2017 graduate of Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking.

As a person with Cerebral Palsy, Morgan's advocacy interests include Disability Intersectionality, or how different societal factors impact People in the Disability Community. Morgan's unique perspective benefits the Council. Her one constant desire is to be a help to others.

Lori Rodgers is the Program Manager for the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council where she oversees daily operations, and plans, monitors, and evaluates State Plan activities including programming implemented by grantees. Lori also follows state policy and practice for South Carolinians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and contributes to several work groups for people with disabilities. Prior to joining the DD Council, Lori spent six years as a DSP/House Manager and then 4 years working in quality assurance for a large provider of residential and day services. In those 10 years, she saw the great need for change and was driven to find a way to be a part of that change. She lives in Leesville, South Carolina and enjoys crocheting, being at the softball field with her children, and following the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Carol Ann Tudor has served in her position with the Kentucky council as Administrative Specialist since 2005. She is the person new council members interact with when appointed. She is staff to 2 committees on the council and provides administrative support to all staff.