

LIFE Conference XII

Delaware's premier conference for persons with disabilities and those who support them

Concurrent Session Descriptions

Concurrent Session 1 – 10:15 am – 11:25 am

Access to the Voting Process for People With Disabilities

Representatives from the Delaware Commissioner of Elections' Office and the Disabilities Law Program will discuss the voter registration process; absentee voting; voting eligibility; accessibility of polling places (including efforts to improve accessibility and what to do if a polling place is not accessible); current status of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements, planning and funding; and what to do if a voter experiences a problem accessing the voting system.

Funding of AT for Individuals who are Retired or Approaching Retirement Age

This session will look at a range of AT and equipment that will be useful to individuals with functional limitations due to disability or aging, including wheelchairs and scooters, vision equipment, access ramps, and high tech lifting devices. The speaker will then address both traditional funding sources and non-traditional funding sources and strategies as a way to pay for the AT.

Family to Family & Lifespan/Respite

This session brings together two powerful organizations that recognize how caring for loved ones with special needs is best delivered when families are empowered with information on what supports are available and how to find partnerships for better outcomes. *Family to Family* has a mission to improve access to quality care and support for children with acute health conditions by empowering families with information and advocacy skills. The *Delaware Lifespan Respite Care Network* addresses the need for families to have access to networks that can provide an occasional break from the demands in caring for loved ones with disabilities. The organization has created services to help people find and apply for respite opportunities including; easy access to information about respite care services, ensuring an adequate supply of respite care services and assistance in making care services affordable.

“Seclusion and Restraint: Putting the Djinn Back into the Bottle”

Despite its controversy, the practice of restraint and seclusion to control the behavior of children and adults with disabilities is still widespread. In schools, hospitals, residential programs, and community services settings throughout the country, restraint and seclusion remain standard

tools for intervening in challenging behavior. This workshop will examine the complex issues concerning this practice and explore strategies and barriers to reining in its use.

Concurrent Session 2 – 1:10 pm – 2:20 pm

State Legislation: What to Expect in 2010

This session will provide an overview of a wide array of pending and expected legislation of interest to persons with disabilities. Initiatives affecting special education, school discipline, mental health patient rights, transportation, building accessibility, universal design, disability-prevention, health care, insurance, and other topics will be reviewed.

Universal Design in Housing

This workshop will provide information on the benefits for everyone of building homes using Universal Design. It will also discuss legislation at the national level that will require all newly constructed federally assisted single family houses and town houses to meet minimum standards of Visitability and pending State legislation that would require all single family, duplex, tri-plex and semi-detached homes built with the assistance of tax payers money to be built with the basics of Universal Design, a concept called Livability.

Victimization of Persons With Disabilities –Supports and Services

Persons age 12 or older with disabilities experienced approximately 716,000 nonfatal violent crimes which include robbery, sexual assault, rape, and aggravated assault in 2007 as measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). This workshop focuses on the victimization of persons with disabilities with information on the services and supports available. Topics include: Mandatory Reporting Statute, SANE and Victim Services.

Refining the IEP

This session will focus on the Individualized Education Program (for grades K-7 and the transition IEP). The main focus will be on understanding which parts of the IEP are the most critical and exploring the connection between individual student needs, services that will be delivered and benchmarks/annual goals.

Concurrent Session 3 – 2:35 pm – 3:45 pm

Money Follows the Person / Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities / Medicaid Waivers

This session will cover three key Medicaid initiatives that provide individuals with disabilities better opportunity to obtain full employment and address transition to community living without risking health care support. 1) *Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities (MWD)* addresses the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 that established an optional categorically needy eligibility group. This group provides Medicaid coverage to certain employed individuals with disabilities. Effective October 1, 2009, the State of Delaware implemented this new program. MWD will allow such individuals to receive Medicaid benefits while they are employed. 2) *Medicaid Waivers* offers an overview of Home & Community Based Medicaid Waivers and their administering agencies' responsibilities. The session will cover a general overview of waivers, eligibility, services menu and benefits, and program operation. 3) *Money Follows the Person* assists and supports individuals desiring and able to move to the community from Long Term Care facilities achieve that independence safely.

“Hears” to Independence: Staying Connected to Your World through Assistive Technology

Information will be provided on high tech and low tech hearing related assistive technology and its impact on the lives of persons with hearing impairments and their family members. A number of hearing related services and technologies will be demonstrated, including personal amplification systems, amplified telephones, Voice Carry Over (VCO) telephones, sound-field amplification systems, and visual alert systems to name a few. Services such as ASL interpretation, CART (Captioned Aid Real Time), Sprint Relay Service will also be discussed along with funding options for assistive technology.

Oral Health – Training Caregivers in Daily Preventive Care

Oral health care is one of the top unmet health needs facing individuals with special needs, including physical, developmental and/or cognitive conditions. As a result, they are prone to suffer from a great prevalence of oral disease. The presenters will discuss how the training of caregivers in daily preventive care can help address this issue.

“Aim High” – Postsecondary Education

Learn how to create a good fit in postsecondary education environments for youth with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities. Participants will hear from representatives of Delaware State University, Delaware Technical and Community College and University of Delaware and be able to discuss common practical challenges, supports, and program options. Also on hand will be a representative from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to discuss the collaborative education support program on each of the Delaware Technical and Community College Campuses. Participants will be able to understand documentation requirements for possible accommodations at institutions of higher education and find out more about the new Higher Education Opportunities Act.