

Rie Kennedy-Lizotte

Rie Kennedy-Lizotte has worked in the public and private sectors to provide community services for people with disabilities for more than 30 years. She currently serves as Project Manager of SELN (State Employment Leadership Network) for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services. Previously, she was Program Director for Provider Development in the Georgia Office of Developmental Disabilities where she helped home and community providers develop capacity to serve greater numbers of Georgians with developmental disabilities with quality services.

Dedicated to advocacy and changing public policy, she became actively involved in local, state, and national organizations. She has, for example, been an active member of TASH for many years, serving as a board member for the Pennsylvania chapter from 2001-2004. She also co-founded Person to Person: Valley Citizen Advocacy, an organization to support people with disabilities throughout the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. Rie also played a significant role in launching one of Pennsylvania's first projects to support self-determination principles; allowing individuals and their circles of support to direct and manage individual budgets to purchase services.

Rie's work experience includes:

- Physical therapy assistant in mental health and other facilities;
- Manager for the start up of community residential homes where none had existed for people moving out of institutions;
- Consultant with the first ICF/MR units in Wisconsin to bring institutions into compliance;
- Service director for a county case management system in Pennsylvania for a population of 1,200 people with mental retardation and 350 children at risk for developmental disabilities; and
- Executive vice president for a community-based organization that provided inclusive childcare, early intervention services, and an array of adult supports/services to provide gainful employment and homeownership

Rie holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in social work.