National Trends: Moving from Plans to Practice

NASDDDS

2016 Directors Forum & Annual Conference
November 9-11, 2016
Alexandria, Virginia
CONFERENCE PROGRAM
NASDDDS Directors Forum & Annual Conference
November 9 – 11, 2016
Alexandria, Virginia
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EXHIBITS...

EXHIBITORS HOURS
Thursday: 7:30 AM – 7:00 PM and Friday: 7:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Thursday Reception in the Exhibitor Area
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Please Plan to Visit the Exhibitors in the Edison Foyer ABCD
(see 'Exhibitors List' insert in the folder packet for floor plan)

EXHIBITORS
APSE
Benchmark Human Services
CapGrow Partners
CareDirector
Consumer Direct Care Network
Foothold Technology
Genoa, a QoL Healthcare Company
Health Risk Screening
I-TRAIN
Liberty Healthcare Corporation
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Molina Healthcare, Inc
Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
QBS, Inc
RSM US LLP
Scioto Properties
Therap Services, LLC
Conference Sessions, Exhibits, Breaks, and Registration are all located on the Second Floor of the Hotel.

**LOCATIONS** | **FUNCTION**
---|---
Inventors Foyer | REGISTRATION (Wednesday-Friday)
Edison D | Directors Forum (Wednesday)
Edison Foyer ABCD | Exhibits (Thursday-Friday)
Edison Foyer ABCD | Continental Breakfast, and Coffee / Tea Breaks (Thursday-Friday)
Edison Foyer ABCD | RECEPTION
Edison ABCD | All Keynotes & Plenary Panels (Thursday-Friday)
## Sessions at a Glance...

**Wednesday November 9, 2016**

- **7:30 AM – 8:30 AM** Continental Breakfast .................................................. Edison Foyer D
- **7:30 AM – 4:30 PM** REGISTRATION ......................................................... Inventors Foyer
- **8:30 AM – 4:30 PM** Directors Forum .................................................. Edison D

*Open Only to State DD Directors, Proxy, and/or Designated Staff*

**Thursday November 10, 2016**

- **7:30 AM – 8:30 AM** Continental Breakfast ........................................ Edison Foyer ABCD
- **7:30 AM – 7:00 PM** REGISTRATION ......................................................... Inventors Foyer
- **7:30 AM – 7:00 PM** EXHIBITS .................................................. Edison Foyer ABCD
- **8:30 AM – 9:00 AM** Welcome and Introductions .................................. Edison ABCD
- **9:00 AM – 10:00 AM** Keynote Address .................................................. Edison ABCD
- **10:00 AM – 10:45 AM** Plenary Presentation .......................................... Edison ABCD
- **10:45 AM – 11:00 AM** Coffee / Tea Break .............................................. Edison Foyer ABCD
- **11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** Plenary Panel .................................................. Edison ABCD
- **12:00 PM – 1:30 PM** Cenoni and Compass Awards Luncheon .......... Edison ABCD
- **1:30 PM – 2:30 PM** Plenary Panel .................................................. Edison ABCD
- **2:30 PM – 3:30 PM** Plenary Panel .................................................. Edison ABCD
- **3:30 PM – 3:45 PM** Break ................................................................. Edison Foyer ABCD
- **3:45 PM – 4:15 PM** Plenary Presentation .......................................... Edison ABCD
- **4:15 PM – 4:45 PM** Plenary Presentation .......................................... Edison ABCD
- **5:00 PM – 6:30 PM** Reception .......................................................... Edison Foyer ABCD

**Friday November 11, 2016**

- **7:30 AM – 8:30 AM** Continental Breakfast ........................................ Edison Foyer ABCD
- **7:30 AM – 11:00 AM** REGISTRATION ......................................................... Inventors Foyer
- **7:30 AM – 11:00 AM** EXHIBITS .................................................. Edison Foyer ABCD
- **8:30 AM – 9:15 AM** Keynote ................................................................. Edison ABCD
- **9:15 AM – 10:15 AM** Plenary Panel .................................................. Edison ABCD
- **10:15 AM – 10:45 AM** Coffee / Tea Break and Check Out .......... Edison Foyer ABCD
- **10:45 AM – 12:00 PM** Plenary Panel .................................................. Edison ABCD
- **12:00 PM – 12:15 PM** Conference Wrap Up and Conclusion .......... Edison ABCD
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9...

DIRECTORS FORUM
Open Only to State DD Directors, Proxy, and/or Designated Staff
LOCATION Edison D

7:30 AM – 4:30 AM  REGISTRATION
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM  Welcome, Member Introductions, and Presentation
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Discussion
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Coffee / Tea Break
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Director’s Round Table
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  Lunch (provided)
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  Speakers
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM  Coffee / Tea Break
3:15 PM – 4:30 PM  NASDDDS Updates / Business Meeting
4:30 PM  Adjourn
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10...

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ........................................................................................................7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
LOCATION Edison Foyer ABCD

Thank You to RSM US, LLP for Sponsoring the Continental Breakfast

REGISTRATION .......................................................................................................................... 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
LOCATION Inventors Foyer

EXHIBITS ....................................................................................................................................... 7:30 AM – 7:00 PM
LOCATION Edison Foyer ABCD

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WELCOME, KEYNOTE, and PLENARY PRESENTATIONS .................................................. 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

WELCOME ........................................................................................................................................... 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Mary Lee Fay
Executive Director
NASDDDS

Bernard Simons
President of the NASDDDS Board of Directors
and Deputy Secretary of Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

KEYNOTE ADDRESS .................................................................................................................. 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

THE SUPREME COURT AND ITS IMPACT ON YOU

INTRODUCTION
Valerie Bradley
Director
Human Services Research Institute

KEYNOTE
Nina Totenberg
NPR Correspondent, Legal Affairs

Nina Totenberg is NPR's award-winning legal affairs correspondent. Ms. Totenberg will provide her perspective on the November election, specifically, what the implications are for the supreme court. There will also be a question and answer dialogue to follow.

Thank You to Magellan Healthcare for Sponsoring the Keynote Speaker Nina Totenberg
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10...

PLENARY PRESENTATION ................................................................. 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

IMPROVING CARE AND SUPPORT OF AMERICA’S SENIORS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES – TRENDS IN LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

INTRODUCTION
Dan Lusk
Director
South Dakota Division of Developmental Disabilities

PRESENTER
Mike Nardone
Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Mr. Nardone will share an update on trends in Medicaid long-term services and supports and current policy initiatives at CMS impacting individuals with disabilities and elderly adults. Discussion will include information on spending trends, implementation of the HCBS final rule and LTSS in managed care. Mr. Nardone will also share key priorities for the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group moving forward.

COFFEE / TEA BREAK ................................................................. 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM
LOCATION Edison Foyer ABCD

Thank You to The Columbus Group for Sponsoring the Morning Break

PLENARY PRESENTATION ................................................................. 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

WHERE THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD:
UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS AROUND THE HCBS SETTINGS REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION
Courtney Tarver
Associate Commissioner
Alabama Division of Developmental Disabilities
Melissa Harris  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Disabled and Elderly Health Policy Group  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  

At CMS, Ms. Harris is focusing on Medicaid benefit provision, delivery system issues, and home and community-based services (HCBS) regulation implementation. Prior to this role at CMS, Ms. Harris was the Director of the Division of Benefits and Coverage, and responsible for overseeing implementation of most Medicaid benefits, including benefits provided to individuals in the Medicaid expansion population, and the establishment of national benefit policy.

Serena Lowe  
Senior Policy Adviser  
Administration on Community Living  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  

Ms. Lowe's primary responsibilities are with the CMS HCBS implementation team, which is responsible for supporting states in the successful implementation of CMS' 2014 final rule on home and community-based services.

Ms. Harris and Ms. Lowe will discuss implementation of the home and community-based services final regulation. Specifically, they will provide a status report on Statewide Transition Plan analysis and approval, along with a discussion of policy and operational issues of interest to states, providers and other stakeholders.

BEN CENSONI AND COMPASS AWARDS LUNCHEON  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM  
LOCATION Edison ABCD

Ben Censoni Award for Public Managers

The Censoni Award is the only award that recognizes public officials who strive to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and is named after the late Ben Censoni, former developmental disabilities director for Michigan and chair of the association's Governmental Affairs Committee. Ben's motto was "people are what really matter."

AWARD WINNER  
Gail Grossman, M.S.S.A.  
Special Assistant to the Commissioner  
Office of Quality Management  
Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services

This year's award recipient is Ms. Gail Grossman. Gail is the former Special Assistant Commissioner for Quality Management for the Massachusetts DDS. Her career spans more than 40 years beginning with her role as the assistant executive director of Arc/Massachusetts where she oversaw all governmental affairs operations and was instrumental in incorporating the requirement for a community plan into the consent decrees at the state
developmental centers. She then became the associate area director for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health overseeing the initiation and growth of community services for individuals with intellectual disability in this catchment area west of Boston.

From 1986-1992, Gail was employed by Children's Hospital of Boston, where she directed the Health and Habilitative Services contract at the Wrentham Developmental Center. Until the end of June 2016, Gail was the Assistant Commissioner for Quality Management for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services. In this role, Gail was responsible for the creation of a quality management and improvement system considered by many to be a national model. Gail oversaw the licensure and certification system for over 190 public and private providers, the statewide risk management system, the health and dental services system, as well as the oversight of eight out of the state’s 10 home and community-based services waiver programs. Gail was an active contributor to the NASDDDS/CMS workgroup which resulted in revisions to the process and content of the HCBS Waiver assurance system. More recently, she was responsible for coordinating the state’s efforts to comply with the CMS community rule.

Gail has been married to Bill Kiernan for 35 years, has three sons and five beautiful grandchildren.

**ROBERT M. GETTINGS COMPASS AWARD**

The NASDDDS has voted to present William Kiernan, Ph.D. with the 2016 Robert M. Gettings Compass Award. This award is presented to individuals who, while working in the private sector, have made a significant contribution to the development of publicly funded state service systems for people with developmental disabilities through research, the design of new service models, training, technical assistance, and consultation.

**AWARD WINNER**

**William E. Kiernan, Ph.D.**

Dean and Professor, School of Global Inclusion and Social Development
Director, Institute for Community Inclusion
University of Massachusetts, Boston

Dr. Kiernan has served as a content expert for state, federal and international governments in the areas of employment policy and practice for persons with disabilities. He has written more than 130 publications in employment, school inclusion, and transition from school to adult life for persons with disabilities and been the director on more than $120 M in grants addressing research in employment policies, procedures and practices, training in rehabilitation counseling and vision rehabilitation. He has served on numerous national and international panels addressing systemic change in the employment of persons with disabilities. Dr. Kiernan has been a member of several national boards serving as president of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) as well as president of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

In addition to holding a Ph.D. in rehabilitation and special education from Boston College and master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from Boston University, he holds a second master’s degree in business administration with a concentration in health care management from Boston University.

*Thank You to Benchmark Human Services for Sponsoring the Award Luncheon*
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10...

PLENARY PANEL ............................................................................................................. 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

POST-ELECTION PROGNOSIS: PROSPECT FOR LONG-TERM SUPPORTS
AND SERVICES LEGISLATION IN THE NEW CONGRESS AND BEYOND

INTRODUCTION
Dan Berland
Director of Federal Policy
NASDDDS

PANELISTS

Stuart Portman, MPH
Healthcare Legislative Assistant
U.S. Senate for Senator Orrin Hatch

In this role, Stuart provides policy recommendations on a variety of health matters ranging from health information technology to disease research and pharmaceutical development, among others. Stuart also serves as deputy to the Medicaid adviser for Chairman Hatch, linking the Utah perspective to broader policy debates and working collaboratively on pressing Medicaid issues across the country.

Courtney Kerster
Deputy Chief of Staff
and Senior Policy Advisor
Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM)

In this role, Courtney acts as the Congresswoman’s advisor on health and long-term care issues, and the staff lead for the Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Caucus, a bipartisan, bicameral caucus that aims to educate members of Congress about caregiving issues, create an environment conducive to reaching bipartisan solutions, and build a sense of urgency to act.

Megan Perez
Legislative Director
Representative Cathy Morris Rodgers

Ms. Perez has worked for several Members of Congress including Representative C.W. Bill Young (R-FL) and Representative Lou Barletta (R-PA) advising on issues from health care to national defense.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10...

PLENARY Panel .........................................................................................................................2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

INTRODUCTION
John Martin
Director
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

LOOKING AHEAD: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN 2017

PANELISTS

Ellen Nissenbaum
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Ellen is the Senior Vice President for Government Affairs for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Since 1984, she has directed the center’s work with federal policymakers and with other national organizations on a broad-range of policy issues. These include federal budget and tax issues (with a particular focus on refundable tax credits for low-income working families), Medicaid and health care, nutrition programs, and other critical policies. Ellen will provide an update and an important perspective on the federal budget and tax issues, as well as federal policies concerning Medicaid and health care as state I/DD agencies look to the future.

CONNIE GARNER
Policy Director/Practice Leader
Government Strategies Practice Group

Ms. Garner focuses her practice as Policy Director and Practice Leader in the Government Strategies Practice Group, and Executive Director for Advance CLASS, Inc. Her areas of expertise include health care, disability, mental health and substance use disorders, long-term care, and education.

This panel presentation will provide an overview of the likely key fiscal and related policy battles in the next Congress as well as the implications for programs important to the disability community. In addition, the presentation will identify possible challenges and opportunities in 2017.

COFFEE / TEA BREAK .................................................................................................................3:30 PM – 3:45 PM
LOCATION Edison Foyer ABCD

Thank You to Mediware for Sponsoring the Break
Please be Sure to Visit our Exhibitors in the Edison Foyer ABCD During the Break
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10...

PLENARY PRESENTATION ................................................................. 3:45 PM – 4:15 PM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

WHAT NCI TELLS US ABOUT COMPONENTS OF THE HCBS SETTINGS RULE

INTRODUCTION
Dr. Beverly Buscemi
Director
South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

PLENARY SPEAKER
Valerie Bradley
President
Human Services Research Institute

Ms. Bradley has always been concerned with the quality of community services and supports which has led her to explore best practices in quality improvement with individual states and across the country. Ms. Bradley will speak about using NCI national data on individual outcomes, this presentation will highlight particular aspects of the new rule including information on choice and control, self-direction, privacy, community inclusion and employment. This is data that should be continually mined to monitor whether the HCBS rule, now two and a half years into implementation, is having an impact on individuals receiving services and supports funded through waiver and state plan authorities.

PLENARY PRESENTATION ................................................................. 4:15 PM – 4:45 PM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

INTRODUCTION
Barbara Brent
Director of State Policy
NASDDDS

PRESENETER
Amy Gonzalez
Senior Policy Advisor
U.S Department of Labor
Office of Disability Employment Policy

Amy works to engage federal and state partners to align policy that supports the Employment First philosophy through the Employment First State Leadership Program (EFSLMP). She also works with stakeholders to increase participation of youth and adults with disabilities in competitive integrated employment and integrated meaningful day activities. Ms. Gonzalez will provide a high level overview of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program.
Additionally, she will explain how ODEP is supporting states to comply with HCBS transition plans and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to ensure that citizens with disabilities are given the opportunity to participate in competitive integrated employment and meaningful integrated day activities.

**RECEPTION**

Join us at the reception which is open to all conference attendees and offers a great opportunity to meet people and network.

- **Cash Bar**
- **Complimentary Hors d’Oeuvres**

*Thank You to Therap Services for Sponsoring the Reception*

**Making Dinner Plans after the Reception?** Hop aboard the free King Street Trolley which runs between the King Street Metrorail Station and the Potomac River waterfront with many stops for hopping on and off to explore the shops, restaurants, and attractions found along Alexandria's historic main street! For specific schedules, see [www.dashbus.com/Trolley](http://www.dashbus.com/Trolley).

The Westin Alexandria complimentary hotel shuttle operates within a 2-mile radius of the hotel and provides transportation to the King Street Metrorail station, the Alexandria Amtrak station and the shops, restaurants, and attractions in historic Old Town. Shuttle hours are 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM. For more information, contact the concierge or front desk staff.
Continental Breakfast .................................................................................................................. 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
LOCATION Edison Foyer ABCD

Thank You to Anthem for Sponsoring the Continental Breakfast

REGISTRATION ......................................................................................................................... 7:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
LOCATION Inventors Foyer

EXHIBITS ................................................................................................................................. 7:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
LOCATION Edison Foyer ABCD

Please be Sure to Visit our Exhibitors in the Edison Foyer ABCD

KEYNOTE ..................................................................................................................................... 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM  
LOCATION Edison ABCD

SETTING THE STAGE FOR WHAT COMES NEXT:  
A DISCUSSION WITH AOD STAFF ON THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

INTRODUCTION

Alex Bartolic  
Director  
Minnesota Disability Services Division

PRESENTERS

Bob Williams  
Deputy Commissioner  
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD)  
Administration for Community Living (ACL)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Service  
Director of the Independent Living Administration within AOD

Prior to his role in ACL, Bob headed the Social Security Administration’s Employment Support Programs and co-chaired the federal government’s Curb Cuts to the Middle Class initiative to create greater career path employment and economic mobility opportunities for people with significant disabilities. He has advised the Kaiser Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, and others on policy issues affecting the health, independence and economic well-being of Americans with disabilities of all ages.

Jennifer Johnson  
Deputy Director  
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Administration on Disabilities  
Administration for Community Living  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer oversees AIDD’s administration of programs and initiatives, including programs funded under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. In this capacity, she seeks to develop and coordinate programs and activities for the provision of an array of services for people with developmental disabilities nationwide.

This session will engage participants in a conversation about the growth of the disability programs in the Administration for Community Living and the current ACL/AOD focus areas. They will also discuss the future for ACL/AOD and how AOD will continue to move the I/DD agenda forward, working collaboratively with the Independent Living, Developmental Disabilities, and Aging communities.

PLENARY PRESENTATION .................................................................9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

DD COUNCIL TRENDS IN FIVE-YEAR PLANS

INTRODUCTION

Barbara D. Ramsey
Deputy Director
Colorado Office of Community Living

PRESENTER

Donna A. Meltzer
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Donna joined the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in October 2012. She is immediate past chair of Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) where she also serves as chair of its Fiscal Policy Task Force. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Health Funding.

COFFEE / TEA BREAK and CHECK OUT .............................................10:15 AM – 10:45 AM
LOCATION Edison Foyer ABCD

PLENARY PANEL ........................................................................10:45 AM – 12:00 PM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

IDENTIFYING SERVICES TO ADDRESS DEMENTIA IN AGING ADULTS

INTRODUCTION

Mary Lou Bourne
Director National Core Indicators and Quality Assurance
NASDDDS
PLENARY PANELISTS

Alixe Bonardi
NCI Project Director
Human Services Research Institute

Alixe is also a clinical assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) and is a faculty member in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau-funded Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disability (LEND) program at the UMMS EK Shriver Center. Until 2014, she directed the Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER) at the Shriver Center where she developed quality improvement projects to support state developmental disabilities systems.

Matthew P. Janicki, Ph.D.
Co-Chair,
U.S. National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices
Research Associate Professor,
Department of Disability and Human Development, UIC
Director for Technical Assistance for the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities and Health

Mr. Janicki was also the former director for aging and special populations for the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, and was the project director of an effort that provided the World Health Organization with a series of background reports on promoting longevity among adults with intellectual disabilities throughout the world. He is the founding editor of the Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities.

Kelsey Walter
NCI-AD Project Director
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)

Before her role at NASUAD, Kelsey worked as a Program Analyst for the Oregon Department of Human Services' Office of Developmental Disability Services.

This presentation will cover the National Alzheimer's Project Act and the federal/national efforts being undertaken to address Alzheimer's disease. It will also cover the supports needed to identify and diagnose adults with suspected mild cognitive impairment or dementia, and prevalent service models for day and residential supports. In addition, data collection activities will be discussed to understand outcomes for people diagnosed with dementia in the NCI and NCI-AD surveys, as well as implications for care and supports planning.

CONFERENCE WRAP UP AND CONCLUSION ................................................................. 12:00 PM – 12:15 PM
LOCATION Edison ABCD

Mary Lee Fay
NASDDDS Executive Director
Welcome and Introductions

MARY LEE FAY became the NASDDDS Executive Director in August 2015. She joined NASDDDS in 2012 as the director of National Core Indicators and the NASDDDS Coordinator for the Community of Practice project on Supporting Families. Her main focus is working with states to create sustainable systems that will fully engage people with intellectual/developmental disabilities in their communities and honor the families and relationships that support those outcomes.

Mary Lee has more than 35 years of working in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. She worked for the state of Oregon Developmental Disabilities Office from 1987 to 2012 and was the state administrator for the program from 2001 until 2012, supporting 22,000 children and adults with I/DD and their families. Highlights of her work in Oregon include: closure of all private and public ICF/IDs, implementation of a self-directed waiver using independent brokerages, and redesign of services to focus on person-centered thinking.

BERNARD (BERNIE) SIMONS has been the Deputy Secretary of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene since April 2014. In this position, he is responsible for a DDA supports and services including all federally and state funded programs, oversight of all community provider agencies, four regional offices, two developmental centers and DDA's budget. Bernie has worked in the field for 40 years.

Prior to this role, Bernie served for eight years as the director of Missouri's Division of Developmental Disabilities under the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities with similar responsibilities as in his current position. He started his career at a direct support professional working in a center for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His prior experience includes being a regional director, assistant regional director, superintendent and direct support staff. He also worked as a consultant with numerous states on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and U.S. Department of Justice issues. Currently Bernie serves as president of the NASDDDS board of directors and has served board since 2011.

Keynote Speakers


Before joining NPR in 1975, Totenberg served as Washington editor of New York Times Magazine, and before that she was the legal affairs correspondent for the National Observer. Ms. Totenberg has won every major journalism award in broadcasting, and is the only radio journalist to have won the National Press Foundation award for Broadcaster of the Year.
JENNIFER JOHNSON is the Deputy Director of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), Administration on Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Jennifer Johnson oversees AIDD's administration of programs and initiatives, including programs funded under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. In this capacity, she seeks to develop and coordinate programs and activities for the provision of an array of services for people with developmental disabilities nationwide. Prior to this role, Johnson served in different positions in AIDD. She most recently was the director of AIDD's Office of Program Support where she was responsible for the coordination, oversight, management, and evaluation of state councils on developmental disabilities, protection and advocacy systems, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs).

Prior to joining AIDD, Johnson held positions in the Arlington County Public School system, at the Council for Exceptional Children, and at The George Washington University (GW) where she was also an adjunct lecturer teaching master's level coursework in research methodology, special education, and public policy. Dr. Johnson earned her doctorate in special education from GW.

BOB WILLIAMS is the Deputy Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities in the Administration for Community Living in the U.S. the Department of Health and Human Services. He is also the director of the Independent Living Administration within AOD. Prior to this, Williams headed the Social Security Administration's Employment Support Programs and co-chaired the federal government's Curb Cuts to the Middle Class initiative to create greater career path employment and economic mobility opportunities for people with significant disabilities. He has advised the Kaiser Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund and others on policy issues affecting the health, independence and economic well-being of Americans with disabilities of all ages. From 1993-2000, Williams served as commissioner on developmental disabilities and then as the deputy assistant secretary for disability, aging and long-term care policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In 1990, he worked on enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act, and began his career serving on a court appointed monitoring team charged with closing Forest Haven; the District of Columbia's institution for people with developmental disabilities. Williams graduated has a B.A. in Urban Affairs from The George Washington University in 1983. He grew up and first became a leader in the disability rights movement as a high school student in Connecticut in the 1970s. He now lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Helen Rader.

Presenters / Panelists

ALIXE BONARDI is the NCI Project Director for Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). She is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) and is a faculty member in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau-funded Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disability (LEND) program at the UMMS EK Shriver Center. Until 2014, she directed the Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER) at the Shriver Center where she developed quality improvement projects to support state developmental disabilities systems.

Alix is a licensed occupational therapist, completed a LEND policy fellowship at the EK Shriver Center and a Fulbright fellowship, developing risk management and supports policies for people
with intellectual disability in New Zealand. She has served as principal investigator for the Agency Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ)-funded projects examining a falls prevention intervention specific to people with intellectual disability, and Center for Disease Control-funded health surveillance studies. Her research interests include the promotion of health and wellness in people with intellectual disability, health surveillance, and support systems that promote good outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disability.

**VALERIE BRADLEY** is the President of the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). She and HSRI were there at the inception of National Core Indicators (NCI) in 1997 and have been partners with NASDDDS in this endeavor ever since. Ms. Bradley was part of the National Quality Enterprise for 12 years and provided technical assistance to states regarding waiver quality assurance. She is currently working with the states of Georgia and Florida to support statewide quality councils composed of a wide-range of stakeholders including self-advocates and families.

**CONNIE GARNER** focuses her practice as policy director and practice leader in the Government Strategies Practice Group, and executive director for Advance CLASS, Inc. Her areas of expertise include health care, disability, mental health and substance use disorders, long-term care, and education. Prior to joining Foley Hoag, she was the Executive Vice President for Policy at United Cerebral Palsy (UCP).

For 17 years, Garner served as policy director for disability and special populations to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), chaired by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and served as the primary consultant to the Democratic caucus on these issues. She stayed an additional year following Senator Kennedy’s death to help with the transition of the Committee to the new chairman. She worked with Senator Christopher Dodd, Senator Tom Harkin, and primarily with the late Chairman Senator Edward M. Kennedy. She was the lead Democratic Committee architect for the CLASS Act, the major long-term care legislation that was part of the Affordable Care Act; enactment of the landmark Mental Health Parity Act 2008; the 2006 and 2009 reauthorizations of the $2 billion Ryan White CARE Act; the Family Opportunity Act of 2006; the 2003 (most current) reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and the 1999 Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.

Garner also served in the U.S. Department of Education as Director of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities, and as the Secretary of Education’s principal liaison to HHS on interagency healthcare matters, including early intervention and prevention initiatives across the public health domain.

**AMY GONZALEZ** is a Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Amy works to engage federal and state partners to align policy that supports the Employment First philosophy through the Employment First State Leadership Program (EFSLMP). She also works with stakeholders to increase participation of youth and adults with disabilities in competitive integrated employment and integrated meaningful day activities. Prior to working with ODEP, Amy was the state director of employment and day services for the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD). During her tenure at DIDD, Amy managed the EFSLMP for the state of Tennessee and successfully supported two community rehabilitation providers (SRVS and St. John’s Community Services) to close their sheltered workshops. She also worked with state partners to execute memorandums of understanding: one for transitioning youth and another between
DIDD and vocational rehabilitation (VR). Additionally, she collaborated with internal divisions within the DIDD to create policies (Memorandum #210, July 2015 SE vs. FB memo and FB Joint Memo that was issued in July of 2016) that supported competitive integrated employment as the first and preferred service delivery option. She also served on the Employment and Community First CHOICES Technical Advisory Board which focused on including employment and community engagement in Tennessee's new managed long-term services and supports waiver. Amy also spearheaded the Employment First Task Force that was comprised of partners from cross-agency systems such as VR, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Bureau of TennCare, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, TennesseeWorks, Community Rehabilitation Providers, self-advocates, family members, National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Arc Tennessee, and Disability Rights Tennessee. The Task force was created on August 1, 2013, as a result of Executive Order No. 28 which was signed on June 19, 2013 by the governor.

**MELISSA HARRIS** has been with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) since the summer of 1995, and has served as the Director of the Division of Benefits and Coverage since 2012. She is responsible for overseeing implementation of most Medicaid benefits, including benefits provided to individuals in the Medicaid expansion population, and the establishment of national benefit policy. Starting in 2015, she is the Deputy Director for the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group, focusing on Medicaid benefit provision, delivery system issues, and home and community-based services (HCBS) regulation implementation. Prior to her current position, Melissa worked on a variety of programs serving the nation's elders and individuals living with a disability. With a focus on community-based alternatives to institutional placement, Melissa worked for more than 10 years on the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), along with other topics such as home health, targeted case management, and hospice care. Before becoming director of her current division, she was also technical director, and later deputy director. In 2003, Melissa was fortunate to participate in a three-month job-sharing opportunity with Children's Hospice International, a nonprofit organization promoting coordinated and holistic care for children with life-threatening conditions and their families.

**MATTHEW P. JANICKI, Ph.D.** is the co-chair of the U.S. National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, as well as a research associate professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the director for technical assistance for the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities and Health at the University. Formerly, he was director for aging and special populations for the Tennessee State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Currently, he is leading a study of specialized group homes designed for dementia related care of adult with intellectual disabilities, and previously was the principal investigator of studies examining how community agencies provide community supports to adults with intellectual disabilities affected by Alzheimer’s disease and how families are aided by community agencies in supporting adults with Down syndrome affected by Alzheimer's disease. He is the author of numerous books and articles in the area of aging, dementia, public policy, and rehabilitation with regard to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (including: *Dementia, Aging, and Intellectual Disabilities: A Handbook*) and has lectured and provided training in aging and intellectual disabilities across the world. He was also the project director of an effort that provided the World Health Organization with a series of background reports on promoting longevity among adults with intellectual disabilities throughout the world. He is the founding editor of the *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*. 
Bios...

COURTNEY KERSTER serves as Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM). In this role, she acts as the Congresswoman's advisor on health and long-term care issues, and the staff lead for the Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Caucus, a bipartisan, bicameral caucus that aims to educate members of Congress about caregiving issues, create an environment conducive to reaching bipartisan solutions, and build a sense of urgency to act. Courtney has been with Congresswoman Lujan Grisham since 2013, previously serving as her legislative director. Prior to her work in Congresswoman Lujan Grisham's office, Courtney spent five years in the office of Senator Jim Webb (D-VA). There, she served as a health care policy advisor during debate on, and ultimately passage of, the Affordable Care Act.

Courtney holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia.

SERENA LOWE is a Senior Policy Advisor within the Administration on Community Living's Office on Policy Analysis and Development. In this capacity, Serena serves on the CMS HCBS implementation team, which is responsible for supporting states in the successful implementation of CMS' 2014 final rule on home and community-based services. Prior to joining ACL, Serena served as a Senior Policy Adviser at the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). In this capacity, Serena was responsible for a number of Federal policy initiatives focused on promoting the socioeconomic advancement of citizens with disabilities, including the department's Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP).

Serena has spent the past 20 years serving in a variety of leadership roles focused on furthering policies that promote the socioeconomic empowerment of low-income working families, citizens with disabilities, aging Americans and other at-risk populations. Prior to her service within the federal government, Serena was the founder of Aneres Strategies LLC, a government relations consulting enterprise focused on developing innovative public policy strategies to a number of public, nonprofit, and private entities in the areas of health, employment, education, economic development, and taxation policy. During this time, Serena also served as the Executive Director of the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD). Early in her career, Serena worked as a legislative advisor to two Members of the U.S. Congress, where she served as the staff coordinator for the Congressional Rural Caucus, and worked on a number of landmark legislation, including but not limited to passage of the Children's Health Act of 2000, reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, introduction of the Drug Import Fairness Act of 1999, and inclusion of key provisions related to parity in care for Medicaid beneficiaries in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999. Serena holds a B.A. in international and public affairs from Westminster College; an M.P.H. in international health policy and M.A. in international development policy from George Washington University; and a Ph.D. in public administration from American University.

DONNA MELTZER joined the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in October 2012. She is Immediate Past Chair of Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) where she also serves as Chair of its Fiscal Policy Task Force. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Health Funding (CHF). Previously, she was the Senior Director of Government Relations for the Epilepsy Foundation which she rejoined in July 2005 after having previously worked for the foundation from 1987–1993. She also served as Director of Legislative Affairs for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) from 1995–2005. Ms. Meltzer began her career on Capitol Hill working for the Honorable Tony Coelho (D-CA), who is the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Ms. Meltzer also spent two years as the Government Affairs Director for the National Health Council.
MIKE NARDONE joined the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) as Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG) in January 2016. Mike has more than 30 years’ experience in health and human services, having held positions at the state, local, and national levels. Mike comes to the agency from working as a Managing Principal at Health Management Associates (HMA) where, as founding member of the Harrisburg office, he led a series of projects focused on state efforts to improve systems of care for Medicaid consumers.

Prior to his role at HMA, Mike served as acting secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, a $27-billion, 17,000-employee department with responsibility for the state’s major health and human services programs, including Medical Assistance. He also previously served as deputy secretary of the state’s Medicaid program, working to advance the state’s managed care and managed fee for service delivery systems to better serve Pennsylvania’s more than 2 million Medicaid beneficiaries. As Medicaid Director, Mike also served as an elected member of the executive committee of the National Association of Medicaid Directors and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Medicaid Leadership Institute Fellow. Earlier in his tenure in Pennsylvania government, Mike served as Executive Director of the Governor’s Long Term Living Council, a cabinet-level group charged with rebalancing the state’s long-term care system to increase the use of home and community-based services for consumers of long term services and supports.

Mike also has extensive experience in the housing policy arena, having led the City of Philadelphia’s homeless services system as Deputy Managing Director for Special Needs Housing. He also previously has held government relations positions in Federal and State health policy, having played a lead role for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as Associate Executive Vice President for Government Relations at the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Mike holds a master’s degree in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University, and is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Haverford College.

ELLEN NISSENBAUM is the Senior Vice President for Government Affairs for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Since 1984, she has directed the center’s work with federal policymakers and with other national organizations on a broad range of policy issues. These include federal budget and tax issues (with a particular focus on refundable tax credits for low-income working families), Medicaid and health care, nutrition programs, and other critical policies. Regarded as one of the leading legislative directors among nonprofit organizations in Washington, Ellen assists a broad array of both national and state organizations and coalitions, providing information on key policy developments in Congress and the Executive Branch, strategic guidance, and communications planning for their work on key federal policies. She also gives speeches regularly at conferences and conducts briefings on an array of federal policy and legislative developments for policy makers and other organizations. Ellen is frequently sought out by journalists at prominent news outlets covering legislative and budget developments for analysis and commentary on congressional developments.

MEGAN PEREZ studied political science at the University of South Florida, and moved to Washington, D.C. from Tampa, Florida to pursue a career on Capitol Hill. Passionate about the federal government and the ability to impact change on her community, and the nation, Megan has worked for several Members of Congress including Representative C.W. Bill Young (R-FL) and Representative Lou Barletta (R-PA) advising on issues from health care to national defense. With more than five years of experience in Congress, Megan currently works as the Legislative Director for Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House GOP Conference Chair, and advises her on health care, education, labor, and disability.
STUART PORTMAN, MPH serves as a Healthcare Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch. In this role, he provides policy recommendations on a variety of health matters ranging from health information technology to disease research and pharmaceutical development, among others. Stuart also serves as deputy to the Medicaid adviser for Chairman Hatch, linking the Utah perspective to broader policy debates and working collaboratively on pressing Medicaid issues across the country.

Stuart received his master’s of public health degree specializing in health policy from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University. While there, he investigated the development and sustainability planning for state health information exchange programs, as well as focused on Medicaid coverage determination decisions and ethical debates within the health services community, including state coverage of behavioral health treatments and care for people with disabilities.

KELSEY WALTER has served as the project director for the National Core Indicators–Aging and Disabilities quality of life survey at the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) since 2011. Before her role at NASUAD, Kelsey worked as a program analyst for the Oregon Department of Human Services’ Office of Developmental Disability Services. She earned a master’s in social work from Augsburg College and a B.A. in English from South Dakota State University.
On the Cover...
"Nested Trio"
By Heart Artist Micah Neff

Micah attends the Tuesday evening class. He is highly driven when it comes to art class, and gets excited about making art. He is very enthusiastic about painting. He paints with an expressive style, using a mix of realism and abstract.