Conference Program

Cementing the Foundation for Long-Term Services and Supports

NASDDDS Directors Forum & Annual Conference
November 8-10, 2017
Arlington, Virginia
NASDDDS Extends Appreciation to our Sponsors

THURSDAY MORNING BREAKFAST SPONSOR
Anthem, Inc

THURSDAY AWARD LUNCHEON SPONSOR
Benchmark Human Services

THURSDAY RECEPTION SPONSOR
Therap Services, LLC
NASDDDS Extends Appreciation to our Sponsors

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST SPONSOR
RSM US LLP

SPEAKER SPONSOR
Mediware

SPEAKER SPONSOR
The Columbus Organization
EXHIBITORS HOURS

Thursday: 7:30 AM – 6:30 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 Atrium / Foyer
(see 'Exhibitors List' in the folder packet for floor plan, descriptions, and contact information)

EXHIBITORS

Advocare
Anthem, Inc
APSE
Benchmark Human Services
CapGrow Partners
Direct Care Innovations
Genoa, a QoL Healthcare Company
Health Risk Screening
Liberty Healthcare Corporation
Mediware
Molina Healthcare
Premier Healthcare Services
Resources for Integrated Care
RSM US LLP
Scioto Properties
SimplyHome
Therap Services, LLC
VERTEXSS
THE WESTIN CRYSTAL CITY
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia

LOCATIONS

FUNCTION

Atrium / Foyer .................................................. REGISTRATION (Wednesday-Friday)
Jefferson Ballroom 2 & 3 ....................................... Directors Forum (Wednesday)
Atrium / Foyer .................................................. Exhibits (Thursday-Friday)
Atrium / Foyer .............................................. Breakfast & Coffee / Tea Breaks (Thursday-Friday)
Atrium / Foyer .................................................. RECEPTION
Jefferson Ballroom ................... All Keynotes & Plenary Sessions (Thursday-Friday)
# Sessions at a Glance...

## Wednesday November 8

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<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>Registration</td>
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<td>8:30 AM – 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Directors Forum</td>
<td>Jefferson Ballroom 2 &amp; 3 Open Only to State DD Directors, Proxy, and/or Designated Staff</td>
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## Thursday November 9

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<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
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<td>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Censoni Award Luncheon</td>
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## Friday November 10

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<td>Conference Wrap Up and Conclusion</td>
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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

DIRECTORS FORUM
Open Only to State DD Directors, Proxy, and/or Designated Staff
Jefferson Ballroom 2 & 3

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  Breakfast
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM  Welcome and Member Introductions
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Presentation and 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  Presentation and Discussion
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 9

BREAKFAST ........................................................................ 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
Atrium / Foyer

Thank You to Anthem, Inc. for Sponsoring the Morning Breakfast

REGISTRATION ....................................................................... 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Atrium / Foyer

EXHIBITS ........................................................................ 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM
Atrium / Foyer

Please be Sure to Visit our Exhibitors in the Atrium / Foyer

WELCOME, KEYNOTE, and PLENARY PRESENTATIONS......... 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Jefferson Ballroom

WELCOME ........................................................................ 8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

Mary Lee Fay
Executive Director
NASDDDS

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

KEYNOTE ADDRESS ................................................................ 8:45 AM – 10:00 AM

ACL — The Way Forward

INTRODUCTION
John Martin
Vice President / President Elect, NASDDDS Board of Directors
Director, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) was created around the fundamental principle that older adults and people with disabilities of all ages should be able to live independently and fully participate in their communities. By funding services and supports provided by networks of community-based organizations, and with investments in research and innovation, ACL helps make this principle a reality for millions of Americans. Mary Lazare and Melissa Ortiz will talk about the agency’s vision for the future and how ACL is working to expand and improve opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mary Lazare
Principal Deputy Administrator
Administration for Community Living

With master's degrees in both management and gerontology and an extensive career in long-term care and community health operations, Mary Lazare combines hands-on program-level knowledge with strategic planning and organizational development expertise, and has led organizations in delivering quality services and advocating for the people they serve while adhering to sound stewardship principles.

Melissa Ortiz
Commissioner
Administration on Disabilities
Administration for Community Living

Melissa Ortiz has worked in Nashville, Tennessee, in the nonprofit sector in Washington, D.C. and New York City, and on a number of political campaigns around the country. She believes that everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, regardless of disability and is committed to ensuring people with disabilities have access to the necessary tools and supports to live independently.

COFFEE / TEA BREAK.......................................................... 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Atrium / Foyer

PLENARY PANEL.............................................................. 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM
Jefferson Ballroom

Implementation of HCBS Settings Regulations

INTRODUCTION
Mark A. Thomas
Member-at-Large, NASDDDS Board of Directors
Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Mike Nardone and Melissa Harris will provide the status of national implementation activities associated with the Medicaid home and community-based services settings regulation as well as an update on collaboration efforts with states and state associations in both policy and operational issues.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

PANELISTS

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

Mike joined CMS in January 2016 and has more than 30 years of experience in health and human services, having held positions at the state, local, and national levels.

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.

PLENARY PANEL .......................... 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM
Jefferson Ballroom

CMS Transition Plans: Moving to Final

INTRODUCTION
Courtney Tarver
Member-at-Large, NASDDDS Board of Directors
Associate Commissioner, Alabama Division of Developmental Disabilities

Hear from D.C., Oklahoma, and Kentucky who have recently received final approval from CMS on their statewide transition plans. Specifically, these states will highlight issues raised during plan approval negotiations and systems change efforts underway.

PANELISTS

Claudia Johnson
Director
Developmental Disabilities Division
Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Ms. Johnson has 36 years of experience in the field of intellectual disabilities in both institutional and community settings.
Mr. Hester oversees the administration of community service programs including the home and community-based waivers, service authorization, intake, policy development, and oversight of community protection programs.

Ms. Leveton supports the office in policy and legislative affairs, program development, stakeholder relations, and helping DDS to accelerate gains in performance and best practice in areas such as Employment First, person-centered thinking, community integration, and self-determination / supported decision-making.

WARD LUNCHEON............................................................12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Jefferson Ballroom

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."

WARD WINNER
Elin Howe

Elin M. Howe has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for 44 years. She began her career with the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene in 1972, employed by the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (now the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities) from 1978 to 1993. Among her positions in New York, Ms. Howe served as Deputy Director and Director at the Willowbrook Developmental Center and held positions as Associate Commissioner for the Southeast Region, Associate Commissioner for the New York City Region and Executive Deputy Commissioner. From 1989 to 1993, she served as the agency's Commissioner. She works as an independent consultant and for 10 years as a consultant and Director of Consulting Services for The Columbus Organization, Ms. Howe provided consultation to 12 states and served as the Independent Monitor on two Settlement Agreements between the U.S. Department of Justice and the state of New Jersey and as the Internal Compliance Monitor in the Jackson vs. Fort Stanton class action lawsuit in New Mexico. Ms. Howe served as Commissioner of the
Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services from 2007 to 2017. During her tenure, Massachusetts was disengaged from a federal lawsuit on nursing facilities and four state institutions were closed. Ms. Howe currently works as a consultant for The Columbus Organization.

**AWARD WINNER**

**Helene DeSanto**

Helene DeSanto started working with persons with disabilities in Pennsylvania as a direct care professional working in an integrated recreation program for children with developmental disabilities. After receiving a master's degree in special education from Syracuse University, Helene began her career in New York state in 1978 joining the newly formed Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, now the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities. Over the past 39 years, she has worked in various leadership positions both in the field and central office and has been directly involved in all of the major events in the evolution of I/DD services in New York, including the closure of more than 20 institutions; the development of an extensive system of home and community-based waiver supports, and most recently, planning the transformation to a care coordination in preparation for the future move to managed care. The strong involvement of stakeholders has been the foundation of this change; working in partnership with self-advocates, families, providers and government officials has been a hallmark of Helene's work and New York's success in building a system of high-quality, person-centered supports.

*Thank You to Benchmark Human Services for Sponsoring the Award Luncheon*

**PLENARY PRESENTATION**

**NCI at 20**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Mary Lee Fay**

NASDDDS Executive Director

Valerie Bradley's presentation will include a review of 20 years of National Core Indicators data focusing on the factors that prompted the development of NCI, the importance of outcome data on quality improvement, and a longitudinal look at some of the important trends that NCI has spotlighted. Her presentation will also include a video that provides multiple perspectives on the impact of NCI.

**PRESENTER**

**Valerie Bradley**

President Emerita

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.
Principles and Approaches to Foster and Sustain Quality Improvement in I/DD Organizations

INTRODUCTION
Mary Lou Bourne
NASDDDS Director of National Core Indicators and Quality Assurance

Steve Staugaitis and Emily Lauer will review and discuss a variety of important principles for the practical development of a systematic approach to promote and sustain quality within public and private organizations supporting people with disabilities. Specifically, the presentation will focus on:

- Designing QI systems that effectively use and integrate information and data
- The role of leadership in establishing an organizational culture that expects quality and safety
- Recognizing the critical role of human behavior in preventing errors and providing quality support
- Examples of some important analytic tools to move beyond simple incident reporting
- How to use these processes to promote and sustain change — examples from real life and some take-away resources

PANELISTS

Steven Staugaitis, Ph.D.
Faculty, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

Dr. Staugaitis is on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health where he provides support to the E.K. Shriver Center, Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER). Steve has more than 40 years of direct experience working with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and in providing direct support, clinical services, and in administering local, regional, and statewide programs.

Emily Lauer, M.P.H.
Director / Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER)
Instructor / Department of Family Medicine and Community Health,
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Emily has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for more than 12 years. She works closely with public and private disability service agencies and government organizations to help them utilize best practice approaches to health and risk surveillance as a tool for implementing targeted improvements to health and service quality.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Please be Sure to Visit our Exhibitors in the Atrium / Foyer During the Break

PLENARY PANEL ..................................................................................................................3:45 PM – 5:00 PM
Jefferson Ballroom

Person-Centered Systems: The Role of State and Local Administration

INTRODUCTION

Mary Brogan
Chief, Hawaii Developmental Disabilities Division

State and local administrative management agencies carry out a significant role in establishing person-centered approaches throughout the I/DD service system, beyond the requirements for person-centered planning. Changing the way support professionals and clinical professionals engage, and the role of the service coordinators will be explored. Presenters from Michigan, North Carolina, and Minnesota will discuss how they changed the thinking, the culture, the measures, and the manner in which a state office engages with local agencies and providers.

PANELISTS

Annette Downey
Trainer and Consultant
National Center for Self-Determination
Executive Director of Community Living Services of Oakland County

Annette Downey has 24 years of experience working with both children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is frequently an invited speaker at conferences throughout the state of Michigan and nationally on topics including person-centered planning, self-determination, income generation for all, and community-focused service provision.

Christina Dupuch
Chief Operating Officer / Senior Policy Advisor
Vaya Health

As Chief Operating Officer for Vaya Health, Christina Dupuch plays a key role in oversight of Vaya’s enterprise performance and administration, as well as business and corporate strategy, across the 23 western North Carolina counties that Vaya serves.

Alex Bartolic
Director, Disability Services Division
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Alex has extensive experience at the state and local level with home and community-based services. After beginning her career in special education, she moved to develop supports for families and community services for people with disabilities.
Join us at the reception — open to all conference attendees and offers a great opportunity to meet people, network, and visit with our exhibitors.

Cash Bar
Complimentary Hors d’Oeuvres

Thank You to Therap Services for Sponsoring the Reception
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Breakfast ........................................................................... 7:30 AM – 8:45 AM  
Atrium / Foyer

Thank You to RSM US LLP for sponsoring the Morning Breakfast

REGISTRATION ..................................................................... 7:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
Atrium / Foyer

EXHIBITS ........................................................................ 7:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
Atrium / Foyer

Please be Sure to Visit our Exhibitors in the Atrium / Foyer

KEYNOTE ........................................................................ 8:45 AM – 9:30 AM  
Jefferson Ballroom

Appreciating Systems Change

INTRODUCTION

Alex Bartolic
Member-at-Large, NASDDDS Board of Directors  
Director, Minnesota Disability Services Division

Ursula Wright will discuss the importance of taking a systems perspective when solving social problems and how to appreciate the ebbs and flows of the systems change journey.

PRESENTER

Ursula Wright
Co-Lead the Education & Youth Practice  
FSG

Ms. Wright works for FSG, a mission-driven consulting firm for leaders in search of large-scale, lasting social change. Through its combination of customized services, powerful ideas, and learning communities, FSG helps foundations, businesses, nonprofits, and governments around the world accelerate impact. FSG is also a recognized thought leader in creating ‘collective impact’, which occurs when organizations from different sectors agree to solve a specific social problem by aligning their efforts using a common agenda and shared measures of success.

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Friday, November 10

PLENARY PANEL.................................................................9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Jefferson Ballroom

Updates from the Hill

INTRODUCTION
Dan Berland
NASDDDS Director of Federal Policy

What can we expect from Congress in 2018 and beyond? Stuart Portman and Michael Gamel-McCormick, key disability policy staffers, will discuss the landscape for disability policy in Congress now and in the near future.

PANELISTS

Stuart Portman, MPH
Health Policy Advisor
Medicaid, CHIP, and ACA Exchange Senate Finance Committee

Stuart particularly values conversations on long-term care, data collection, and program integrity across state programs.

Michael Gamel-McCormick
Disability Policy Director for
Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania

Michael is the Disability Policy Director for Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania working on health, education, employment, civil rights and justice, transportation, housing, and other issues related to federal disability policy.

COFFEE / TEA BREAK and CHECK OUT............................................10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Atrium / Foyer

PLENARY PANEL.................................................................11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Jefferson Ballroom

Looking Ahead: Long-Term Services and Supports Forecast for 2018

INTRODUCTION
Robin Cooper
NASDDDS Director of Technical Assistance

During their time on the Hill, Connie Garner and Rodney Whitlock were leaders in federal LTSS policy, and continue to drive the discussion about our nation’s long-term care system. They will share their thoughts about the future of LTC policy in the United States.
PANELISTS

**Connie Garner**
Vice President for Disability Policy & Education Policy  
ML Strategies Mintz Levin Law Firm

As Vice President for disability and education policy, Connie Garner focuses her practice on policy development, implementation, and advocacy strategy related to vulnerable populations.

**Rodney Whitlock**
Vice President, Health Policy  
ML Strategies

Rodney is a veteran health care policy professional with more than 20 years of experience working with the U.S. Congress, where he served as health policy advisor and as Acting Health Policy Director for Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa and, earlier, on the staff of former U.S. Representative Charlie Norwood of Georgia.

CONFERENCE WRAP UP AND CONCLUSION ......................... 12:00 PM – 12:15 PM  
Jefferson Ballroom

**Mary Lee Fay**
NASDDDS Executive Director

**Plan to Join Us in Ohio for the**  
**2018 Directors Forum & Mid-Year Conference**  
**June 6-8**
Bios...

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 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

MARY LAZARE came to ACL from St. Louis, Missouri, where she most recently served as vice president for home and community-based services for Lutheran Senior Services. With master's degrees in both management and gerontology and an extensive career in long-term care and community health operations, she combines hands-on program-level knowledge with strategic planning and organizational development expertise, and has led organizations in delivering quality services and advocating for the people they serve while adhering to sound stewardship principles.

MELISSA ORTIZ believes that everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, regardless of disability. Her mission is to provide people with disabilities with the necessary tools and supports to live independently. Her belief is that these fundamental rights are woven into our national fabric.

In her role as Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities, she is enthusiastic about working on behalf of Americans with disabilities. She has worked in the classroom in Nashville, Tennessee, in the
nonprofit sector in Washington, D.C. and New York City, on a number of political campaigns around the country, and has bent the ear of some of the country's most powerful leaders in the process.

She identifies as a "happy patriot" and is committed to driving a dialogue between both sides of the political aisle and people with disabilities. She is uniquely suited to bridge the gap between these groups and is passionate about creating solutions. She currently resides in Washington, D.C. with her husband Tony and service dog dachshund, Annie Oakley.

**URSULA WRIGHT** works for FSG, a mission-driven consulting firm for leaders in search of large-scale, lasting social change. Through its combination of customized services, powerful ideas, and learning communities, FSG helps foundations, businesses, nonprofits, and governments around the world accelerate impact. FSG is also a recognized thought leader in creating 'collective impact', which occurs when organizations from different sectors agree to solve a specific social problem by aligning their efforts using a common agenda and shared measures of success.

Ms. Wright's immediate past position was with the Obama Administration where she served as the Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Innovation and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education. In this capacity, she served as the Department's policy lead on place-based initiatives like Promise Zones, Promise Neighborhoods, and Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2). Ms. Wright's portfolio also included the federal Charter Schools Program, personalized learning, and a host of special projects for the White House.

Prior to her government service, Ms. Wright was an executive at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools ("NAPCS"), the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the quality growth of the charter school movement. She helped grow NAPCS from a start-up to an established organization serving millions charter school students nationwide and more than an additional one million students on charter school waiting lists. Before transitioning to the not-for-profit sector, Ms. Wright developed functional competencies in strategy, operations, finance, and marketing at some of the nation's most recognized private sector firms.

Ms. Wright has further contributed to public education through her board service, including tenures with The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing, certifying, and supporting people who want to improve their communities by becoming a teacher, and Achievement Preparatory Academy, a high performing charter school in Washington, DC's most economically disadvantaged ward. She is also an appointee to the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) of Montgomery County, MD.

**PRESENTERS / PANELISTS**

**ALEX BARTOLIC** is the Director of Disability Services at the Minnesota Department of Human Services. She has extensive experience at the state and local level with home and community-based services. After beginning her career in special education, she moved to develop supports for families, and community services for people with disabilities. Alex has been recognized as an innovator, and fostering new approaches that have enabled people with disabilities to live and work in their communities. She is currently
leading a reform of Minnesota's home and community-based system to better respond to the expectations and future needs of Minnesotans with disabilities.

VALERIE BRADLEY is the President Emerita 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.

ANNETTE DOWNEY has 24 years of experience working with both children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is frequently an invited speaker at conferences throughout the state of Michigan and nationally on topics including person-centered planning, self-determination, income generation for all, and community-focused service provision. Annette is a tireless advocate for systems change aimed at promoting people with disabilities' right to choose their own life paths and to control who, what, when, where, and how their supports are provided.

Annette is a trainer and consultant for the national Center for Self-Determination, and is also the Executive Director of Community Living Services of Oakland County, in Southeast Michigan.

CHRISTINA DUPUCH is the Chief Operating Officer for Vaya Health. Ms. Dupuch plays a key role in oversight of Vaya's enterprise performance and administration, as well as business and corporate strategy, across the 23 western North Carolina counties that Vaya serves. Dupuch has experience leading strategic and operational initiatives to advance Vaya's key priorities and oversees the organization's Provider Network, Community Relations, Customer Services, Transition to Community Living Initiative, and Organizational Effectiveness departments.

Prior to serving at Vaya, Dupuch developed her expertise over 32 years with the state of North Carolina's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (MH/DD/SAS), where she served on the executive leadership team as Implementation Director. Dupuch was the liaison between the Division of MH/DD/SAS and the state's Division of Medical Assistance for six years, working across all three fields of services and all ages.

Dupuch has extensive training in the evidence-based practice of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). She has adapted DBT for individuals dually diagnosed with mental health disorders and intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. She has consulted in 26 states; building innovative community systems and helping some of our most vulnerable individuals live full, meaningful lives. Dupuch has incorporated whole-person care within the DBT clinical model, as well as within the Vaya system.

Dupuch received her masters of clinical and administrative social work from East Carolina University. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities, the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed, ACMHA: The College for Behavioral Health Leadership, and multiple other organizations.
MICHAEL GAMEL-MCCORMICK is the Disability Policy Director for Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania working on health, education, employment, civil rights and justice, transportation, housing, and other issues related to federal disability policy. He was also the Disability Policy Director and senior education advisor for Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa. He is the former Associate Executive Director for Research and Policy at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. He was a professor and dean at the University of Delaware for 17 years and the director of the Center for Disabilities Studies at the university for nine years. His areas of research were early intervention and early childhood education, family support, transition, and disability studies. Prior to his higher education and policy work, he was an early childhood teacher and early interventionist for 15 years in Wisconsin and Virginia.

CONNIE GARNER is Vice President for disability and focuses her practice on policy development, implementation, and advocacy strategy related to vulnerable populations. In addition, she serves as the Executive Director of "Allies for Independence" - a nonprofit coalition dedicated to addressing long-term care needs. Her areas of expertise include health care, disability, mental health and substance use disorders, infectious diseases, long-term care, and education.

Her current consulting work involves advising states and health insurers on needed services and supports as they begin to include vulnerable populations in Medicaid managed care. Another primary area of consultation involves the implementation of mental health parity and the parity regulations. Connie also provides technical assistance on SAMHSA, Ryan White, Mental Health Parity, the implementation of the new school mental health provisions in ESSA, and the upcoming IDEA and Higher Education reauthorizations.

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), and served as the primary consultant to the Democratic caucus on disability and special population issues.

She worked with Senators Christopher Dodd, 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 legislation; 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 long-term services and supports, and early intervention/prevention initiatives across the public health domain.

In addition to her work at the federal level, Garner has practiced as both a hospital and community public health clinical nurse specialist, including as the nursing administrator for maternal-child health inpatient hospital units in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. areas. She continues this work as a nurse practitioner, on a per diem basis.

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
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ERIN LEVETON serves at the Program Manager of the State Office of Disability Administration at the District of Columbia Department on Disability Services (DDS), supporting the agency in policy and legislative affairs, program development, stakeholder relations, and helping DDS to accelerate gains in performance and best practice in areas such as employment first, person-centered thinking, community

RAY HESTER, M.Ed. is a Program Administrator for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS). He oversees the administration of community service programs including the home and community-based waivers, service authorization, intake, policy development, and oversight of community protection programs. Ray received his B.A. from Northeastern State University, and a M.Ed. from the University of Oklahoma.

CLAUDIA JOHNSON has 36 years of experience in the field of intellectual disabilities and has worked for the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities for 17 years; she is currently Director of the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. Prior to that, her experience was with the Texas Department of Health. Claudia has a variety of experience in both institutional and community settings. She serves as a state agency representative for the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities as well as the UCED Consumer Advisory Council. Claudia has worked closely with the Department for Medicaid Services on implementation of the HCBS Final Rule and the heightened scrutiny process.

EMILY LAUER, M.P.H. has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for more than 12 years. She works closely with public and private disability service agencies and government organizations to help them utilize best practice approaches to health and risk surveillance as a tool for implementing targeted improvements to health and service quality. Ms. Lauer has been collecting and analyzing information on morbidity and mortality trends in people with disabilities for more than a decade. Together with Dr. Steven Staugaitis, she has co-authored the UDIscover training courses "Mortality Review and Reporting in Developmental Disabilities" as well as other offerings in the "Risk Management in Developmental Disabilities" series.

Ms. Lauer has a master's degree in public health focusing in biostatistics from the UMDNJ/Rutgers School of Public Health and received Stuart D. Cook Public Health Research Award for her fieldwork in factors predicting medication errors in adults with I/DD. She holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Boston University.

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integration, and self-determination / supported decision-making. In this position, she leads the D.C. Supporting Families Community of Practice.

Erin also is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, teaching a practicum course she developed on advocating with and on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Previously, Erin worked as the legal director at the Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, an independent, nonprofit advocacy organization advancing the interests of District residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Erin has more than 25 years of experience working with people with disabilities, including 19 years providing legal services and policy work. Before attending law school, Erin worked throughout college as a paraprofessional in special education. Erin graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School; and magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Binghamton University. Erin received a Vallecitos Mountain Refuge Social Justice Fellowship, and has been recognized by Georgetown University, Human Rights Action - Amnesty International as Outstanding Human Rights Practitioner for her work on behalf of people with disabilities in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

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.

STUART PORTMAN is the Health Policy Advisor for Medicaid, CHIP, and ACA Exchange policies for the Senate Finance Committee. He particularly values conversations on long-term care, data collection, and program integrity across state programs. Previously, he served as the Senior Healthcare Legislative Assistant for Senator Orrin Hatch's personal staff. Stuart is from St. Louis, Missouri, and completed his Master of Public Health degree from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at GW.
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DR. STEVEN STAUGAITIS is on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health where he provides support to the E.K. Shriver Center, Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER). Steve has over 40 years of direct experience working with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and in providing direct support, clinical services and in administering local, regional and statewide programs.

He is a licensed clinical psychologist who has managed large I/DD facilities and community support systems that serve people with disabilities. Steve has been a consultant to a variety of state and private provider organizations within the United States, providing technical assistance, training and policy development support in the areas of quality improvement, risk and data management and program evaluation. He has been a principal investigator on a number of federal and state grants, including a recent grant from the National Institutes of Health that supported the development of a series of internet based courses and books related to risk management in the field of DD. This latter work focuses on how to use and integrate different quality management and risk assessment approaches - such as incident management, root cause analysis and mortality review - as practical tools to design, implement and sustain positive improvement in the quality and safety of services and supports within organizations and state I/DD systems.

RODNEY WHITLOCK is a veteran health care policy professional with more than 20 years of experience working with the US Congress, where he served as health policy advisor and as Acting Health Policy Director for Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa and, earlier, on the staff of former US Representative Charlie Norwood of Georgia.

During his years with Representative Norwood, Rodney managed the Patients’ Bill of Rights, which passed the House in 1999 and 2001. In February 2005, Rodney left the office of Congressman Norwood to join the Finance Committee Staff as a health policy advisor to Chairman Grassley. In that capacity, he was lead Senate staffer for the Medicaid provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

In 2007, Rodney worked on the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, which passed Congress twice and was subsequently vetoed twice by President George W. Bush. Rodney spent 2009 and 2010 deeply engaged in health care reform legislation. Late in 2010, he became the Acting Health Policy Director for Senator Grassley, and shepherded the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 into law. Following his tenure in Senator Grassley’s Congressional office, Rodney served as Health Policy Director in the Senator’s personal office.
A graduate of the Harbor School, Zach joined Make Studio in the summer of 2012, bringing with him a strong interest in comics, animation and science fiction. A man with many goals in fine and digital art, Zach is currently expanding his artistic repertoire from colored pencils and markers, exposing himself to various media and techniques, drawing his inspiration from animation as well as real life.