



2021

**WISCONSIN
EMPLOYMENT
FIRST
CONFERENCE**

More Than a Job:

**Harnessing the Power of Person-Centered Thinking
to Raise Expectations and Drive Innovation**

May 12 – 13, 2021



The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
welcomes you to the **2021 Employment First Conference!**

2021 Wisconsin Employment First Conference

More Than a Job: Harnessing the Power of Person-Centered Thinking to Raise Expectations and Drive Innovation

What a challenging year it has been! Feelings of isolation, fear, and uncertainty. But it has also been a year of thinking about what's really important: What is on my bucket list? What can I change? How do I want to spend my time when this pandemic is finally over?

The pandemic has been hard on the service system, but also gives us an opportunity to look at ways to do things differently and better. Conversations about social isolation, equity, and person-centered planning emerged in Zoom meetings and learning collaboratives across the state. So, it only made sense to make big change the focus of this year's conference.

Employment First doesn't mean "employment only." People have lives outside of work that must be nurtured: connections to family, friends, and community. We need to know each person's hopes and dreams to provide the right kind of support. And the best way to learn that is by connecting directly to people with disabilities and their families. "Nothing without us about us!" as the famous self-advocate saying goes. We are excited to have Nicole LeBlanc, a self-advocate working with the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS), as our keynote speaker. Nicole will tell us why it is essential that people with disabilities control their own lives and destiny and why this is important in employment.

This past year has also shed light on the systemic inequities that exist across our country and in our systems, including our disability service systems. Not only are service systems difficult to navigate, in many cases they don't respect or align with the values and experiences of people of color. We need to elevate this conversation, which is why we added a special pre-conference event with Stephen Graves, Manager of Culture and Belonging at GT Independence, one of our conference sponsors. Stephen will share steps each of us can take personally and professionally to see and respond to bias. A 90-minute session will barely scratch the surface but is sure to create awareness as well as some useful strategies.

We welcome you to the virtual 2021 Wisconsin Employment First Conference! Our new virtual world allows for more participants from all over Wisconsin as well as from other states and countries: Michigan, California, North Carolina, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia, Indiana, Florida, British Columbia, Ontario, and Malaysia! We sincerely hope you enjoy the conference and find inspiration and practical ideas throughout the day.



CRCs and CEUs are provided by Stout Vocational
Rehabilitation Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.



2021 EMPLOYMENT FIRST CONFERENCE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 – PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION AND EVENT

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Pre-Conference Session

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Night Market and WI APSE
Networking Hour

THURSDAY, MAY 13 – CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:45 - 9:00 a.m.
Log into Zoom

9:00 - 10:50 a.m.
Welcome, Plenary and Panel

10:50 - 11:00 a.m.
Break

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Morning Breakout Sessions

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch Break and Concert

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Afternoon Session, Community
Conversation and Wrap Up



GENERAL INFORMATION

Zoom Links, Handouts, Dial-In Information

Please visit this webpage for the conference schedule and Zoom links:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/conted/Pages/Employment-First-2021.aspx>

- Just like at an in-person conference where each presentation is held in a separate room, each of our sessions has its own unique Zoom link.
- Simply visit the webpage above and navigate to the "Virtual Conference Links" section.
- You will find a list of all the sessions, session descriptions and handouts.
- Click where it says, "Click to join (name of session)" at the designated start time, and you will be joined to that session. Please note, when you join the session, you will first enter a "waiting room". The moderator of the session will allow you to enter in a few moments.
- At the end of the session, leave or close out of that 'room'.
- Return to the webpage above to find the Zoom link for the next session.
- If you are using a phone to dial-in and listen to the conference, you will find the Dial-In Number and the Meeting ID next to the Zoom link for each session on the webpage above.

All Abilities Market

All Abilities Market showcases Wisconsin-based artists and makers with disabilities. Every artist has their unique style and product list. Check it out!

<https://www.allamarket.org/> Artists (microenterprise vendors) who plan to participate in the Night Market and Networking Hour on May 12th have a profile in this program.

Closed captioning is available for the plenary and breakout sessions. Please follow these directions:

1. Once you are connected to the Zoom meeting, you should see a dialog box with a button to "Join with Computer Audio." Please click this button before closing that dialog box.
2. Move your cursor to the bottom of the screen to show the Zoom Taskbar. On the Taskbar is an icon for Closed Captions. Click on the up arrow to the right of the closed caption icon to pull up the caption menu.
3. Click on "Show Subtitle." Captions should now appear near the bottom of your screen.

Information about CRCs and CEUs

CRCs and CEUs are provided by Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. People seeking CEUs/CRCs should look for the link to a Google Form posted in the chat box at the end of each session. Copy the link to enter it in a new browser window to complete the form. This will verify your attendance in the session. Email Shannon Webb or Molly Cooney with questions:

shannon@incontrolwisconsin.org or molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov.

We need your feedback!

Your feedback on this year's conference is more important than ever! We want to hear how the virtual format worked for you and your suggestions for improvement. Please take a few minutes to complete the conference survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EFC_2021

Do you need help?

If you run into problems with technology during the conference, call Jeremy Gundlach at **608-561-1566**.



More Than a Job: Harnessing the Power of Person-Centered Thinking to Raise Expectations and Drive Innovation

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 - PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION AND EVENT

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Session with Stephen Graves: Practicing Cultural Humility to Foster Racial Inclusion

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Night Market and WI APSE Networking Hour

THURSDAY, MAY 13 - CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Log into Zoom

9:00 - 9:10 a.m. Welcome: Beth Swedeen, Executive Director, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

9:10 - 10:20 a.m. Plenary Session with Nicole LeBlanc and Alixe Bonardi

10:20 - 10:50 a.m. Guest Speaker Panel Discussion

- **Sheli Reynolds**, Associate Director at University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development
- **Doug Crandell**, Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates
- **Serena Lowe**, Senior Adviser, Administration on Disabilities National Disability Employment TA Center
- **Laura Buckner**, Founding Partner of The Institute for Person Centered Practices and Mentor Trainer with The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices

10:50 - 11:00 a.m. Break

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Important Note: The presenters for the morning sessions have prepared their presentations specifically for each stakeholder group. Please attend the session that matches your role.

Virtual Room 1: Self-Advocates	Employment 101: Informed Choice in employment, what does that really mean? with Nicole LeBlanc See Full Description on Page: 5
Virtual Room 2: Family Members of Self-Advocates	Balancing Dreams with Supports while ensuring the Dignity of Risk with Stacey Ramirez See Description on Page: 5
Virtual Room 3: Employment Specialists (e.g., Job Coaches or Job Developers)	Everyone Can Work: Person Centered Actions with Doug Crandell and Patty Cassidy See Description on Page: 6
Virtual Room 4: School Staff, Teachers, Transition Coordinators	It's My Choice: Embedding Dignity of Risk into the Transition Planning Process with Jennifer Bumble and Christopher Worth See Description on Page: 7
Virtual Room 5: Day Service or Prevocational Service Staff	Supporting the Trajectory towards Good Lives with Sheli Reynolds See Description on Page: 7
Virtual Room 6: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor	Customized Employment: What it Is and Why We Need It with Beth Keeton and Ashlea Lantz See Description on Page: 8
Virtual Room 7: Long Term Care Staff (Family Care and IRIS)	DISCOVER Purpose and Meaning in Employment with Laura Buckner See Description on Page: 9
Virtual Room 8: Leadership from Service Provider Agencies, MCOs ICAs or State Agencies	Radical Leadership: Prioritizing Person-Centeredness as a Catalyst for Systems-Change Efforts in Policy, Practice, Payment & Performance with Serena Lowe See Description on Page: 9



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12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break and Concert with Special Guest Ricardo Vasquez from 12:30-1:15pm

1:30 - 2:15 p.m. Your Gifts Matter – Sharing Your Gifts with Your Community
Deb Wisniewski, Asset Based Community Development Institute

2:15 - 3:20 p.m. Community Conversations: Putting Person-Centered Thinking in Action

3:20 - 3:30 p.m. Harvest of Ideas and Closing

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTER INFORMATION

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

Practicing Cultural Humility to Foster Racial Inclusion

Attendees will explore ways to promote inclusion and belonging across racial differences. They will learn how to acknowledge, recognize, and overcome barriers to foster cultural humility. Stephen will discuss the impact of biases, stereotypes, and microaggressions specifically on Black communities and communities of color, and share select actions to be more culturally humble when engaging with members of different racial identities.



Stephen Graves is the Manager of Culture & Belonging at GT Independence. He has over a decade of experience working with communities across multiple dimensions of diversity in various capacities. He has previous healthcare experience working at the Medical University of South Carolina (Charleston, SC), Novant Health (Charlotte, NC), and the University of Vermont Medical Center (Burlington, VT). He has led projects involving DEI strategic planning, cultural humility workshops, language access, and Employee Resource Group creation and implementation, among others.

Stephen completed his Masters in Health Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina and holds an Executive Certificate in Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Management from Georgetown University. He currently resides in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

PLENARY SESSION

Control your own Destiny or Someone else Will: Keeping Employment Supports Person-Centered

“It’s Personal”: Nicole LeBlanc from the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems will identify policies and beliefs that can both help and hinder person-centered employment supports for people with disabilities. She will also describe how self-advocacy supports employment first goals. Building from Nicole’s presentation, Alixe Bonardi will share perspectives and resources to help self-advocates, families, and providers of supports use person-centered thinking, planning, and practices to improve employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Nicole LeBlanc is a Self-Advocate Advisor with TASH on the AOD Disability Employment TA Center where she researches material on employment and self-advocacy, recruits focus group members, and provides TA to AODI grantees. She is also the coordinator of the Person-Centered Advisory and Leadership Group (PAL-Group) at HSRI for the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS). Since 2011, Nicole has consulted for Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered and the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network developing self-advocacy tools and curriculums, presenting webinars and video blogs on the topics of healthcare, what is Autism, presuming competence, self-managed services, voter

access and employment of people with disabilities. She worked for 8+ years at Green Mountain Self-Advocates (GMSA) in Montpelier, VT as Advocacy Director supporting her peers with disabilities to feel comfortable talking to their elected officials about what they need.



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Alixe Bonardi is an occupational therapist with over 25 years of experience working to improve supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is a co-director of the National Center on Advancing Person Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) and leads the National Core Indicator's work to bring participant voice and experience to monitor and improve state systems of HCBS for people with IDD. Ms. Bonardi supports state and provider systems to monitor and improve individualized quality of community-based supports, keeping the person's interests, goals, and values at the center.

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Important Note: The presenters for the morning sessions have prepared their presentations specifically for each stakeholder group. Please attend the session that matches your role.

Virtual Room 1: Self-Advocate Session

Employment 101: Informed Choice in employment, what does that really mean?

Presenter Nicole LeBlanc

It's time for careers not just jobs. This session will describe how the history of disability employment advocacy opportunities make employment for people with disabilities more person centered. In addition to covering Dignity of Risk and employment, this session will explore what informed choice means and how job development must continue to move beyond 4 F's that are common in disability employment.

In this session, Self-Advocates will learn:

1. How to describe the importance of Real Jobs for Real Pay for all-Competitive Integrated Employment.
2. The role of Self Advocacy, Peer Support in supporting employment for people with I/DD.
3. Disability Employment Policy 101 and Informed Choice and Employment.



Nicole LeBlanc is a Self-Advocate Advisor with TASH on the AOD Disability Employment TA Center where she researches material on employment and self-advocacy, recruits focus group members, and provides TA to AODI grantees. She is also the coordinator of the Person-Centered Advisory and Leadership Group (PAL-Group) at HSRI for the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS). Since 2011, Nicole has consulted for Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered and the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network developing self-advocacy tools and curriculums, presenting webinars and video blogs on the topics of healthcare, what is Autism, presuming competence, self-managed services, voter

access and employment of people with disabilities. She worked for 8+ years at Green Mountain Self-Advocates (GMSA) in Montpelier, VT as Advocacy Director supporting her peers with disabilities to feel comfortable talking to their elected officials about what they need.

Virtual Room 2: Parents and Family Members Session

Balancing Dreams with Supports while ensuring the Dignity of Risk, Stacy Ramirez

This presentation gives participants the opportunity to first - examine existing ideas around a "good paid life" vs a community life, then also reflect on the roles of the decision maker or consultant in the life of the person with a disability. These self-explorations provide the foundation for a deeper discussion on authentic person-centered planning.

In this session, Parents and Family Members will learn:

1. How to identify possible biases for good paid life.
2. The difference between person-centered supports vs choices.
3. The components of a successful person-centered plan.



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Stacey Ramirez, Partners – Crimminz & Associates, holds a steadfast belief that we all have gifts and the capacity to far exceed the often-arbitrary expectations that society imposes. Stacey works to improve statewide supports and services that enhance opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and allies to be productive, engaged members of their communities.

Outside of her career, Stacey is the proud mom of three amazing young men and a brilliant daughter-in-law. Her middle son has autism and has been the muse for her career. His strong advocacy for inclusion keeps Stacey on her toes by implementing supported decision making, customized employment, and utilizing circles of support in a state that favors restrictive, segregated supports.

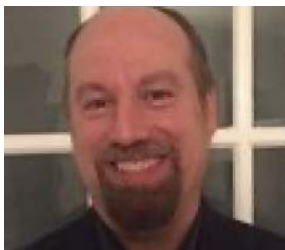
Virtual Room 3: Employment Specialists

Everyone Can Work: Person-Centered Actions, Doug Crandell and Patty Cassidy

This session sets a clear understanding of how “Everyone Can Work” can become a reality, not a tag line. Person centeredness doesn’t end with a good vocational planning document but is inherent in all aspects of individualized implementation. We will clarify how vocational staff can better support all job seekers, regardless of disability labels with actions that directly impact individualized, meaningful employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Results of quality individualized employment services has shown there are unlimited ways to make a living and that the best jobs often are created, not found.

In this session, Employment Specialists will learn:

1. The characteristics of Person-Centered Thinking, Planning and Actions.
2. The tools necessary for individualized employment outcomes.
3. That person centered implementation practices are for anyone, regardless of severity of disability.



Doug Crandell has worked for decades in the field of community-based employment practices. He assists providers, stakeholders, and employers to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Mr. Crandell is a public service faculty member at the UCEDD housed at the University of Georgia. He provides training and technical assistance to Georgia’s supported employment providers, both through webinars and on-site mentoring, and directs Georgia’s Technical Assistance Center for Best-Practices in Employment Supports. In addition, he serves as a Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates. Crandell has been the Project Director for several demonstration grants funded through the U.S. Department of Labor, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Social Security Administration (SSA). He is retained to provide Subject Matter Expertise through grant projects. Doug regularly publishes essays on labor, health, and poverty and has authored seven books.



Patty Cassidy is a Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates. She provides training and technical assistance on Customized Employment to agency personnel, state leadership, and individuals with disabilities and families. Her collaborative work ensures highly skilled professionals, systems and funding cohesion, community and business collaboration, and quality Customized Employment outcomes for people with significant disabilities. Areas of expertise include: Discovery, CE Job Development, and transition from school to work for youth with significant disabilities. Patty brings a wealth of experience through her work in direct service, administrative, and executive positions for publicly funded agencies, and non-profits providing employment services.



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Virtual Room 4: School Staff, Teachers, Transition Coordinators

It's My Choice: Embedding Dignity of Risk into the Transition Planning Process, Jennifer Bumble and Christopher Worth

This session explores the concept of 'Dignity of Risk' within the context of person-centered transition planning. Presenters discuss how to respect student choice through informed risk-taking and why this is important in preparing young people for independence and self-determination. Presenters will highlight practical strategies for success and first-person stories rooted in the lived experience of disability.

In this session, School Staff, Teachers and Transition Coordinators will learn:

1. The concept of dignity of risk and its importance in the transition process
2. The steps to facilitating discussions about dignity of risk with students, families, and other professionals
3. Practical strategies for embedding dignity of risk into the transition process



Jennifer Bumble, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of special education at the University of Missouri St. Louis. She received her doctorate in special education from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Her research and teaching focus on the transition from adolescence to adulthood, building social capital during the transition process, and empowering communities to become more aware of and responsive to the pressing needs of transition-age youth with disabilities. Prior to receiving her doctorate, Dr. Bumble worked as a special educator in Texas and an EL educator in South Korea. She also worked as an educational consultant with the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center developing trainings, tools, and resources for transition educators across Tennessee.



Christopher Worth is a community organizer and community educator with more than twenty years of experience. Mr. Worth was born with cerebral palsy, and much later, would be diagnosed with a generalized learning disability. Even before that though, Christopher was misdiagnosed with an intellectual disability and was not given access to the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic until the age of eleven. Today, Chris uses his winding and bumpy experience in early education to inform his work.

Virtual Room 5: Day Service or Prevocational Service Staff

Supporting the Trajectory towards Good Lives, Sheli Reynolds

Person centered thinking is designed to support the rights of people with disabilities to live, love, work and play in their community. This session will introduce the Charting the LifeCourse framework and tools for problem-solving and planning that will enhance expectations, opportunities, and outcomes for those you support. Concrete examples will be shared on how this person-centered strategy is being used to transform employment, education and disability policy and practices across the country.

In this session, Day Service or Prevocational Service Staff will learn:

1. About Charting the LifeCourse framework and tools for supporting person centered supports
2. How the tools can help with problem-solving and planning for new possibilities
3. Concrete examples of how CtLC is being used across the country for transformational change at all levels



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Sheli Reynolds, PhD serves as the Associate Director at UMKC Institute for Human Development, where she has worked for over 20 years. She is the key developer of the Charting the LifeCourse framework and tools and provides overall direction to the LifeCourse Nexus. Her passion, knowledge, and experience comes from growing up as a sibling of a brother with developmental disabilities. She is committed to research, demonstrations and implementation of evidence-based practices that enhance person- and family-centered organizational, policy and systems change. Throughout her career she has had the privilege of advocating alongside, and for, people with disabilities and their families. She served on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and as the co-director of the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She has her Masters in Occupational Therapy from Rockhurst University and earned her doctorate in Public Administration and Sociology from the University of Missouri, Kansas City with a focus on family support research and policy for families of individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.

Virtual Room 6: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors

Customized Employment: What it Is and Why We Need It, Beth Keeton

This interactive session provides an overview of Customized Employment (CE), including the core concepts of Discovery, blended/braided funding, and economic self-sufficiency. Learn how CE can open the door to a wider variety of employment outcomes, including business ownership, for a greater number of individuals with disabilities and how it can be particularly beneficial for VR customers who remain chronically unemployed or underemployed with more traditional services. Join us for lively discussion while we learn from the success of individuals who have used CE as the foundation for securing employment that not only matches for their skills and interests but also pays the bills and leads to successful case closures.

In this session, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors will learn:

1. Describe the Customized Employment Process
2. Identify the key differences between Discovery and traditional assessments
3. Determine the characteristics of good candidates for Customized Employment



Beth Keeton is Executive Director with Griffin-Hammis Associates. As one of the nation's leading experts on integrated community employment for people with disabilities, Beth's work has transformed systems and supported countless people to launch rewarding careers and build lives with greater autonomy and economic freedom.

Since 1996, Beth has provided employment training and technical assistance at the state, national, and international level. She developed the first national certification training curriculum for customized self-employment, collaborated with the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) and other national colleagues to develop the Core Features of Quality Supported Employment Services and the Essential Elements of Customized Employment, supported the Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators to develop the core competencies of Customized Employment, and served as a national Subject Matter Expert for the WIOA-mandated Congressional Advisory Committee. A self-professed "data geek", Beth has led the charge to bring evidenced-based practices to the provision of Customized Employment services, championing the creation and use of the Discovery and Job Development Fidelity Scales. Beth earned her M.A. from the University of Oregon and is a Certified Benefits Planner.



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Ashlea Lantz is a Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates. She provides training and technical assistance around Customized Employment, Supported Employment, Self-Employment, Benefits Planning, and Agency Capacity Building. Before joining Griffin-Hammis Associates, Ashlea was the Director of Employment of a community-based rehabilitation agency. She has extensive experience in working with families both personally and professionally. Ashlea is a certified benefits planner and has a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Drake University.

Virtual Room 7: Long Term Care Staff (Family Care and IRIS)

DISCOVER Purpose and Meaning in Employment, Laura Buckner

Work: /wɜːk/: activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result. When considering work options with someone you support, how much thought is given to what's important to this person, balanced with what's important for the person...AND helps provide purpose and meaning? Good discovery is key.

In this session Long Term Care Staff with Family Care and IRIS will learn:

1. Recognize and differentiate between the concepts of Important TO and Important FOR, specifically as it pertains to employment
2. Consider how discovery positively impacts employment possibilities and what methods of discovery work well
3. Define success/redefine failure



Laura G. Buckner, a Licensed Professional Counselor and former special educator, Laura is a frequent keynote presenter and trainer speaking on the state and national levels to a wide variety of audiences, including service professionals, educators, state agency staff, advocacy groups, and families of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Laura's areas of expertise include person centered practices, leadership and advocacy, trauma informed care, and supporting families and individuals with IDD to live lives they find meaningful with access to necessary supports and services. Prior to her employment with the TCDS, Laura served 8 years as the Program Coordinator of the Texas

Partners in Policymaking program. At the TCDS, Laura is a Founding Partner of The Institute for Person Centered Practices (www.person-centered-practices.org) and a Mentor Trainer with The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices (TLCPCP) (www.learningcommunity.us). Laura serves on the TLCPCP Board of Directors. In her spare time, Laura is an avid distance cyclist, lover of dogs, and devoted wife to Ron and Mom to sons Michael and David.

Virtual Room 8: Leadership from Service Provider Agencies, MCOs ICAs or State Agencies

Radical Leadership: Prioritizing Person-Centeredness as a Catalyst for Systems-Change Efforts in Policy, Practice, Payment & Performance, Serena Lowe

Radical Leadership (RL) is about being intentional with your life and choosing where and in what you want to put your precious energy and learning how to let go of anything that gets in the way of that! What if we applied radical leadership in the person-centered planning process, giving individuals with disabilities true agency to be in the driver's seat of defining the vision of the life they see for themselves? And how does a reconceptualizing of person-centered planning impact systems change in terms of changes in policy, practice, payment, and performance? In this session, participants will receive information about innovative strategies for approaching PCP through an RL lens, and how to align the revolutionary changes occurring at the individual level through this process with ongoing systems change efforts. Presentation is appropriate for state government leaders, managed care LTSS executives, and senior leaders within community-based organizations providing services to individuals with disabilities.



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In this session Leadership from Service Provider Agencies, MCOs ICAs or State Agencies will learn:

1. The underpinnings of radical leadership (RL) and how it can (and should) be used to dismantle cultural barriers to organizational change.
2. How to apply radical leadership to the person-centered planning process in developing clear, comprehensive goals and strategies to support individuals with disabilities achieve progress in realizing the life they envision and desire for themselves.
3. How RL and person-centeredness values can help align policies, practice, payment, and performance strategies to effectuate optimal individual outcomes and systems-change efforts.



Dr. Serena Lowe has spent the past 25 years furthering public policies that promote the socioeconomic advancement of low-income working families, individuals with disabilities, seniors, children, immigrants, refugees, women of color and other at-risk populations. Currently, Serena is the Founder & Principal of AnereS Strategies LLC, Serena has served in a variety of leadership roles in the field of federal government relations, working for a Fortune 100 global biopharmaceutical company, a top 20 national lobbying firm, two foreign governments, two national nonprofit organizations, Congress, and the federal executive branch.

A recipient of the prestigious Harry Truman National Scholarship in Public Service, Serena has spent a large portion of her career in public service, first as a senior legislative aide to two Members of Congress, and later as a Senior Policy Adviser for both the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Community Living. Serena has led numerous national systems-change efforts, including the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program and the AoD Disability Employment TA Center. In this work, Serena has collaborated with state workforce investment, vocational rehabilitation, Medicaid, and special education systems in the majority of states across the country on strategies to improve collaboration and coordination of resources in an effort to improve the social determinants of health and quality of life outcomes of at-risk communities. Additionally, Serena has led two national not-for-profit organizations, serving as the first Executive Director of the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD), and later as the interim Executive Director of TASH (an international disability rights organization focused on inclusive and equitable communities for all people).

Serena completed a B.A. in International & Public Affairs at Westminster College; a one-year overseas academic program as a Cranshaw Scholar at Cambridge University and the London School of Economics; two graduate degrees (M.P.H. in International Health Policy and M.A. in International Development Policy) from George Washington University; and a PhD in Public Administration from American University. Serena has also taught previously part-time on the faculty of Rutgers University's School of Public Affairs and Administration

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Your Gifts Matter - Sharing Your Gifts with Your Community

Every single person has gifts. This includes people who have typically been described in terms of their deficits or what they are not able to do. When we identify our gifts and then find opportunities to share them, magic happens! Join this conversation as we take a look at one simple way to think about and identify gifts, explore where those gifts can be offered in a community, and see what happens when we all find ways to share our gifts.



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Deb Wisniewski is a committed connector who believes that our communities need us all, that we all have gifts and talents to share. She loves to discover the hidden treasures in each community and to explore how we can each make a difference. Through her consulting practice, she has worked with a wide variety of groups and organizations – from both nonprofits and businesses to governmental and tribal agencies – to explore how we can build on the skills of local residents, the power of local associations and the supportive functions of local institutions. Over the last 3+ years, Deb has been working extensively with museums and libraries through the United States, providing coaching and learning opportunities as they seek to change from community anchors to community catalysts. (For more information on this initiative). Deb is a co-founder and the lead manager of

ABCD in Action, an online community with more than 2600 members from over 75 countries. ABCD in Action is the designated online Community of Practice (COP) for the ABCD Institute and partners with other ABCD-related organizations and groups around the world. In addition, she also serves as a faculty member and steward for the ABCD Institute and is active in several Institute workgroups, including the Rural Communities and ABCD workgroup.

Community Conversations: Putting Person-Centered Thinking in Action

You will be directed to a virtual breakout room to brainstorm ways to put what you have learned about person-centered thinking and asset-based strategies into action. After the discussion groups, everyone will return to the main room for the Harvest of Ideas.

These questions will guide our discussions:

1. How can we use these ways of thinking and planning to improve collaboration? How can they raise expectations and improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities?
2. For Self-Advocates and Families – What can I do within the next three to six months to expect services to be more asset-based and person-centered? For Professionals: What can I do within the next three to six months to use more of an asset-based, person-centered approach to support people toward employment?

PRESENTER LIST

Alixé Bonardi

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More Than a Job: Harnessing the Power of Person-Centered Thinking to Raise Expectations and Drive Innovation

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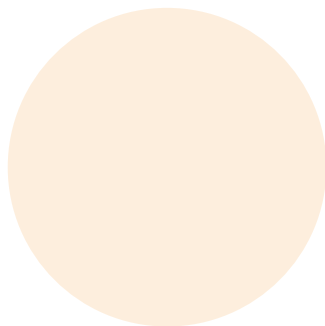
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A big thank you to the WI Department of Health Services for providing the Zoom platform and tech team support to make our virtual conference possible.





MICROENTERPRISE VENDORS



Welcome to the All Abilities Market!

All Abilities Market showcases Wisconsin-based artists and makers with disabilities. Every artist has their unique style and product list. The artists below wanted to participate in this year's Employment First Conference and Night Market. Check out the online store to see these artists' products as well as many others!

The online market was developed to help empower microenterprise owners who typically sell at conferences and trade shows to have another platform during the pandemic. Promote Local teamed up with the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities to develop this platform for microbusinesses. Check out the online store to see: <https://www.allamarket.org>



Austin Wood Shack

I'm a twenty-year-old autistic young man who likes to work with my hands besides taking care of my service dog Jax's and looking out for my family. I love to make wood signs and also just started crocheting – it is a lot of fun. I have made scarfs and table runners. I put a lot of work into all of my projects I have made for you, so hopefully whatever you purchase you will enjoy as much as I did making it!!!

Ben Peetz Productions

Ben Peetz, 17, is a developing artist who leverages his neurodiversity to express his view of the world in his artwork. He is currently focused on line-drawn sketches and hand-rendered type in his graphic designs. He began his career as an artist through fan art based on his favorite television shows.

Ben's journey as an artist has just begun. Please join him as he navigates this world and learns how his art can bring joy to others.





Beth's Culinary Creations

My name is Beth and at Beth's Culinary Creations we have maple syrup and jams and jellies. That is my business!

I started because I couldn't find work, and I thought that if I could do something that was easy and not hard I could do it. So I started doing jams and jellies as just a Pastime. I used to do crafts and other things as well, and it just spoke to me. There are tons of other Gourmet jams and jellies I can do and so I just did it.

My sister and I mostly sell our products at farmer's markets and venues like this. I have been doing this for about 7 years now and I love to do this kind of work.

Colorline by Ben

Ben Fleischman is an artist living and working in Madison, Wisconsin, working primarily in acrylic paint. Ben's artworks range from commanding and vibrant to understated and subdued.



Inspiring Art by Alex

Alex Haunty is an artist with a big heart to love people, paint happiness and bring life to everyone around him. Living with a cognitive disability, Alex uses his unique challenges as a springboard to achieve his dreams and become a source of inspiration for many. Known for his bright whimsical colors, Alex paints originals using acrylic on canvas that are then printed as giclée prints, posters and cards. With the proceeds from his art sales, Alex donates a significant portion to his nonprofit, Alex Haunty's Theater and Arts Fund, Inc., to buy tickets for people with disabilities to see Broadway shows. In 2015, Alex received the Outstanding Young Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals WI, Greater Madison Chapter.

Jenny's Diamond Crafts

I love to diamond paint because it's so relaxing to me. It greatly reduces my anxiety while allowing me to use my creativity. I started diamond painting in 2018 and my passion for it has continued to grow. Diamond painting is a mix between cross stitch and paint by numbers without the mess! You apply tiny "diamond" beads to a sticky canvas that creates a picture or mosaic that reflects light resulting in an incredible sparkly affect. It truly looks like a diamond painting! The largest painting I've ever done was for my daughter. It took over 100 hours and over 75,000 "diamonds" – each one placed individually!





More Than a Job: Harnessing the Power of Person-Centered Thinking to Raise Expectations and Drive Innovation



Soap Sisters

Soap Sisters are truly as they seem, two sisters with a love for soap and spreading bubbly joy. Amber and Ashley have been inseparable since childhood with a strong sisterly bond. At a young age Ashley was diagnosed with PDD-NOS, on the Autism Spectrum. Though Ashley has had and continues to have great success in her college career and career as a motivational speaker, Amber has been determined to provide Ashley with as many opportunities as she can. And so, in March of 2017 Amber decided to open a small soap business that would provide Ashley a consistent job and allow her to spread her love of soaping. Coming up with a name for the company came pretty easy to both sisters as they decided to name their company as it

was, two sisters who soap. However, what makes their name unique is the story behind the word, SOAP. For Amber and Ashley, the word soap means more than just the obvious; to them soap provides itself as a meaningful acronym. Sister Of Autism Princess

Standing Bird Crafts

Dan Gadbois is an enrolled member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and a member of the Eagle Clan. Dan lives on the Red Cliff reservation in northern Wisconsin, with his wife Barbara and their son Thomas.

Dan has been crafting since his early teens.

Standing Bird Crafts began in the spring of 2018, after being gifted a vinyl cutting machine. Dan spent time primarily designing t-shirts, and decals. He moved into sublimation in September 2019. At the time, sales were usually at local craft fairs and pow wows. Covid-19 changed that. Dan had to find another way to sell, so he began an on-line shop.

Dan creates a variety of Native American crafts and jewelry. He weaves delicate Dreamcatcher earrings and Tree of Life necklace and earring sets.

He also makes a variety of sublimated products such as natural freshwater pearl shell (Luma Shell) necklace and earring sets, face masks, and ornaments. Many of the sublimated items feature the artwork of his granddaughter Evelyn. Dan's favorite product to make is the Luma Shell jewelry.

When Dan is not crafting, he enjoys playing the Native flute, and online gaming.



Swedee's Handmade Jewelry

I like jewelry and I like to meet all the colorful people at sales. I have fun selling at shows and conferences. Lanyards are my favorite thing to make and a lot of people I know wear them. When I was 9 years old, I started making jewelry with my sister, Amelia. I also love art and I like drawing. I love working with my ArtWorking team because we make fun stuff together. They make me happy. I like helping out other people at ArtWorking. I just started making headbands and tote bags from my drawings. I am so excited.

When I'm not at work, I like talking to my sister, taking walks with my mom at Picnic Point, cooking, shopping, and relaxing. I love listening to music and Jason

Mraz is my favorite. I like hanging out with friends during the week and getting dinner. I love my apartment; it is the best. I live with my roommate, Ben. We have been buds for a long time. I like cleaning, doing dishes, putting things away and being on my own. I am happy and proud of my business. I hope people feel happy, fun, and funky when they wear my jewelry.



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Vasquez Productions

Vasquez Productions is owned by Ricardo Vasquez, musician. Ricardo plays marimba along with several percussive instruments including drum set, timpani, bass drum, snare drum, bells, and cymbals. He performs both on a solo basis and with area bands. Ricardo offers live music performances of classical, seasonal and traditional melodies played on the marimba. Ricardo also tunes pianos.

Ricardo was diagnosed with autism as a child. Since the 3rd grade, music has been an important part of his life – he learned language, reading and math skills through musical connections. While in middle school, Ricardo began playing marimba and has since become a talented musician. Over the past few years,

Ricardo has played percussion in the Zor Shrine Band as well as the Sugar River Band and performed as a Baritone vocalist in the St. Joseph's choir. He has also held solo marimba performances at area churches, nursing homes and fundraisers.



Yvas Inspiration

My name is Savannah, Savy for short. I am an autistic advocate for neurodiversity and autism/disability acceptance. I'm also a freelance artist, as my autistic "stim" is doodling and drawing. I sell my prints that I create using digital art programs and my drawing tablet as well as aromatherapy bracelets that I craft together with my mother and sister. My mission is to use my skills and talents to make the world a better place and bring joy to those around me. I hope you all enjoy my work and find something you like.

