

NACDD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MOVING TOWARDS CHANGE

AUGUST 2- 5, 2021



Monday, August 2

How the Biden-Harris Administration is Making Disability Rights a Priority

2:15 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.

Progress Towards Full Participation and Equity for People with Disabilities

Emily Voorde, Associate Director, Office of Public Engagement, White House

Alison Barkoff, Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging, Administration on Community Living

3:30 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Reflections on the Administration's Agenda with National Disability Organization CEOs

Curt Decker, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

John Tschida, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Julia Bascom, Autistic Self-Advocacy Network, ASAN

Angela Williams, Easterseals

Mike Brogioli, TASH

MODERATOR: **Donna Meltzer**, NACDD

Tuesday, August 3

How Congress is Making Disability Rights a Priority

2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Creating a Legislative Roadmap for Disability Rights, Equity, and Inclusion for People with Disabilities

Phoebe Ball, Disability Policy Counsel, House Committee on Education and Labor

Amanda Lowe, Senior Disability Policy Advisor, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

Alec Goldstone, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Langevin

Kim Musheno, Vice President, Policy, Autism Society

CO-MODERATORS: **Nicole LeBlanc and Erin Prangle**, NACDD

4:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: How DD Councils are working within their state to advance the rights of people with disabilities on major issues

Three Council Strategies for Eliminating Sub-Minimum Wage

This session will discuss approaches to eliminating the use of 14c certificates in 3 states – Maryland, Colorado, and Hawaii. Maryland was the second state to pass legislation to phase out the use of subminimum wage, and the phase out is not complete. Each state will discuss their process, including different strategies and information that led to the successful legislation and/or phase out. This is critical because people with disabilities want real jobs in their communities with real wages, yet barriers exist. Since Maryland has completed its phase out, we will also discuss data, outcomes, and next steps.

Rachel London, MD DD Council

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-chair Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee (Maryland District 18)

Ken Capone, People on the Go of Maryland

Bob Lawhead, Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council

Michael Hoover, Colorado self-advocate

Daintry Bartoldus, Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Statewide Success on Leveraging Federal Funds for Students with I/DD in New Jersey

On June 16, 2021, NJ Governor Murphy signed S3434, sponsored by State Senator Dawn Addiego and Senate President Steve Sweeney, a bill that will help protect students with disabilities from losing out on special education services because of the coronavirus crisis, by temporarily extending the timetable for those who could exceed the age eligibility. The new public law would require boards of education to extend the educational and related services the students are already entitled to in the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years, protecting them from being “aged out” of eligibility when they turn 21.

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities joined with its many collaborators, including the NJ Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (NJSPAN), the Education Law Center (ELC), the New Jersey Special Education Practitioners (NJSEP) and most importantly, families and legislators, in advocating for federal Covid response funding to be utilized for this initiative.

Relevant to the theme of the conference “Moving Towards Change,” this session will focus on the individual and collective first-hand experiences of key players in this advocacy effort. It will examine the motivations and determination of the many faces of change, who united in a truly collaborative and non-partisan manner to address a serious and outcome-threatening event for students. It will also visit the identification of opportunities to effect changes in policy and the importance of communication as an essential component of advocacy. Leadership roles in advocates taking action will be emphasized.

Bob Titus, Public Policy Coordinator at New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, Chair of the NJ Assembly Education Committee
Subha Bolisetty, Parent of son currently transitioning from education to adult life
Peg Kinsell, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Rebecca Spar, Attorney Specializing Education Law

Voting Rights and Accessibility—How the Disability Community is Moving Towards Change

The 2020 general election saw a wave of more accessible voting options for people with disabilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that the election is over the ability to keep these additional accessible options are being threatened throughout the country. Listen to national disability advocates from SABE, NDRN, REVUP, and also the Texas DD Council to learn how the disability community is advocating for more accessible voting and more voter outreach to ensure that all people have an opportunity to cast their ballot.

Lauren Gerken, Texas DD Council
Jack Rosen, NDRN
Rachita Singh, REVUP/AAPD
Essie Pedersen, SABE
Diana Mairose, SABE

State Strategies to Protect and Expand HCBS in the Wake of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the lives of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) on many levels, including the way people with I/DD receive Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS). State developmental disability councils (DD Councils) are critical to providing innovative solutions that will address emergency threats to health, education, employment, and community living for people with I/DD during the pandemic and beyond.

Medicaid has numerous waivers that allow for certain exceptions to Medicaid requirements. This session will focus on how to effectively advocate to your state Medicaid agency as they consider whether to maintain HCBS covered under emergency K waivers.

Questions to be explored include:

How did the pandemic change our state's use of Medicaid waivers for the better?

What strategies are states using to protect HCBS services?

What is the status of community services versus congregate settings with institutional characteristics in different states?

Tamara Jackson, NACDD Medicaid Taskforce Chair and Public Policy Analyst and Legislative Liaison at Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Wednesday, August 4

Champions of Equal Opportunity Awards and Self-Advocacy Panel

2:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Champions of Equal Opportunity Awards Ceremony, sponsored by Optum

3:15 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Self-Advocacy Panel and Q&A

MODERATOR: **Eric Stoker**, Utah DD Council

Lauren Gerken, Texas DD Council

Lindsey Spoon, Oklahoma DD Council

Will Farris, South Carolina DD Council

Robert O'Mallan, Guam DD Council

Thursday, August 5

Innovations by DD Councils: Sponsored By UHC

2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Innovations and Lessons Learned

Peer Mentors for People with I/DD with Optum and the Michigan DD Council

Peer support services are considered evidence-based by CMS and 39 State Medicaid plans reimburse peer support services for individuals with MI and/or SUD. Join representatives from Optum, Community Bridges, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network as they share in-depth information about developing peer mentoring training programs for individuals with I/DD and their thoughts on

the value that peer mentors can bring in supporting others to live self-determined and well-informed lives.

Dan Ohler, Optum

Kelly Friedlander, Community Bridges Consulting Group

Tracy Vincent, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Robert Spruce, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network

Sexuality Education for People with I/DD: Two Statewide Models with Elevatus

People with developmental disabilities are often left out of the conversation about sexuality, almost as if they are incapable of having thoughts, feelings, and needs. In reality, they, too, are sexual beings that need information and skills for making healthy decisions about sexuality. People with disabilities have a higher rate of unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual abuse than the general population and are less likely to have receive any sexuality education. All people need the information and skills to make choices about sexuality and relationship and to have relationships that are enriching and not exploitive.

The Michigan Self Advocates as Sexuality Educators Project trains teams of self-advocates and professionals to be sexuality educators. There are currently 26 teams in Michigan that are presenting workshops on sexuality and relationships. This project is geared towards advocates taking action, being part of the solution, and learning leadership skills. You will hear from a self-advocate about their work in Michigan.

The NY Relationship and Sexuality Training Project plans to host 13 trainings state-wide: 5 for self-advocate and professional teams on how to lead sexuality education classes, 4 for parents on leading parent workshops, and 4 staff training on leading staff training. This project uses the self-advocates as sexuality educators, as well as two other peer education models: parents of people with I/DD teaching other parents about how to talk about sexuality and relationships, and staff from schools and agencies teaching other staff how to address sexuality one on one.

Both projects are teaming up with Elevatus Training to provide these trainings and materials. Each training supplies participants with curriculum to lead workshops and trainings. This workshop is designed for other states to take action on providing sexuality education to people with I/DD using a state wide training model which includes people with I/DD as workshop leaders.

Katherine McLaughlin, Elevatus Training

Mary Shehan-Boogaard, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Andre Robinson, Community Living Services
Kimberly Berg, NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Supported Decision Making

Most people make multiple decisions every day. For individuals with disabilities, decision-making can be more challenging. They may need support to help them with their decision-making process. The Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support is a *new, virtual* resource center that provides decision-making support information, resources, and tools to assist individuals with disabilities, their families and support providers when planning for their future. This center is designed to walk the user through a step-by-step process to understand and identify their unique decision-making support needs by using the information, resources and tools from the website.

This session will introduce attendees to the Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support with an overview of the Center and how to use it for future planning. Attendees will be guided on a virtual website tour that demonstrates how to utilize the resources and tools for decision-making support planning. They will also learn of best practices and tools for supported decision-making and how to use those tools to help individuals with disabilities have greater autonomy in the decisions for their life.

Penny Johnson, Program Coordinator, TN Center for Decision-Making Support
Camron Hurt, Disability Rights Tennessee Supported Decision-Making Paralegal

Innovations in Storytelling From the Georgia DD Council

This session gives councils knowledge on how they can make story collection and storytelling a tool for advocates to connect with elected officials at all levels for legislative advocacy efforts, for councils to showcase the diverse backgrounds and lives of people with disabilities in their states, for advocates to understand the power of their lived experiences when it comes to leading the lives they choose.

The presentation will cover work done in GCDD's Storytelling Project. The initial goal of that project was to collect stories from people with developmental disabilities in each of Georgia's 56 Senate Districts to support legislative advocacy. That project, which began in 2017, has resulted in a website of the stories and photos, a bound copy of the stories sent to Georgia's Senate and House members, the *Hidden Voices* podcast (now in its second season), the *6,000 Waiting* short documentary, and most recently, the Treasure Maps Roadshow that includes a

film with 10 advocates telling their stories. These works not only support legislative advocacy efforts, but they also educate the public on the issues facing people with developmental disabilities and the work that GCDD does to increase opportunities for them and their families to thrive where they live, learn, work, play, and worship in Georgia's communities.

Maria Pinkelton, GA DD Council

Criminal Justice and the School to Prison Pipeline with the PA DD Council

The PADDCC sought to interrupt the "School to Prison Pipeline" by funding efforts to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to a quality education that can change their trajectory away from the "pipeline" and improve outcomes as students re-enter community schools from the "pipeline."

This session will highlight two projects in Pennsylvania. The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University presenters will share original video content produced in collaboration with activist youth that brings awareness to the role that racism and ableism play in the school-to-prison pipeline. Attendees will learn about (1) free, asynchronous and accessible digital training materials; (2) the historical and contemporary, local and global forces, which push children of color and with disabilities out of their communities and schools into disciplinary schools, detention centers, jails, and prisons; and (3) strategies for building partnerships and engaging communities around triggering topics.

In the second project by the Support Center for Child Advocates, a multi-disciplinary team will address the importance of considering educational reentry as part of the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Presenters will discuss their grant-funded work looking at obstacles that students in Pennsylvania face when they reenter community schools from a residential placement through the juvenile justice, child welfare, or behavioral health systems. Presenters will share recommendations for improvement and the ways that their findings helped shape advocacy materials for students and families, and a best practices guide for professionals.

Lisa Tesler, PA DD Council

K. Eva Weiss, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

Grace Fay Cooper, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

Morgen Black-Smith, Project for Youth Educational Success (Project YES!), Support Center for Child Advocates

Parris Boyd, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

4:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Closing Plenary

Representation Matters: Hollywood Moves Towards Change

Emily Kranking, Actress

Ashley Eakin, Writer-Director

Lauren Applebaum, Respectability

SPEAKER BIOS

Alison Barkoff

Alison Barkoff was sworn into office as the Principal Deputy Administrator on January 20, 2021, and is currently serving as Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging. In this capacity, she provides executive direction, leadership, guidance and coordination for ACL programs nationwide and advises the HHS Secretary on issues affecting individuals with disabilities and older adults.

Ms. Barkoff comes to ACL from the Center for Public Representation, where she served as Director of Advocacy. In that position, she led policy advocacy with federal agencies and Congress and legal advocacy nationally to advance community living and inclusion, including in the areas of healthcare, Medicaid home- and community-based services, employment, housing, and education. She led and participated in numerous coalitions with disability and aging organizations, including as co-chair of the Long-Term Services and Supports Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities. She has testified before Congress and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on disability rights and was appointed to serve on the federal Advisory Committee for Competitive Integrated Employment of People with Disabilities.

Ms. Barkoff previously served as Director of Advocacy at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, where she worked on a range of disability, healthcare, education and civil rights issues. In earlier government roles, she served as Special Counsel for Olmstead Enforcement in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, leading efforts to enforce the rights of people with disabilities to live, work and fully participate in their communities. She also worked with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the Department of Health and Human Services on policies related to Medicaid home- and community-based services and with the Department of Labor on issues affecting the workforce providing in-home services. She is a sibling to an adult brother with developmental disabilities and has been involved in disability advocacy her entire life. She received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and her Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law.

Andre Robinson

Andre Robinson has been working at Community Living Services for nine years as a Peer Mentor. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Development with an emphasis on Community Services. Andre became a sexuality educator in 2018 working with the Wayne County team in Michigan.

Ashley Eakin

Born in California and raised in Nebraska, Ashley Eakin is a writer-director based out of Los Angeles with a physical disability. She was most recently selected for the Powderkeg Fuse Incubator, curated by Paul Feig, in addition to the 2021 Commercial Directors Diversity

Program. Last year she was 1 of 8 women selected for the AFI Directing Workshop for Women and her project SINGLE was selected for the 2020 SXSW Film Festival and received the Special Jury Recognition Award. The film has played in over 30 festivals winning 7 awards and 2 nominations. Eakin was also the recipient of the New York Women in Film Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant. In 2020 Eakin was hired as a Staff Writer on an Animated Netflix series, featuring a character with a disability. Prior to working on her own projects, in 2019 Eakin worked for and shadowed Mark Pellington on the Quibi series SURVIVE filmed in the Italian Alps starring Sophie Turner and Corey Hawkins. Prior to this, Eakin was the assistant to film director Jon M. Chu. In 2017 she spent 5 months in Malaysia and Singapore working on his critically-acclaimed box-office hit CRAZY RICH ASIANS. Ashley has consulted on two projects for Disney.

Bob Lawhead

Bob Lawhead has served as Policy Advisor for the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council over the past five years. Prior to that, he led Community Link, a non-profit agency supporting the inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, for nearly 30 years. He received his MA Ed. from the University of Colorado and is Past President of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE). Bob presently serves on APSE's Public Policy Committee and as Colorado APSE's Public Policy Chair. He also serves as Co-Chair of Colorado's Employment First implementation panel. He authored *Conversion: From Segregated, Sheltered Workshops to Supported Employment* and serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. Bob has promoted inclusion for people with cognitive disabilities through parent education, systems change consultation and public policy advocacy. He and his wife Anastasia have one child, Jess, who experiences Down syndrome and who graduated from high school where he was included in regular classes. In late 2019 Jess was hired by a local pizzeria to assemble delivery boxes and perform stocking duties and has recently returned to work following a pandemic-related furlough.

Bob Titus

Bob Titus is a parent, guardian, and advocate for his son Joseph who is 39 years old and lives in the community in a group home. Bob is a graduate of Montclair University (1976) and worked as an engineer for Verizon for 34 years, then as Public Policy Director for Autism New Jersey and for the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities since 2014. He currently serves as a board member for the Princeton Child Development Institute and as an officer for the Knights of Columbus 636 Princeton.

Camron Hurt

I am Camron Hurt. I grew up in Europe and relocated to Nashville when I was a teenager. I am a proud graduate of Tuskegee University where I received my bachelor's degree in Political Science and Sociology. After graduating undergrad, I moved to Hawaii to pursue my master's degree in diplomacy. I adopted my son and made my home in Hawaii for 7.5 years until I made the move back to the south. My time in Tennessee has had me working not only in the legal

sector but also in education and civil rights, respectively. I am a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated. In my free time I am the director of a soccer league, and a huge movie buff. I am so proud and honored to work with Disability Rights Tennessee as a paralegal for the Decision-Making Supports Division.

Daintry Bartoldus

Daintry Bartoldus is the executive administrator of Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, an agency which provides advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. Daintry started with the Council in 2012 as their Community and Legislative Liaison, moving into the Executive Administrator position in 2017. Daintry's first introduction to working with individuals with developmental disabilities started in 1989, working for The Arc in Hawaii, who played a key role in the closure of the state institution for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Daintry was very active in educating the community on inclusion of individuals with I/DD. She filled various roles while at The Arc; working in group homes, creating new homes, apartment settings, working in day programs, supportive employment, and as the director of the Intermediate Care Facilities in the Community and the Medicaid Waiver program.

Donna Meltzer

Donna Meltzer is CEO of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), a national non-profit organization that supports the nation's 56 governor-appointed Developmental Disabilities Councils that work within state government to promote independence, productivity, and integration of people with disabilities through systems change activities. In this capacity Ms. Meltzer oversees the organization's public policy and advocacy agenda, as well as technical assistance to the members. Ms. Meltzer joined the NACDD in October 2012. Previously she was the Senior Director of Government Relations for the Epilepsy Foundation. She rejoined the Epilepsy Foundation 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), a former Congressman and House Whip from California who is the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and a person with epilepsy. Ms. Meltzer also spent two years as the Government Affairs Director for the National Health Council where she directed the advocacy agenda for the Council's Voluntary Health Agency (VHA) members. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland's School of Journalism.

Ms. Meltzer also provides tremendous leadership through multiple Boards and Coalitions. She is Immediate past president of the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Health Funding. She is also a former Chair and former long-time member of the Board of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD). She currently services on multiple Boards and Advisory groups including

for UnitedHealthCare's National Advisory Board on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the National Advisory Board for the College of Director Support/Direct Course.

Emily Kranking

Emily Kranking is an actress, advocate, and writer with cerebral palsy. Her first feature film is the groundbreaking movie musical *Best Summer Ever*, in which she stars as the bubbly cheerleader Nancy. It premiered in SXSW, gaining critical acclaim. She's also currently a conservatory student in Washington, DC, and hopes to make it in musical theatre, television, and especially in animation as the first disabled Disney Princess. As an advocate, Emily is currently a Strategic Communications fellow at DC Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC). Previously, she was a Communications Consultant at National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and a year-long fellow at RespectAbility in their Policy and Hollywood Relations departments. Additionally, Emily was a participant in RespectAbility's Hollywood Lab program as an emerging scriptwriter. Her publications on disability have been posted on RespectAbility, Yahoo, MSN, and The Mighty.

Emily Voorde

Emily Voorde was born in South Bend, Indiana. In utero, Emily was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. Since the age of 3, she's been using a wheelchair to navigate our (albeit often inaccessible) world! Emily graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2015 with a degree in political science and minors in constitutional studies and business economics. At Notre Dame, Emily was an independent researcher with the Keough Dublin Summer program, an intern in the office of Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and an intern in Senator Joe Donnelly's Washington DC office. Following graduation from Notre Dame, Emily participated in the Alliance for Catholic Education's Teaching Fellows Program, a two-year program blending full-time teaching in an under-resourced school with Masters of Education graduate coursework at the University of Notre Dame. While with ACE, Emily taught in a second grade self-contained classroom in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

In 2017, Emily began a Masters of Public Policy in Education at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. While in Nashville, Emily worked full time at Instruction Partners, an education non-profit. Upon her graduation from Vanderbilt in May 2019, Emily joined Mayor Pete Buttigieg's Presidential Campaign, Pete for America, as a Travel Manager. Her role quickly evolved as Chasten Buttigieg, Mayor Pete's husband, built out his own traveling road team. Emily spent the remainder of the campaign in direct support of Chasten as his Body Woman and Trip Director. In August 2020, Emily joined the University of Notre Dame's Sara Bea Accessibility Services Team as their Assistant Director for Education and Outreach, supporting students with disabilities through the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2021, Emily was appointed to a role in the White House Office of Public Engagement as an Assistant Director and the Administration's liaison to disabled Americans.

Erin Prangley

Erin Prangley is Director of Public Policy at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), the national association for the 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities across the United States and its territories. Ms. Prangley also serves as a Board Member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and Co-Chair of the CCD Task Force on Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Supports. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Prior to joining NACDD, Ms. Prangley was the Associate Director for Public Policy at the American Association of University Women advocating for educational and economic equity with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. Her extensive experience on Capitol Hill includes serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Brad Sherman (CA) and as a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC). For several years, Ms. Prangley also practiced employment, veterans' benefits and immigration law representing clients in state and federal courts. Ms. Prangley is a graduate of the University of Southern California (B.S. Sociology) and the American University Washington College of Law (J.D.).

Grace Fay Cooper

Grace is a PhD Candidate in the department of anthropology at Temple University and currently works as a graduate research assistant at the Institute on Disabilities, Pennsylvania's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education. At the Institute on Disabilities, Grace collaborates with the research and evaluation team on projects focused on culturally, linguistically, and structurally responsive service provision for individuals with disabilities. Grace's dissertation is an ethnographic account of the lived intersections of immigration processes and health care policy in Philadelphia's Latinx immigrant community.

Jeff Waldstreicher

Elected to the Senate in 2018, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher has been a member of the Maryland General Assembly for four terms. He serves as Vice Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. Throughout his legislative career, Jeff has been a leading advocate for justice and equality, especially for those with differing abilities. Jeff's sister has autism spectrum disorder, making this issue deeply personal to him. He proudly sponsored and passed the "Ken Capone Equal Employment Act," which eliminated the sub-minimum wage here in Maryland. He also worked with stakeholders to end the Medicaid clawback for ABLE accounts. Professionally, Jeff is a practicing attorney who represents clients in complex litigation matters. Before striking out on his own, Jeff practiced at a large, international law firm. Jeff received his B.A. *Phi Beta Kappa* from Emory University in Political Science and History and earned his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, where he was an editor of the law review.

Born and raised in Montgomery County, he lives with his wife, Joanna, and their three young children—Kate, Eli, & Harry—in Kensington, MD.

K. Eva Weiss

Eva is a Research Associate at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, where she contributes to local, state and national projects, examining secondary transition, service provision, supported decision-making, inclusion and enfranchisement, cultural competency, the school-to-prison pipeline, and deinstitutionalization. Eva is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Temple University. Her research applies critical disability theory to the examination of immigration governance to reveal overlooked and interlocking regimes of ableism, nativism, and racism, which actively produce labor market inclusion and social exclusion.

Katherine McLaughlin

Katherine McLaughlin, Elevatus Training, has been a sexuality educator and trainer for over 25 years and trained the Michigan teams of sexuality educators. She is a national trainer and wrote the Sexuality Education Curriculum that the Michigan teams are using for their classes.

Kelly Friedlander

Kelly Friedlander is the Principal Consultant at Community Bridges Consulting Group. She has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for 15 years and consults primarily around stakeholder engagement, advocacy, and managed long-term supports and services. In North Carolina, she worked on stakeholder engagement and policy analysis projects for clients such as the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, RHA Howell, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Vaya Health, and Anthem Healthcare. Her specialty is convening and facilitating diverse work and advisory groups, with the goal of infusing individuals with IDD and their family member's voices into the public policymaking process. In addition, Kelly has worked as a subject matter expert and writer for managed care RFIs and RFPs in Florida, Washington, Texas, Missouri, and North Carolina.

Before moving to North Carolina, Kelly served as the Operational and Quality Assurance Director of Pyramid, Inc., the largest day training program in Florida. She also has experience working within a state government, as she provided oversight to the Developmental Services Quality Assurance Contract at Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration. Kelly holds a Master's of Social Work, a Master's of Public Administration, and a Bachelor's of Social Work.

Ken Capone

Ken Capone is a recognized leader in Maryland's self-advocacy movement. He is the Public Policy Director for People on the Go of Maryland and former Board President for Disability Rights Maryland. Mr. Capone spent 2 terms on the United States Presidents Committee for individuals with intellectual disabilities. He is well versed in community living and the

importance of directing your own services. He studied Computer Programming at Johns Hopkins University, completed the Partners in Policymaking® program, and served as a Legislative Intern with the Maryland Senate.

Kimberly Berg

Kimberly Berg, NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, is the Program Planner for the Individuals and Families Committee. This committee develops projects that offer direct opportunities for people with IDD and their families to learn skills they want/need to more fully participate in their communities throughout NYS. Kimberly will be coordinating the NY project, and will oversee the expansion of the project once training teams have been established.

Lauren Gerken

Lauren Gerken is a Public Policy Analyst with the Texas DD Council and has been with them for a little over a year. She is also a doctoral student at Texas State University, where she is studying education and community development opportunities for adults with IDD. When she's not working on policy change in Texas or writing papers, Lauren is getting cuddles from her dog, Buddy, or spending quality time with her wonderful family.

Lindsey Spoon

Hi, my name is Lindsey Spoon, and I work with a number of disability organizations. I am the youngest member of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma. I am the Vice President of Tulsa People First. I am a member and trainee of Oklahoma Self Advocacy Network. We are working on sex education curriculum by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. I am a Youth Leadership Forum and Partners in Policymaking graduate. I enjoy policy and keep in regular contact with my legislators.

Lisa Tesler

For over twenty years, Ms. Tesler has been a passionate advocate and visionary who supports inclusion and meaningful lives for people with developmental disabilities. She is a graduate of Lafayette College, Competence and Confidence: Partners in Policymaking (C2P2) through Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities through the University of Delaware, and the Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador training through the University of Missouri – Kansas City Institute for Human Development. From 2005 to 2019, Ms. Tesler worked for Vision for Equality providing training and mentoring for family members and self-advocates, most recently as the director of the PA Family Network. Her work also included systems advocacy to end the waiting list for services and to promote public policy to support all people to live self-determined lives in their communities. Ms. Tesler began her tenure as Executive Director in October 2019.

Maria Pinkelton

Maria Pinkelton is the Public Relations Director for the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities where she manages the GCDD Storytelling Project along with digital

communications and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She has 22 years of experience in the fields of communications, advocacy, and public relations. Her former roles include leading communications and media projects for the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University and BlazeSports America. She is a graduate of the 2018 Georgetown University Leadership Academy for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence and the 2021 Association of University Centers on Disabilities Leadership Academy.

Mary Shehan-Boogaard

Mary Shehan-Boogaard is the Community Inclusion Coordinator for the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. She has been a sexuality educator for over 35 years. She works closely with the trained teams of sexuality educators in Michigan.

Michael Brogioli

Michael J. Brogioli serves as the Executive Director of TASH, a national nonprofit organization that advances equity, opportunity and inclusion for people with disabilities, including those with significant support needs in all aspects of life including education, employment and housing. Michael joined TASH in October 2020 and brings over twenty-five years of senior management experience in the nonprofit sector, including past leadership positions as executive director of the Autism Coalition for Research and Education, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and RESNA. Brogioli also has experience working on Capitol Hill, where he served as a Jacob Javits Fellow and legislative assistant on health care issues to U.S. Senator Tom Daschle. Prior to joining TASH, Michael worked on an interim basis as a Senior Advisor to Eurasia Programs for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, where he advised programs involving civil society organizations including those that advocate for people with disabilities. Brogioli earned a Master of Public Policy from Duke University and a BA in Government and International Relations from the University of Notre Dame. He resides in Mount Rainier, Maryland.

Michael Hoover

Michael Hoover is a longtime Colorado self-advocate who testified in favor of Colorado's SB21-039 "Eliminate Sub-minimum Wage Employment" this past spring. He presently serves on Colorado's Employment First Advisory Partnership, which reports annual Employment First policy and practice implementation progress to Colorado's legislature. Michael also serves on the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council's Legislative & Public Policy Committee and is a past Council member.

Morgen Black-Smith

Morgen Black-Smith is the education staff attorney and director of Project for Youth Educational Success (Project YES!) at the Support Center for Child Advocates, where she provides direct representation to child clients in dependency and education matters and serves as an educational consultant for all *Child Advocates'* clients. Morgen is a 2006 graduate of the

University of Pennsylvania Law School and received her B.A. from the University of Virginia in 2001.

Nicole LeBlanc

Nicole LeBlanc has a keen ability and interest in public policy and excels at communicating the needs of people with developmental disabilities to public officials. 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. While at GMSA, Nicole served as the Project Assistant for the Inclusive Healthcare Partnership project. In 2012, Nicole completed a 10-week internship at the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities through the Washington Center in Washington, DC and has earned a certificate of professional studies from the University of Vermont. In 2018 Nicole graduated from the VT LEND program. She was the first self-advocate to complete it.

Nicole is a natural leader chosen by her peers due to her unwavering commitment to speaking the truth to power. She has presented keynotes on the dignity of risk at statewide self-advocacy conferences in Alabama, Missouri and Rhode Island. 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. In August 2016 Nicole moved to the DC Suburb of Silver Spring MD to for a 6-month Paul Marchand Public Policy internship at AUCD.

Nicole is not willing to shy away from taking on big challenges and new adventures. In 2017 Nicole traveled to Iceland & Ireland as part of the AAIDD delegation. From November 15, 2017 to October 29th Nicole was the Advocacy specialist for the Southern Region of MD where she assists self-advocates in dealing with the challenges of the service system. From February 2018 to September 2018 Nicole served as the Dr Ruth Sullivan policy fellow. From March 1 2018 to March 2019 Nicole was the SARTAC-Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center fellow for NDRN where she created a booklet on advocating for policies that promote Competitive Integrated Employment, otherwise known as Real Jobs for Real Pay. In April 2019 Nicole joined HSRI as the coordinator of the Person Centered Advisory and Leadership Group (PAL-Group) in the National Center on Advancing Person Centered Practices. In summer of 2019 Nicole won the David Joyce Advocate of the Year award for outstanding policy advocacy on Capitol Hill.

In the past few months Nicole has been part of the Social Media team putting on Facebook events for ADA30 and National Disability employment awareness month. In October of 2020 Nicole presented at Inclusion Works conference on "Turning Challenge into Opportunity: Getting People with I/DD Work from Home Jobs in Light of COVID19." Nicole has just recently accepted a contract role with Not Dead Yet to educate the MD/VA legislature on the need to

not pass laws on Doctor Assisted Suicide. In December Nicole started as the 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. This past May she delivered the keynote for the WI DD Council Employment First conference on dignity of risk, and person-centered planning in employment. Her Motto is Control Your Own Destiny or Someone Else Will. She is always open to consulting opportunities.

Pamela Rosen Lampitt

Pamela Rosen Lampitt has been an Assembly member since 2006 and represents the 6th District. She is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University, Providence, Rhode Island. She has chaired the NJ Assembly Women and Children Committee and currently chairs the Assembly Education Committee. Pam has worked for the University of Pennsylvania for almost 25 years and has been a past recipient of honors by NJCDD as an outstanding legislator for the disability community.

Parris Boyd

Parris Boyd is the project coordinator for the Institute on Disability at Temple University's criminal justice and sexuality initiatives. Parris is a licensed social worker who earned his Master of Social Work degree at Temple University. Previously, Parris studied Architecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Peg Kinsell

Peg Kinsell, Director of Public Policy at NJSPAN, is a parent and has been an advocate for most of her professional career. She is also the Director of Military Support 360 Project since 2009 and has worked for NJ Protection and Advocacy. Peg is a nationally-recognized advocate and serves on numerous groups that advocate for educational and family determination rights; she is a member of the board of the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities and co-chair of the Youth & Education Subcommittee.

Penny Johnson

Penny Johnson is the Program Coordinator for the Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support with The Arc Tennessee. The TN Center for Decision-Making Support is a virtual resource center for individuals with disabilities, their families and support providers to assist individuals with future decision-making planning. Penny joined The Arc Tennessee in July of 2020 to oversee the project from the website and program development to the ongoing management of the day-to-day activities and services.

Prior to joining The Arc Tennessee, Penny worked as a Pre-Employment Services Coordinator for youth with disabilities. She has over sixteen years of social services experience ranging from eligibility worker to program manager. She has been involved in several new program development projects during her career. Throughout her career, Penny has been dedicated to supporting and advocating for vulnerable populations, including individuals with intellectual

and developmental disabilities. Penny is passionate about helping individuals with disabilities achieve their greatest potential and success in life.

Rachel London

Rachel London is the Executive Director of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, a statewide public policy and advocacy organization promoting the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. Rachel has been with the Council for 12 years, serving as the Director of Children & Family Policy and Deputy Director prior to becoming Executive Director. Rachel earned her Bachelor's Degree and Law Degree from the University of Maryland. After law school, she was a staff attorney at Disability Rights Maryland where she was active in many important civil rights issues for adults with developmental disabilities, including the closure of the Rosewood Center.

Rebecca Spar

Rebecca Spar, Attorney, Cole Schotz, P.C., Hackensack, NJ for 32 years (retired), special education law litigation. She has served on the board of the Education Law Center, is a member of the New Jersey Special Education Practitioners, and was instrumental in the advocacy education of families during the campaign to pass S3434. Rebecca has represented parents and children in several precedent-setting educational cases.

Robert O'Mallan

Robert J. O'Mallan was appointed a member of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council in 2019 by Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero. He has been previously employed with the government of Guam through the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Robert has worked at the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam and has served as a staff assistant in the Guam Legislature under former Senator Carmen Fernandez and Senator Telena Cruz Nelson. He is a devout Roman Catholic and attends church weekly. In his spare time, Robert enjoys basketball, football, and watching horror movies.

Robert Spruce

Robert Spruce has worked for Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) for seven years. He currently works as a Peer Mentor Specialist, where he has co-facilitated the Peer Mentoring program in Wayne County and conducts educational trainings for the peers in the county. More importantly, he is one of the lead trainers for Michigan's Peer 101 Training. He also serves as the liaison between the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and the county.

Subha Bolisetty

Subha Bolisetty is a parent and powerful voice of advocacy for her son with I/DD. She has successfully navigated through a complex system to obtain an additional year of education for

him, during a time when many students were shut out of the education system. Her story will be inspiring to all advocates and family members.

Tracy Vincent

Tracy Vincent has worked for the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council for the past 20 years. She serves as the Resource Analyst and coordinates the Council's Peer Mentor Program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Michigan. Tracy is also a co-facilitator for the Community of Practice on Supporting Families and is a Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador.

Will Farris

My name is William (Will) Farris III. I was raised in a small town called Ravenel, South Carolina by my father and mother William and Gail Farris and younger sibling Dana Farris. I enjoy playing sports, listening to music, and spending time with friends and family. When I was fourteen years old, I was diagnosed with an intellectual disability called Asperger's Syndrome. During some of my elementary and middle years I recall struggling with social and academic skills. For example, when I would talk too much to my peers, I didn't pick up on social cues or body language when they were getting annoyed with me talking constantly or dominating the conversation. In 2014 I graduated from the College of Charleston R.E.A.C.H. program where I was able to learn and grow while discovering my passion for helping others, including those in the disability community such as myself. I currently work as program assistant for the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council. I am their program coordinator for an in-house program called Partners in Policymaking®. Also, I oversee all the self-advocacy grants and sit on different boards and committees. I have been in this position since July 2015.

Alec Goldstone

Alec Goldstone is a Legislative Assistant in the office of Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI). His portfolio includes health and disability policy, as well as transportation, infrastructure, energy, environment, labor, and campaign finance reform. He has served in this role since June 2021.

Alison Barkoff

Alison Barkoff was sworn into office as the Principal Deputy Administrator on January 20, 2021, and is currently serving as Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging. In this capacity, she provides executive direction, leadership, guidance and coordination for ACL programs nationwide and advises the HHS Secretary on issues affecting individuals with disabilities and older adults.

Ms. Barkoff comes to ACL from the Center for Public Representation, where she served as Director of Advocacy. In that position, she led policy advocacy with federal agencies and Congress and legal advocacy nationally to advance community living and inclusion, including in the areas of healthcare, Medicaid home- and community-based services, employment, housing, and education. She led and participated in numerous coalitions with disability and aging

organizations, including as co-chair of the Long-Term Services and Supports Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities. She has testified before Congress and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on disability rights and was appointed to serve on the federal Advisory Committee for Competitive Integrated Employment of People with Disabilities.

Ms. Barkoff previously served as Director of Advocacy at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, where she worked on a range of disability, healthcare, education and civil rights issues. In earlier government roles, she served as Special Counsel for Olmstead Enforcement in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, leading efforts to enforce the rights of people with disabilities to live, work and fully participate in their communities. She also worked with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the Department of Health and Human Services on policies related to Medicaid home- and community-based services and with the Department of Labor on issues affecting the workforce providing in-home services. She is a sibling to an adult brother with developmental disabilities and has been involved in disability advocacy her entire life. She received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and her Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law.

Amanda Lowe

Amanda Lowe serves as Director of Disability Policy for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee, Chair Patty Murray. Prior to her time on the HELP Committee, Amanda has served in a variety of advocacy roles including Director of Government Relations for the National PTA, Senior Public Policy Analyst for the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), and Policy Analyst for the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE). Amanda began her career as a special education teacher for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Amanda holds a B.A. from the University of Maine in Psychology and a master's degree from The George Washington University in special education.

Andre Robinson

Andre Robinson has been working at Community Living Services for nine years as a Peer Mentor. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Development with an emphasis on Community Services. Andre became a sexuality educator in 2018 working with the Wayne County team in Michigan.

Angela Williams

Named to Forbes' 2021 List of Women 50 Over 50 Creating Social Change at Scale, Angela F. Williams is president and CEO of Easterseals, the nation's leading nonprofit provider of life-changing disability services and powerful advocacy for its 1.5 million clients of all ages, including veterans and seniors. Entering its second century, Williams' goals are to increase Easterseals' growth, bolster its impact, expand its services, and advance disability equity in healthcare,

education, and employment for the one in four people living with disability today. With more than 30 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit and corporate sectors, Williams brings a long history of purpose-driven work to her role at Easterseals. Most recently, she was executive vice president, general counsel, and chief administration officer at YMCA of the USA, where she also had the unique opportunity to provide direct oversight in the construction of a \$130M mixed-use development project in Jerusalem, Israel.

Williams was raised in a military family, which influenced her decision to serve on active duty in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) for more than six years following her graduation from the University of Texas School of Law. This experience, when few Black women served in the JAG Corps, was foundational to her commitment to service. Her other leadership roles in government include serving on Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's Senate Judiciary Committee staff as special counsel on criminal law, prosecutor on the DOJ Civil Rights Division's National Church Arson Task Force, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

In the corporate world, Williams was vice president and deputy general counsel for Sears Holdings Corp, as well as chief compliance and ethics officer after working at Bryan Cave law firm. In 2006, directly before joining the YMCA, Williams was interfaith liaison for the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, a nonprofit organization formed to provide critically needed donations to assist the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

A native of Anderson, South Carolina, Williams earned a bachelor's degree in American government from the University of Virginia, a juris doctor from the University of Texas School of Law and a master's of divinity cum laude from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University. Williams resides in Chicago with her husband, the Reverend Roderick Williams. She is a volunteer pastor at Chicago Apostolic Center.

Ashley Eakin

Born in California and raised in Nebraska, Ashley Eakin is a writer-director based out of Los Angeles with a physical disability. She was most recently selected for the Powderkeg Fuse Incubator, curated by Paul Feig, in addition to the 2021 Commercial Directors Diversity Program. Last year she was 1 of 8 women selected for the AFI Directing Workshop for Women and her project SINGLE was selected for the 2020 SXSW Film Festival and received the Special Jury Recognition Award. The film has played in over 30 festivals winning 7 awards and 2 nominations. Eakin was also the recipient of the New York Women in Film Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant. In 2020 Eakin was hired as a Staff Writer on an Animated Netflix series, featuring a character with a disability. Prior to working on her own projects, in 2019 Eakin worked for and shadowed Mark Pellington on the Quibi series SURVIVE filmed in the Italian Alps starring Sophie Turner and Corey Hawkins. Prior to this, Eakin was the assistant to film director Jon M. Chu. In 2017 she spent 5 months in Malaysia and Singapore working on his

critically-acclaimed box-office hit CRAZY RICH ASIANS. Ashley has consulted on two projects for Disney.

Bob Lawhead

Bob Lawhead has served as Policy Advisor for the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council over the past five years. Prior to that, he led Community Link, a non-profit agency supporting the inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, for nearly 30 years. He received his MA Ed. from the University of Colorado and is Past President of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE). Bob presently serves on APSE's Public Policy Committee and as Colorado APSE's Public Policy Chair. He also serves as Co-Chair of Colorado's Employment First implementation panel. He authored *Conversion: From Segregated, Sheltered Workshops to Supported Employment* and serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. Bob has promoted inclusion for people with cognitive disabilities through parent education, systems change consultation and public policy advocacy. He and his wife Anastasia have one child, Jess, who experiences Down syndrome and who graduated from high school where he was included in regular classes. In late 2019 Jess was hired by a local pizzeria to assemble delivery boxes and perform stocking duties and has recently returned to work following a pandemic-related furlough.

Bob Titus

Bob Titus is a parent, guardian, and advocate for his son Joseph who is 39 years old and lives in the community in a group home. Bob is a graduate of Montclair University (1976) and worked as an engineer for Verizon for 34 years, then as Public Policy Director for Autism New Jersey and for the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities since 2014. He currently serves as a board member for the Princeton Child Development Institute and as an officer for the Knights of Columbus 636 Princeton.

Camron Hurt

I am Camron Hurt. I grew up in Europe and relocated to Nashville when I was a teenager. I am a proud graduate of Tuskegee University where I received my bachelor's degree in Political Science and Sociology. After graduating undergrad, I moved to Hawaii to pursue my master's degree in diplomacy. I adopted my son and made my home in Hawaii for 7.5 years until I made the move back to the south. My time in Tennessee has had me working not only in the legal sector but also in education and civil rights, respectively. I am a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated. In my free time I am the director of a soccer league, and a huge movie buff. I am so proud and honored to work with Disability Rights Tennessee as a paralegal for the Decision-Making Supports Division.

Curt Decker

Curt Decker has been affiliated with the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) since its inception in 1982. As Executive Director of the nation's largest non-governmental enforcer of disability rights, Curt oversees all activities related to training and technical assistance,

membership services, and legislative advocacy. He has been involved in the passage of every major disability legislation since that time.

Before founding NDRN with other P&A Directors, Curt served as Director of the Maryland P&A, Disability Rights Maryland. Curt also served as Director of the H.E.L.P. Resource Project for Abused and Neglected Children for four years, and was a VISTA worker prior to working as a senior attorney for Baltimore Legal Aid Bureau for five years.

Curt is also a past chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), a coalition of over 100 national disability groups, and serves on the boards of Friends of Research. In his career, Curt also served as a legislative consultant for numerous groups, including the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the National Public Law Training Center, and the Maryland Academy of Physician's Assistants. He is a graduate of Hamilton College and Cornell Law School.

Daintry Bartoldus

Daintry Bartoldus is the executive administrator of Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, an agency which provides advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. Daintry started with the Council in 2012 as their Community and Legislative Liaison, moving into the Executive Administrator position in 2017. Daintry's first introduction to working with individuals with developmental disabilities started in 1989, working for The Arc in Hawaii, who played a key role in the closure of the state institution for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Daintry was very active in educating the community on inclusion of individuals with I/DD. She filled various roles while at The Arc; working in group homes, creating new homes, apartment settings, working in day programs, supportive employment, and as the director of the Intermediate Care Facilities in the Community and the Medicaid Waiver program.

Dan Ohler

Dan Ohler is the Vice President of Optum Health, where he focuses on behavioral health for state and county government clients. He works directly with state and local government leaders, while also serving as primary liaison with national and state associations. Mr. Ohler has over 25 years of service to state and local governments in Ohio, including serving as the Chief Executive Officer of UCO Industries, Inc., the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB/DD), and the Deputy Director at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities responsible for the state's community-based Medicaid programs.

Mr. Ohler received a Master's in Business Administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from West Liberty State College in West Virginia. He has served as the Past President of the National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors, where he is currently an affiliate

member & corporate partner. He was a founding member of the Ohio Waiver Network, a non-profit trade association representing HCBS providers and other stakeholders. From 2014-2016, he served as a board member for PAR Ohio, a statewide advocacy and training organization, and from 2015-2016, he served as Board Secretary. From 2015-2019, he also served as a board member for the Creative Abundance Group, a non-profit entity focused on innovative solutions and programs in the I/DD service system, and since 2016, Mr. Ohler has served as a board member for UCO Industries, an international tier-one automotive supplier providing integrated employment opportunities for people with I/DD. In 2021, he was appointed as a board member for Passion Works Studio, a non-profit collaborative community arts center with a core group of artists with developmental disabilities. Mr. Ohler currently serves as a member of Rotary International, Union County, OH chapter.

Diana Mairose

Diana is a valued member of the Advocacy Support Team with Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, where she has been employed as an advocate since 2008. She is the founding member of the Advocacy Leadership Network of Hamilton County and promotes affordable and accessible housing, youth leadership, and voting. Diana is a long-time, active, well-connected advocate for people with disabilities. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, but has a heart for people all over the nation, evidenced by her widely sought-after services as a speaker.

When Ohio passed Senate Bill 79 into law eliminating the words mental retardation, Diana was personally motivated to also eliminate the word handicapped on new parking signs and restrooms. She has accomplished this with resolutions from the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and with Ohio Senator Eric Kearney on Senate Bill 48. Senate Bill 48 calls for the use of the international symbol and the word accessible in place of the outdated and offensive term handicapped.

Donna Meltzer

Donna Meltzer is CEO of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), a national non-profit organization that supports the nation's 56 governor-appointed Developmental Disabilities Councils that work within state government to promote independence, productivity, and integration of people with disabilities through systems change activities. In this capacity Ms. Meltzer oversees the organization's public policy and advocacy agenda, as well as technical assistance to the members. Ms. Meltzer joined the NACDD in October 2012. Previously she was the Senior Director of Government Relations for the Epilepsy Foundation. She rejoined the Epilepsy Foundation 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), a former Congressman and House Whip from California who is the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and a person with epilepsy. Ms. Meltzer also spent two years as the Government Affairs Director for the National Health Council where she directed the advocacy agenda for the Council's Voluntary Health Agency (VHA) members. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland's School of Journalism.

Ms. Meltzer also provides tremendous leadership through multiple Boards and Coalitions. She is Immediate past president of the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Health Funding. She is also a former Chair and former long-time member of the Board of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD). She currently services on multiple Boards and Advisory groups including for UnitedHealthCare's National Advisory Board on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the National Advisory Board for the College of Director Support/Direct Course.

Emily Kranking

Emily Kranking is an actress, advocate, and writer with cerebral palsy. Her first feature film is the groundbreaking movie musical *Best Summer Ever*, in which she stars as the bubbly cheerleader Nancy. It premiered in SXSW, gaining critical acclaim. She's also currently a conservatory student in Washington, DC, and hopes to make it in musical theatre, television, and especially in animation as the first disabled Disney Princess. As an advocate, Emily is currently a Strategic Communications fellow at DC Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC). Previously, she was a Communications Consultant at National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and a year-long fellow at RespectAbility in their Policy and Hollywood Relations departments. Additionally, Emily was a participant in RespectAbility's Hollywood Lab program as an emerging scriptwriter. Her publications on disability have been posted on RespectAbility, Yahoo, MSN, and The Mighty.

Emily Voorde

Emily Voorde was born in South Bend, Indiana. In utero, Emily was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. Since the age of 3, she's been using a wheelchair to navigate our (albeit often inaccessible) world! Emily graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2015 with a degree in political science and minors in constitutional studies and business economics. At Notre Dame, Emily was an independent researcher with the Keough Dublin Summer program, an intern in the office of Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and an intern in Senator Joe Donnelly's Washington DC office. Following graduation from Notre Dame, Emily participated in the Alliance for Catholic Education's Teaching Fellows Program, a two-year program blending full-time teaching in an under-resourced school with Masters of Education graduate coursework at the University of Notre Dame. While with ACE, Emily taught in a second grade self-contained classroom in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

In 2017, Emily began a Masters of Public Policy in Education at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. While in Nashville, Emily worked full time at Instruction Partners, an education non-profit. Upon her graduation from Vanderbilt in May 2019, Emily joined Mayor Pete Buttigieg's Presidential Campaign, Pete for America, as a Travel Manager. Her role quickly evolved as Chasten Buttigieg, Mayor Pete's husband, built out his own traveling road team. Emily spent the remainder of the campaign in direct support of Chasten as his Body Woman and Trip Director. In August 2020, Emily joined the University of Notre Dame's Sara Bea Accessibility

Services Team as their Assistant Director for Education and Outreach, supporting students with disabilities through the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2021, Emily was appointed to a role in the White House Office of Public Engagement as an Assistant Director and the Administration's liaison to disabled Americans.

Erin Prangley

Erin Prangley is Director of Public Policy at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), the national association for the 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities across the United States and its territories. Ms. Prangley also serves as a Board Member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and Co-Chair of the CCD Task Force on Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Supports. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Prior to joining NACDD, Ms. Prangley was the Associate Director for Public Policy at the American Association of University Women advocating for educational and economic equity with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. Her extensive experience on Capitol Hill includes serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Brad Sherman (CA) and as a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC). For several years, Ms. Prangley also practiced employment, veterans' benefits and immigration law representing clients in state and federal courts. Ms. Prangley is a graduate of the University of Southern California (B.S. Sociology) and the American University Washington College of Law (J.D.).

Essie Pederson

Having an older brother with Down syndrome taught Essie Pederson unconditional love and the ability to see the talents and gifts of people with developmental disabilities (DD). After 48 years professionally working with families, individuals with DD of all ages, and other professionals, she is now approaching retirement. Her passion and commitment continues by teaching and supporting voters with DD by working on the SABE GoVoter Project.

Grace Fay Cooper

Grace is a PhD Candidate in the department of anthropology at Temple University and currently works as a graduate research assistant at the Institute on Disabilities, Pennsylvania's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education. At the Institute on Disabilities, Grace collaborates with the research and evaluation team on projects focused on culturally, linguistically, and structurally responsive service provision for individuals with disabilities. Grace's dissertation is an ethnographic account of the lived intersections of immigration processes and health care policy in Philadelphia's Latinx immigrant community.

Jack Rosen

Jack Rosen develops non-partisan messaging to engage and increase participation of voters with disabilities in the electoral process. He collaborates with civil and disability rights organizations to enhance voter engagement nationally. Prior to joining NDRN in May 2020, Jack helped implement voter contact strategies for a state Senate campaign and worked as a freelance strategic communications consultant. He holds a B.A. in Government from Skidmore College and an M.A. in American Government from Georgetown University.

Jeff Waldstreicher

Elected to the Senate in 2018, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher has been a member of the Maryland General Assembly for four terms. He serves as Vice Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. Throughout his legislative career, Jeff has been a leading advocate for justice and equality, especially for those with differing abilities. Jeff's sister has autism spectrum disorder, making this issue deeply personal to him. He proudly sponsored and passed the "Ken Capone Equal Employment Act," which eliminated the sub-minimum wage here in Maryland. He also worked with stakeholders to end the Medicaid clawback for ABLE accounts. Professionally, Jeff is a practicing attorney who represents clients in complex litigation matters. Before striking out on his own, Jeff practiced at a large, international law firm. Jeff received his B.A. *Phi Beta Kappa* from Emory University in Political Science and History and earned his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, where he was an editor of the law review. Born and raised in Montgomery County, he lives with his wife, Joanna, and their three young children—Kate, Eli, & Harry—in Kensington, MD.

John Tschida

John Tschida, MPP, is the executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). He has spent more than 20 years using data and research to drive policy change and service development for individuals with disabilities. Before joining AUCD in February of 2017 as associate executive director, he was appointed as director of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. NIDILRR is the federal government's premier applied research agency impacting individuals with disabilities.

Prior to joining NIDILRR in 2014, he served as director of public policy and innovation at Allina Health in Minnesota, where he helped integrate medical and community-based services for people with disabilities. At the Courage Center, Minnesota's leading nonprofit provider of rehabilitation services, Mr. Tschida was vice president of public affairs and research. There, he built and directed a public policy and research team that focused on defining and achieving better outcomes for people with disabilities. He also led a statewide, cross-disability legislative coalition of more than 100 provider and advocacy organizations.

Earlier in his career, Tschida served as a research fellow at the National Rehabilitation Hospital Center for Health and Disability Research, in Washington, D.C. He was also assistant director of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. Mr. Tschida has served on a number of public and private boards designing policy or governance solutions to further the

independence of people with disabilities, and he has written numerous articles on disability and public policy for national and local publications.

Mr. Tschida, who has lived with a spinal cord injury since 1993, has a master's degree in public policy and a health services research certificate from Georgetown University, and a bachelor of arts from Macalester College.

Julia Bascom

Julia Bascom serves as Executive Director at the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. Previously, she did state-level work in her home state of New Hampshire, where she served on the DD council and co-led an inter-agency team to revitalize self-advocacy within the state. Julia edited *Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking*, an anthology of writings by autistic people, and currently serves on the advisory board of Felicity House, and the boards of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, the Institute for Exceptional Care, and Allies For Independence.

K. Eva Weiss

Eva is a Research Associate at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, where she contributes to local, state and national projects, examining secondary transition, service provision, supported decision-making, inclusion and enfranchisement, cultural competency, the school-to-prison pipeline, and deinstitutionalization. Eva is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Temple University. Her research applies critical disability theory to the examination of immigration governance to reveal overlooked and interlocking regimes of ableism, nativism, and racism, which actively produce labor market inclusion and social exclusion.

Katherine McLaughlin

Katherine McLaughlin, Elevatus Training, has been a sexuality educator and trainer for over 25 years and trained the Michigan teams of sexuality educators. She is a national trainer and wrote the Sexuality Education Curriculum that the Michigan teams are using for their classes.

Kelly Friedlander

Kelly Friedlander is the Principal Consultant at Community Bridges Consulting Group. She has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for 15 years and consults primarily around stakeholder engagement, advocacy, and managed long-term supports and services. In North Carolina, she worked on stakeholder engagement and policy analysis projects for clients such as the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, RHA Howell, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Vaya Health, and Anthem Healthcare. Her specialty is convening and facilitating diverse work and advisory groups, with the goal of infusing individuals with IDD and their family member's voices into the public policymaking process. In addition, Kelly has worked as a subject matter expert and writer for managed care RFIs and RFPs in Florida, Washington, Texas, Missouri, and North Carolina.

Before moving to North Carolina, Kelly served as the Operational and Quality Assurance Director of Pyramid, Inc., the largest day training program in Florida. She also has experience working within a state government, as she provided oversight to the Developmental Services Quality Assurance Contract at Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration. Kelly holds a Master's of Social Work, a Master's of Public Administration, and a Bachelor's of Social Work.

Ken Capone

Ken Capone is a recognized leader in Maryland's self-advocacy movement. He is the Public Policy Director for People on the Go of Maryland and former Board President for Disability Rights Maryland. Mr. Capone spent 2 terms on the United States Presidents Committee for individuals with intellectual disabilities. He is well versed in community living and the importance of directing your own services. He studied Computer Programming at Johns Hopkins University, completed the Partners in Policymaking® program, and served as a Legislative Intern with the Maryland Senate.

Kim Musheno

Kim Musheno is the Vice President of Public Policy for the Autism Society, a national organization representing a network of 74 affiliates dedicated to providing supports and services to people with autism and their families. Kim has over 25 years of experience working in Washington on disability policy.

Kim served as a past chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), the nation's largest national coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations. Kim also co-chairs the CCD Autism and Education Task Forces and serves on the Employment, Health, and Long Term Services Task Forces.

Kim previously worked for 16 years as Director of Public Policy for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, a national organization representing a network of university-affiliated researchers and programs providing interdisciplinary training in disabilities to health professionals. Prior to working at AUUCD, she was a communications specialist at The Arc of the United States Governmental Affairs Office and research assistant at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).

Kimberly Berg

Kimberly Berg, NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, is the Program Planner for the Individuals and Families Committee. This committee develops projects that offer direct opportunities for people with IDD and their families to learn skills they want/need to more fully participate in their communities throughout NYS. Kimberly will be coordinating the NY project, and will oversee the expansion of the project once training teams have been established.

Lauren Gerken

Lauren Gerken is a Public Policy Analyst with the Texas DD Council and has been with them for a little over a year. She is also a doctoral student at Texas State University, where she is studying education and community development opportunities for adults with IDD. When she's not working on policy change in Texas or writing papers, Lauren is getting cuddles from her dog, Buddy, or spending quality time with her wonderful family.

Lindsey Spoon

Hi, my name is Lindsey Spoon, and I work with a number of disability organizations. I am the youngest member of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma. I am the Vice President of Tulsa People First. I am a member and trainee of Oklahoma Self Advocacy Network. We are working on sex education curriculum by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. I am a Youth Leadership Forum and Partners in Policymaking graduate. I enjoy policy and keep in regular contact with my legislators.

Lisa Tesler

For over twenty years, Ms. Tesler has been a passionate advocate and visionary who supports inclusion and meaningful lives for people with developmental disabilities. She is a graduate of Lafayette College, Competence and Confidence: Partners in Policymaking (C2P2) through Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities through the University of Delaware, and the Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador training through the University of Missouri – Kansas City Institute for Human Development. From 2005 to 2019, Ms. Tesler worked for Vision for Equality providing training and mentoring for family members and self-advocates, most recently as the director of the PA Family Network. Her work also included systems advocacy to end the waiting list for services and to promote public policy to support all people to live self-determined lives in their communities. Ms. Tesler began her tenure as Executive Director in October 2019.

Maria Pinkelton

Maria Pinkelton is the Public Relations Director for the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities where she manages the GCDD Storytelling Project along with digital communications and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She has 22 years of experience in the fields of communications, advocacy, and public relations. Her former roles include leading communications and media projects for the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University and BlazeSports America. She is a graduate of the 2018 Georgetown University Leadership Academy for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence and the 2021 Association of University Centers on Disabilities Leadership Academy.

Mary Shehan-Boogaard

Mary Shehan-Boogaard is the Community Inclusion Coordinator for the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. She has been a sexuality educator for over 35 years. She works closely with the trained teams of sexuality educators in Michigan.

Michael Brogioli

Michael J. Brogioli serves as the Executive Director of TASH, a national nonprofit organization that advances equity, opportunity and inclusion for people with disabilities, including those with significant support needs in all aspects of life including education, employment and housing. Michael joined TASH in October 2020 and brings over twenty-five years of senior management experience in the nonprofit sector, including past leadership positions as executive director of the Autism Coalition for Research and Education, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and RESNA. Brogioli also has experience working on Capitol Hill, where he served as a Jacob Javits Fellow and legislative assistant on health care issues to U.S. Senator Tom Daschle. Prior to joining TASH, Michael worked on an interim basis as a Senior Advisor to Eurasia Programs for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, where he advised programs involving civil society organizations including those that advocate for people with disabilities. Brogioli earned a Master of Public Policy from Duke University and a BA in Government and International Relations from the University of Notre Dame. He resides in Mount Rainier, Maryland.

Michael Hoover

Michael Hoover is a longtime Colorado self-advocate who testified in favor of Colorado's SB21-039 "Eliminate Sub-minimum Wage Employment" this past spring. He presently serves on Colorado's Employment First Advisory Partnership, which reports annual Employment First policy and practice implementation progress to Colorado's legislature. Michael also serves on the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council's Legislative & Public Policy Committee and is a past Council member.

Morgen Black-Smith

Morgen Black-Smith is the education staff attorney and director of Project for Youth Educational Success (Project YES!) at the Support Center for Child Advocates, where she provides direct representation to child clients in dependency and education matters and serves as an educational consultant for all *Child Advocates'* clients. Morgen is a 2006 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and received her B.A. from the University of Virginia in 2001.

Nicole LeBlanc

Nicole LeBlanc has a keen ability and interest in public policy and excels at communicating the needs of people with developmental disabilities to public officials. 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. While at GMSA, Nicole served as the Project Assistant for the Inclusive Healthcare Partnership project. In 2012, Nicole completed a 10-week internship at the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities through the Washington Center in Washington, DC and has earned a certificate of professional studies from the University of Vermont. In 2018 Nicole graduated from the VT LEND program. She was the first self-advocate to complete it.

Nicole is a natural leader chosen by her peers due to her unwavering commitment to speaking the truth to power. She has presented keynotes on the dignity of risk at statewide self-advocacy conferences in Alabama, Missouri and Rhode Island. 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. In August 2016 Nicole moved to the DC Suburb of Silver Spring MD to for a 6-month Paul Marchand Public Policy internship at AUCD.

Nicole is not willing to shy away from taking on big challenges and new adventures. In 2017 Nicole traveled to Iceland & Ireland as part of the AAIDD delegation. From November 15, 2017 to October 29th Nicole was the Advocacy specialist for the Southern Region of MD where she assists self-advocates in dealing with the challenges of the service system. From February 2018 to September 2018 Nicole served as the Dr Ruth Sullivan policy fellow. From March 1 2018 to March 2019 Nicole was the SARTAC-Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center fellow for NDRN where she created a booklet on advocating for policies that promote Competitive Integrated Employment, otherwise known as Real Jobs for Real Pay. In April 2019 Nicole joined HSRI as the coordinator of the Person Centered Advisory and Leadership Group (PAL-Group) in the National Center on Advancing Person Centered Practices. In summer of 2019 Nicole won the David Joyce Advocate of the Year award for outstanding policy advocacy on Capitol Hill.

In the past few months Nicole has been part of the Social Media team putting on Facebook events for ADA30 and National Disability employment awareness month. In October of 2020 Nicole presented at Inclusion Works conference on “Turning Challenge into Opportunity: Getting People with I/DD Work from Home Jobs in Light of COVID19.” Nicole has just recently accepted a contract role with Not Dead Yet to educate the MD/VA legislature on the need to not pass laws on Doctor Assisted Suicide. In December Nicole started as the 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. This past May she delivered the keynote for the WI DD Council Employment First conference on dignity of risk, and person-centered planning in employment. Her Motto is Control Your Own Destiny or Someone Else Will. She is always open to consulting opportunities.

Pamela Rosen Lampitt

Pamela Rosen Lampitt has been an Assembly member since 2006 and represents the 6th District. She is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University, Providence, Rhode Island. She has chaired the NJ Assembly Women and Children Committee and currently chairs the Assembly Education Committee. Pam has worked for the University of Pennsylvania for almost 25 years

and has been a past recipient of honors by NJCDD as an outstanding legislator for the disability community.

Parris Boyd

Parris Boyd is the project coordinator for the Institute on Disability at Temple University's criminal justice and sexuality initiatives. Parris is a licensed social worker who earned his Master of Social Work degree at Temple University. Previously, Parris studied Architecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Peg Kinsell

Peg Kinsell, Director of Public Policy at NJSPAN, is a parent and has been an advocate for most of her professional career. She is also the Director of Military Support 360 Project since 2009 and has worked for NJ Protection and Advocacy. Peg is a nationally-recognized advocate and serves on numerous groups that advocate for educational and family determination rights; she is a member of the board of the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities and co-chair of the Youth & Education Subcommittee.

Penny Johnson

Penny Johnson is the Program Coordinator for the Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support with The Arc Tennessee. The TN Center for Decision-Making Support is a virtual resource center for individuals with disabilities, their families and support providers to assist individuals with future decision-making planning. Penny joined The Arc Tennessee in July of 2020 to oversee the project from the website and program development to the ongoing management of the day-to-day activities and services.

Prior to joining The Arc Tennessee, Penny worked as a Pre-Employment Services Coordinator for youth with disabilities. She has over sixteen years of social services experience ranging from eligibility worker to program manager. She has been involved in several new program development projects during her career. Throughout her career, Penny has been dedicated to supporting and advocating for vulnerable populations, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Penny is passionate about helping individuals with disabilities achieve their greatest potential and success in life.

Rachel London

Rachel London is the Executive Director of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, a statewide public policy and advocacy organization promoting the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. Rachel has been with the Council for 12 years, serving as the Director of Children & Family Policy and Deputy Director prior to becoming Executive Director. Rachel earned her Bachelor's Degree and Law Degree from the University of Maryland. After law school, she was a staff attorney at Disability Rights Maryland where she was active in many important civil rights issues for adults with developmental disabilities, including the closure of the Rosewood Center.

Rachita Singh

Rachita is the Public Relations and Communications Coordinator at AAPD. Her work centers around representing AAPD on various platforms and advancing AAPD's mission through internal and external communications. Her goals are to make the disability vote a prominent aspect of politics and spread awareness of its impact, and to ensure that people with disabilities are not treated as second-class citizens.

She got her B.A. in Government from the College of William and Mary and a Master's in Public Policy from Duke University. She has been a part of various professional fields, from interning on Capitol Hill to working as an assistant paralegal in a law firm, to being a project assistant at Howard University. Her introduction to disability rights and AAPD came from a summer internship with AAPD through the Google Policy Fellowship program. The disability community at large is not part of the majority of the population's general knowledge and political awareness and Rachita hopes to help change that.

Rebecca Spar

Rebecca Spar, Attorney, Cole Schotz, P.C., Hackensack, NJ for 32 years (retired), special education law litigation. She has served on the board of the Education Law Center, is a member of the New Jersey Special Education Practitioners, and was instrumental in the advocacy education of families during the campaign to pass S3434. Rebecca has represented parents and children in several precedent-setting educational cases.

Robert O'Mallan

Robert J. O'Mallan was appointed a member of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council in 2019 by Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero. He has been previously employed with the government of Guam through the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Robert has worked at the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam and has served as a staff assistant in the Guam Legislature under former Senator Carmen Fernandez and Senator Telena Cruz Nelson. He is a devout Roman Catholic and attends church weekly. In his spare time, Robert enjoys basketball, football, and watching horror movies.

Robert Spruce

Robert Spruce has worked for Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) for seven years. He currently works as a Peer Mentor Specialist, where he has co-facilitated the Peer Mentoring program in Wayne County and conducts educational trainings for the peers in the county. More importantly, he is one of the lead trainers for Michigan's Peer 101 Training. He also serves as the liaison between the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and the county.

Subha Bolisetty

Subha Bolisetty is a parent and powerful voice of advocacy for her son with I/DD. She has successfully navigated through a complex system to obtain an additional year of education for him, during a time when many students were shut out of the education system. Her story will be inspiring to all advocates and family members.

Tracy Vincent

Tracy Vincent has worked for the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council for the past 20 years. She serves as the Resource Analyst and coordinates the Council's Peer Mentor Program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Michigan. Tracy is also a co-facilitator for the Community of Practice on Supporting Families and is a Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador.

Will Farrior

My name is William (Will) Farrior III. I was raised in a small town called Ravenel, South Carolina by my father and mother William and Gail Farrior and younger sibling Dana Farrior. I enjoy playing sports, listening to music, and spending time with friends and family. When I was fourteen years old, I was diagnosed with an intellectual disability called Asperger's Syndrome. During some of my elementary and middle years I recall struggling with social and academic skills. For example, when I would talk too much to my peers, I didn't pick up on social cues or body language when they were getting annoyed with me talking constantly or dominating the conversation. In 2014 I graduated from the College of Charleston R.E.A.C.H. program where I was able to learn and grow while discovering my passion for helping others, including those in the disability community such as myself. I currently work as program assistant for the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council. I am their program coordinator for an in-house program called Partners in Policymaking®. Also, I oversee all the self-advocacy grants and sit on different boards and committees. I have been in this position since July 2015.