

Pre-Conference Session:

What's Your EQ: The Importance of Emotional Intelligence

Dabria Van Gieson, LCMFT, RPT, Empac

Emotional Intelligence is recognized as a key indicator of emotional health and productivity. This training will address self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management and will help participants identify ways to increase their emotional intelligence.

Keynote Speaker - Wednesday:

Remembering Your Why

John Silfies, Founder Silfies Media

It's no secret that working in this industry comes with challenges. There are so many obstacles that each of us are trying to overcome every day in our roles. So that leaves us with one question, "Why am I still here?". I want to walk you through the steps of remembering the WHY behind what you do, and how your story can help impact your own life, the lives of your employees, individuals you support and your recruitment efforts.

General Session - Thursday:

Courageous Leadership – Living a Life of Influence

Dan Meers, Mascot, Motivational Speaker, Author, and Family Man

On November 23, 2013, Dan Meers came within inches of losing his life while practicing a bungee jump and zip line stunt at Arrowhead Stadium... home of the Kansas City Chiefs. What Dan anticipated being the thrill of a lifetime ended up being the spill of a lifetime. The stunt went terribly wrong, and Dan plummeted 75 feet before crashing into the stadium seats. Miraculously Dan survived. He spent 9 days in the hospital and got some really big scars. Dan smiles when he says, "Scars are just Tattoos that come with a Cool Story". During this powerful presentation Dan shares his incredible story and the important lessons that he learned during his long road to recovery about leadership and about life.

Legislative Panel - Friday:

Legislative Q&A Panel

Kansas Legislators

Join a panel of Kansas Legislators for breakfast and learn more about upcoming legislative priorities.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Wednesday, Oct. 11, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

GoodLife Delivered: Solutions to Stabilize Your Workforce

Dr. Mike Strouse, GoodLife Innovations, Inc.

Join Dr. Mike Strouse and the team from GoodLife University as we share tangible and meaningful solutions that will stabilize your workforce while improving the lives of the direct support caregivers (DSPs) who make your mission possible.

This session will deliver a fast-paced, high-level overview of GoodLife U's evidence-based initiatives for improving the capacity and consistency of your DSP workforce. We will highlight GoodLife U's 1) recruiting and hiring strategies, 2) training approach and early on-the-job support for new DSPs, 3) five-faucet approach for staffing schedules, 4) pay and paid time-off strategies, 5) replacement staffing and vacancy management strategies, and 6) unique benefit strategies for DSPs. We will also present an overview of the metrics we use to assess the quality and stability of our own Kansas workforce of about 350 DSPs, where, as of January 2023 we have zero net DSP openings.

The DSP+ Apprenticeship: Professionalizing the DSP Career

Shelby Fields, DSNWK; Sheena Luedke, DSNWK; Chadra Hill, Goodwill; Rachel Hughes, FlintHills Services; Shonda Atwater, Kansas Department of Commerce; Matt Fletcher, InterHab

DSP+ is a new registered apprenticeship program that provides further professional advancement for Kansas Direct Support Professionals who provide services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Join this session to learn more about the program, how to become an apprentice site, and what current apprentice sites are doing to be successful.

Dementia-Related Behavior and the 4 Golden Rules

Heather Brown, MS, Johnson County Developmental Supports

Do you ever get frustrated with the behavior of people who have dementia? You're not alone! This session will explore common dementia-related behaviors that many people experience, the top three triggers for behavior, and the four golden rules to follow to help reduce frustrations for both you AND the people you support.

Four-Course Living: Nutrition, Safety, Planning, Prep – Essential Ingredients in the Recipe to Achieve Independence and Healthy Living

Chelsea Reinberg, K-State Extension Office

Nearly 10 years ago, volunteers with Johnson County K-State Research and Extension recognized that developing kitchen and food preparation skills was critical for individuals with disabilities who live in the community but was currently an unmet need. As a result, the Four-Course Living program was developed to help individuals with disabilities discover the importance of nutrition, safety, planning, and prep. Come learn from staff and volunteers of the Four-Course Living program the evolution of the program, lessons learned, and keys to successfully developing and implementing a Four-Course Living program in your facility or community.

HIPAA Haiku: Helping you Navigate HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules
Brooke Bennett Aziere, Foulston

This session delivers a HIPAA overview, including the privacy, security, and breach notification rules, identifies when I/DD organizations are likely to encounter protected health information (PHI), and what factors to consider in keeping your organization compliant with the most current HIPAA requirements.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Thursday, Oct. 12, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

The START Model Overview

Felicia Bates, MPH, National Center for START Services

The START (*Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment*) model is an evidence-based, community crisis prevention and intervention service model designed for individuals 6 and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and mental health needs (IDD-MH). This breakout session aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the START Model; covering its history, mission, and values, as well as the framework of START service delivery and its guiding principles. Attendees will gain insight into the person-centered and solution-focused nature of the START Model, which incorporates positive psychology and other evidenced-based practices. This session will share the experience of a de-identified individual who has benefited from START services, providing a tangible example of how the model is implemented into practice.

Sexual and Domestic Violence: Understanding the Basics

Shirley Fessler, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

Colin Olenick, Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas

During this session, attendees will be provided with a basic introduction to sexual and domestic violence. We will specifically address barriers for victim-survivors from marginalized and underserved communities, focusing on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Participants will learn about the definitions, dynamics and prevalence of sexual and domestic violence, and the impact of trauma on victim-survivors. The goal of this session is to educate participants about effective skills that support victim/survivor safety and empowerment across systems and apply the knowledge and skills learned throughout the session.

DSP Recruiting Strategies & Motivations: How to Attract and Keep the Staff You Want

Jocelyn Leatherman, SETWorks

It's challenging to compete in today's talent market especially as a disability service agency, but have you tried this yet? We'll show you strategies for how you can attract top talent, focus on your employees and your mission, make your workplace a fun place to be, and offer the perks that team members want from an employer.

What makes a DSP “good” at their job, and how can we empower them to be even better? To answer these questions, we can focus on performance metrics of an ideal DSP and implement “shoulds” indefinitely, but diving into the individual motivations of DSPs is where organizations can find immediate and long-term success.

KDADS Session

Details Coming Soon!

Empowering Possibilities: Exploring Cutting-Edge Enabling Technologies in the IDD Landscape
Solomon Parker, CareSource

Remote wearables are revolutionizing the IDD landscape in unprecedented ways. This session highlights the pilot collaboration between GoodLife Innovations, Awake Labs and CareSource, showcasing the innovative use of remote wearable technologies to enhance the lives of individuals with IDD. Attendees will gain insights into design, implementation, and outcomes of this pilot, highlighting the potential for scalable and sustainable solutions. They will leave the session with a deeper understanding of the benefits, challenges, and future directions of these enabling technologies to promote greater independence and well-being for individuals with IDD.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Thursday, Oct. 12, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Integrated and Informed Emergency Response and Mental Health Evaluation for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disability and Mental Health Needs Felicia Bates, MPH, National Center for START Services

This breakout session aims to provide a diverse range of professionals and stakeholders, with effective strategies for bridging the gap in emergency response and mental health evaluation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health needs (IDD-MH). Throughout the session, participants will gain insight into the importance of integrating different systems and stakeholders to ensure a cohesive and comprehensive approach to care. Moreover, they will explore strategies for fostering collaboration among emergency responders, mental health professionals, medical professionals, caregivers, and other key stakeholders. Additionally, by shedding light on the unique challenges faced by individuals with IDD-MH, this session will enhance informed decision-making during emergency situations and mental health evaluations.

Supporting People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities to Have Safe and Healthy Relationships

Jami Clark, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

Lisa Barcus, Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas

During this session, participants will gain a better understanding that people with IDD have the right to be in loving, safe and fulfilling relationships, just like anyone else. This includes social circles, sexuality, intimacy, sexual relationships, and their own gender identity. Participants will learn about the KS BELIEVE Healthy Relationships Guide, a helpful resource that can be used to assist in understanding healthy relationships and provide support when having conversations about healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Shared Living-Living your Best Life

Sherry Biddle Sunflower; Connie Keeling Goodlife; Holly Rivera KDADS IDD Program Manager; Aaron Norris KDADS Licensing

Service Providers across the nation are facing the perfect storm of workforce shortage and meeting CMS final rule of increasing community involvement, choice & control. Shared Living is a Home & Community-Based setting that meets all characteristics of the CMS Final Rule. The Shared Living experience provides an opportunity for each individual with a developmental disability to grow to his or her greatest potential & to participate in everyday community life.

Promoting Informed Choice Through “The Three E’s”

Angela Rapp Kennedy, The Council on Quality and Leadership

The Three E's - Education, Experience, and Exposure - is the foundation for informed choice. The knowledge we gain, situations we come across, and observations along the way, all help us as we encounter new circumstances, make decisions, and adjust to the world around us. The Three E's are especially relevant to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) considering that their choices are regularly limited or even completely restricted.

In this presentation, we describe the role that the Three E's can play in the lives of those with disabilities in promoting choice, advancing self-determination, and protecting independence. You'll hear real-life stories of how different provider organizations are using the Three E's to positively impact people's lives. Finally, we'll share data that demonstrates the direct impact that Education, Experience, and Exposure can have on quality-of-life outcomes.

Changing Your Organization's Mindset on Services Through Remote Supports Technology

Chris Patterson, Night Owl Support Systems

Patrick Gardner, COF

Rachel Neumann, COF

Are you considering using technology to support individuals you serve? Looking for ways to maximize your current resources? This session will provide an overview of the nuts and bolts of Remote Supports and how it benefits individuals and providers alike. Learn about how COF successfully implemented Remoted Support technology and how their innovative partnership with NOSS continues to help individuals achieve increased independence.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Thursday, Oct. 12, 2:45 – 4 p.m.

Kansas Rehabilitation Services Panel Dan Decker, Kansas Rehabilitation Services

Join Kansas Rehabilitation Services staff for a panel discussion and question & answer session.

Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Report on Justice – Involved Persons with ICCoD Nanette Perrin, Sunflower Health Plan; Nick Wood, InterHab; Megan Shepard, KDADS

Kansas completed a Statewide SIM in November 2022. The goal of the SIM conference is to help Kansas identify existing community resources, service gaps, and opportunities for improved service coordination and communication between mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice professionals. We will share highlights from the reports, small group progress and next steps.

Wellness Programs That Help Employees Bring Their Best Self to Work Shelby Hoffman, CCWS, The Miller Group

Your staff is the driving force behind your organization's success, but they can't perform their best work if they are experiencing health issues, grappling with financial troubles at home, or feeling undervalued in the workplace.

Building a holistic wellness culture within your company is key to improving employee satisfaction. It also holds the power to boost overall productivity and decrease the likelihood of a catastrophic health event. That's because holistic wellness goes beyond physical health; it encompasses eight different areas that impact a person's overall well-being.

In this session, you'll:

- Discover the eight areas of holistic wellness
- Brainstorm ideas on what your company can do
- Learn how to decide what wellness initiatives would be most beneficial for your employees
- Walk away with practical first steps to get started!

The Programs and Impacts of Special Olympics Beyond Sports Chris Burt, Special Olympics Kansas

Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS) programming goes beyond simply providing an athletic training and competition outlet for individuals with intellectual disabilities. SOKS is now reaching more individuals outside of sports than in our sports programs through year-round health and fitness education and screenings, inclusive strategies in schools and a unified approach to program leadership that is all designed around improving the health expectations and overall quality of life of our community. SOKS is also working on being able to better deliver programs where our athletes are locally.

The Wrap-Around Impact of Revenue Cycle Management on the IDD Services Agency Mission

Phil Feldman, Sandata

IDD Services Agencies have a three-pronged mission – maximizing client care and services quality, financial stability, and growth. The foundation of this is optimized individual care, without which the mission is pointless. We will discuss in this presentation how Revenue Cycle Management processes contribute to the individual care objective. Revenue cycle management needs to contain procedures to ensure that billing is timely and complies with funder contracts and process requirements. Some providers can struggle with reimbursement. Thin margins in our industry magnify this impact. Claims denials and processing delays prevent timely and complete payment, impacting cash flow and resource requirements in the Revenue Cycle department. Appropriate up-front and continued management of the Revenue Cycle can serve to minimize funder denials and processing delays, thereby improving payments and required “re-touches” to get claims paid, and minimizing write-offs. Interestingly, these same disciplines serve to support care and services quality, particularly driven by authorization compliance, care plan integrity, and timely and accurate services capture and verification. We’ll discuss how this all weaves together, and the benefits derived in this regard by a robust, full-featured agency management system.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Thursday, Oct. 12, 4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

From Person-Centered Thinking to Person-Centered Practices Angela Rapp Kennedy, The Council on Quality and Leadership

In the session 'From Person-Centered Thinking to Person-Centered Practices,' you will explore the values of person-centeredness and learn strategies to put that thinking into practice. By the end of this training, you will have a better understanding of person-centered thinking, the impact it has on culture change, and the benefits for people with disabilities receiving services. We'll share philosophies, spark ideas, answer questions, and more! You'll leave with specific tactics and action steps you can implement at your organization.

Autism Spectrum Disorder for Direct Support Professionals Jill Haack, Johnson County Developmental Supports

This training will provide an overview of the characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder's (ASD). When Direct Support Professionals interact with individuals with ASD, we may inadvertently do things day-in and day-out that could be problematic for those we support. We will learn how DSP's can utilize a mindful approach incorporating ideas learned to help the person reach their goals.

Working with The KanCare Ombudsman Office to Answer Medicaid Questions, Solve Problems, and Locate Resources Aurora Myers, KanCare Ombudsman Office at Wichita State University

This session will guide attendees in accessing the KanCare Ombudsman Office when they have Medicaid questions or issues that need resolution. We will highlight a few KanCare basic facts, and discuss where to find Medicaid resources, including application resources.

ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts: Financial Tools to Enhance Quality of Life John Hedges, Kansas State Treasurer's Office Julia Whalen, Kansas State Treasurer's Office Laura Pederzani, Arcare

Join the Kansas State Treasurer's Office and Arcare, Inc. for an in-depth presentation on ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts. In this session, you will hear the latest updates to the Kansas ABLE Savings Program. You'll also learn about the benefits of ABLE accounts and Special Needs Trusts, their differences, and how the two options can work together to enhance quality of life without impacting eligibility for benefits programs.

What Happens in the Mouth Doesn't Stay in the Mouth: Achieving Good Oral and Overall Health for people with Disabilities Kathy Hunt, Oral Health Kansas

Our mouth is the gateway to the rest of the body. Diseases that occur in the mouth can spread to the rest of the body. This session will provide participants with information about the unique challenges faced by people with disabilities when it comes to maintaining good oral health and offer strategies to overcome them. A variety of topics will be covered, including:

- The impact of disabilities on oral health
- Adaptive tools that can enhance oral care for people with disabilities
- Caregiver education, including practical tips for encouraging cooperation and collaboration in oral care routines.
- Building collaborative relationships with the professional dental team

Participants will be equipped with practical knowledge, tools, and strategies to promote oral hygiene independence for people with disabilities and leave confident in their ability to support and empower them in achieving good oral health.