



Beyond the Conversation:
It's About Action

2023 NACDD Annual Conference

July 26-28, 2023

Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, Florida

Thank you to our sponsors:





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Reimagining Health Care

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CareSource is a proud sponsor of the
NACDD 2023 Annual Conference





Letter from the CEO and President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to NACDD's Annual Conference 2023 in sunny, hot Orlando, Florida and online! We are so excited to have you with us here in Orlando to learn together and reconnect after a hectic year.

This year's conference theme is *Beyond the Conversation: It's About Action*. As we come together as a national network of advocates and thought leaders in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, we are sharing the many ways in which DD Councils and partners are going beyond the conversation about key topics of the day, and taking action to create change. Whether it's about solving the direct support professionals crisis or making sure that Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS) is implemented successfully, we will be doing more than just talking about it at this conference as our presenters describe the actions they are taking that are leading to new opportunities and better outcomes in areas like employment, education and healthcare.

During our conference, we will hear from great speakers who will discuss how they wrote legislation in their State, created new programs, and built collaborations that helped them get beyond the talk and on their way to problem solving and solutions. We are offering several workshops so that you can go home with a plan for action in place and a list of colleagues ready to help you along your journey.

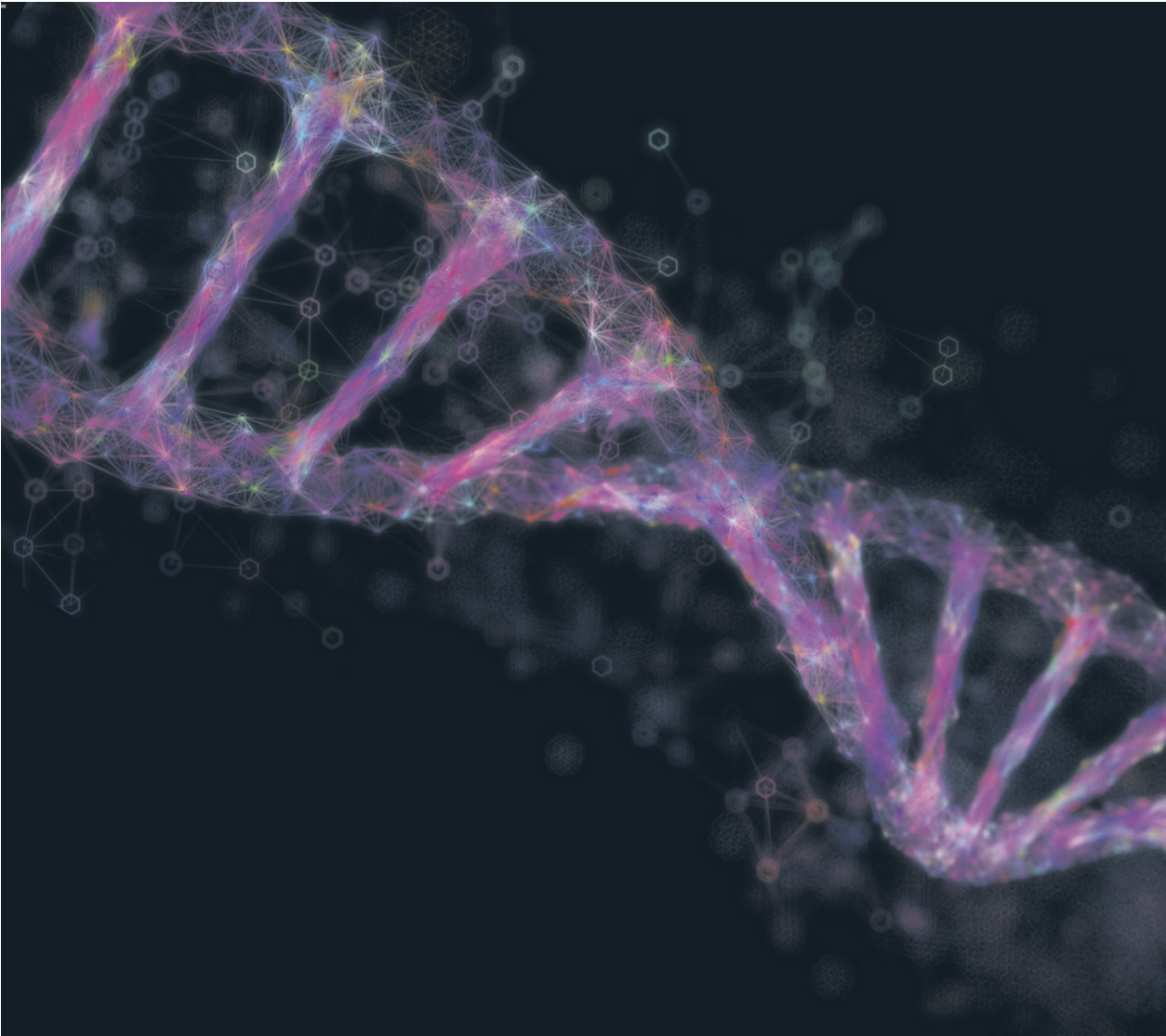
We want to thank the members of the 2023 Member Services Committee and the Conference Planning Workgroup chaired by Santa Perez. All of the members of these Committees worked diligently to put this conference together and ensure that all will be able to participate whether in person or online.

Most importantly, we thank each of you for choosing to be here with us for this important and impactful event. Your energy and passion make this conference come to life and I know that together we will take action to build upon each other's ideas, and experiences. Together we will get inspired, make action plans, and get busy working toward our individual and collective goals for creating the communities we need to have across the country. Thank you for taking the first step toward your own action plan and I wish you a great conference.

Best,

Donna Meltzer

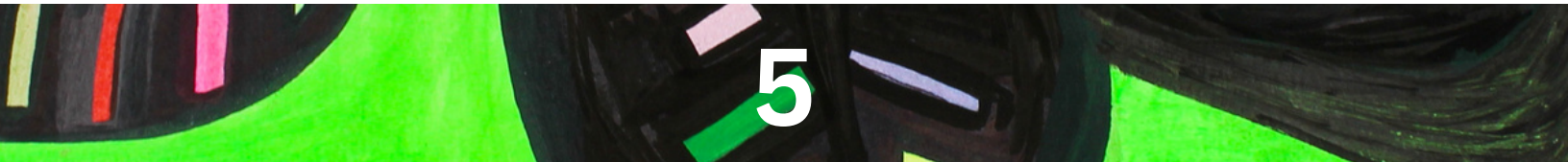
Kimberly Mercer-Schleider



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Our person-centered services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are focused on community inclusion, self-determination, life satisfaction and improved health outcomes. We help people achieve their life goals and fulfill their aspirations while strengthening programs and systems that serve the I/DD community.

We're proud to support NACDD. Together, we can create a healthier world – one insight, one connection, one person at a time.

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NACDD Statement

NACDD is dedicated to creating a culture of inclusion for every attendee, regardless of age, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or spiritual belief.

Any homophobic, racist, anti-Semitic, sexist, ableist, or otherwise biased language will not be tolerated. Any attendee who uses such language will be immediately removed from the event.

NACDD staff strives to provide a safe space for all attendees. If you feel unsafe at any point during the conference, please find an NACDD staff member immediately.



Conference Information

Need Information or Assistance?

The NACDD staff will be wearing staff ribbons on their name badges. Please come to the Registration Desk if you need assistance.

Conference Evaluations

Please help us improve on the NACDD Annual Conference by completing an evaluation which will be available through the platform.

Audio-Visual Equipment

If you are a speaker who needs assistance with the audio-visual equipment, a member of the NACDD staff will be happy to assist you or connect you with hotel technology staff that can help.

Navigating the Meeting Space

Please see the hotel floor plan on **page 10** to identify the location of the meeting spaces, elevators, and emergency exits. Please look for signage that indicates the name of each session.



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Conference Information

Accommodations

We will provide live CART transcription available during the plenary sessions and lunches. In addition, Wordly will be available through the conference platform. This will allow you to view captions for all breakouts in both English and a language of your choice. For any accommodations not requested in advance of the conference, please see NACDD staff at the Registration Table to assist you in meeting an on-site request. Conference materials are on the platform and PowerPoint presentations will be available at nacdd.org after the conference.

Photography Consent Policy

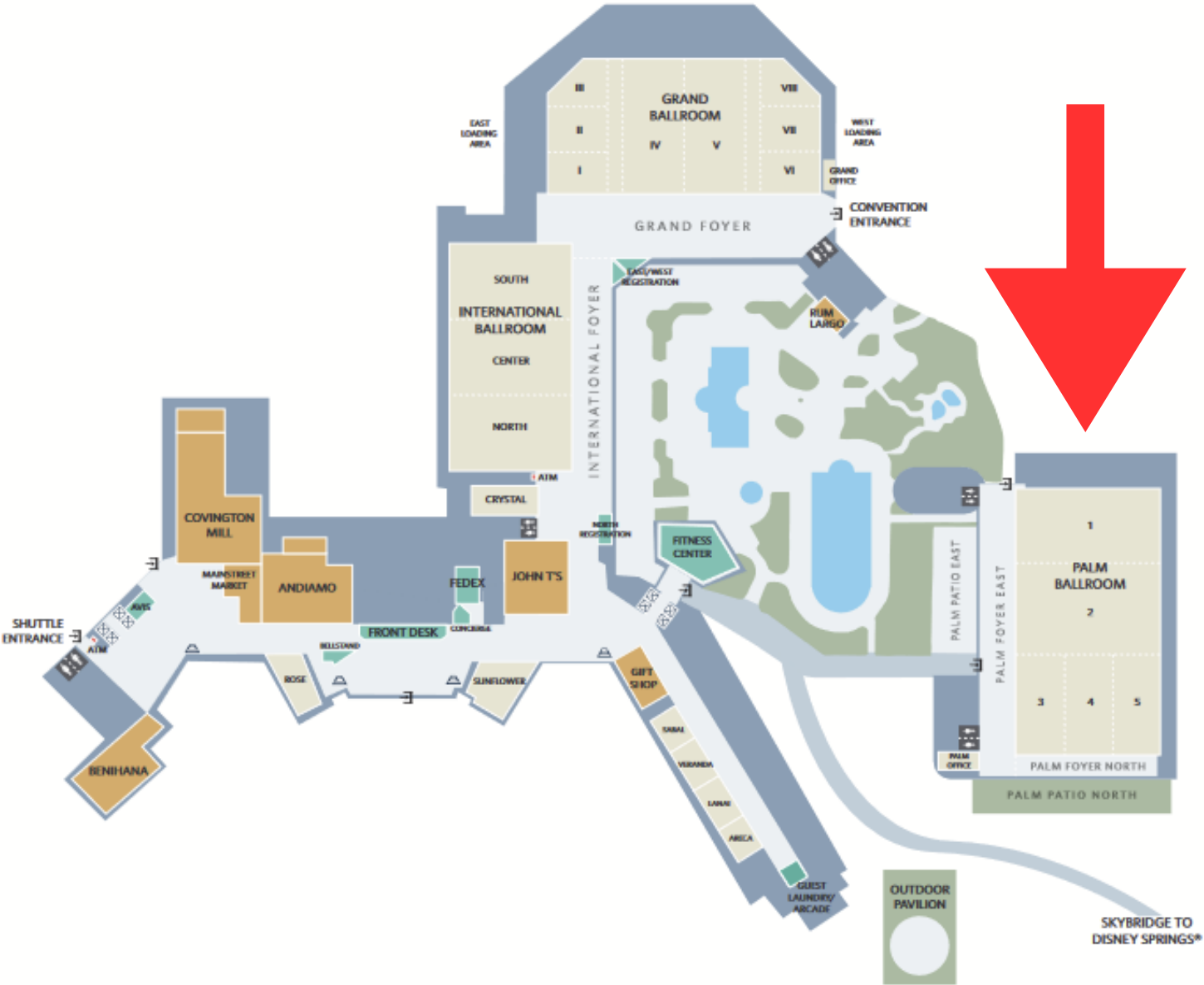
Please be advised that NACDD will photograph and/or record video and/or audio at the Annual Conference and AIDD Technical Assistance Institute. Speakers, attendees, guests, and all others present may be photographed by NACDD. By registering for and attending the Annual Conference, you acknowledge that you have been informed that you may be photographed, video recorded, and/or filmed. You grant NACDD permission, without further notification, to publish photographs and video taken of you and containing your image/likeness for publicity, general information purposes, social media platforms, press releases, etc. If you do not wish to be photographed or videotaped at the conference, please notify the photographers or videographers if they approach you.

What to do in Orlando?

Scan the QR Code to learn about what you can do while in Orlando!



Conference Map





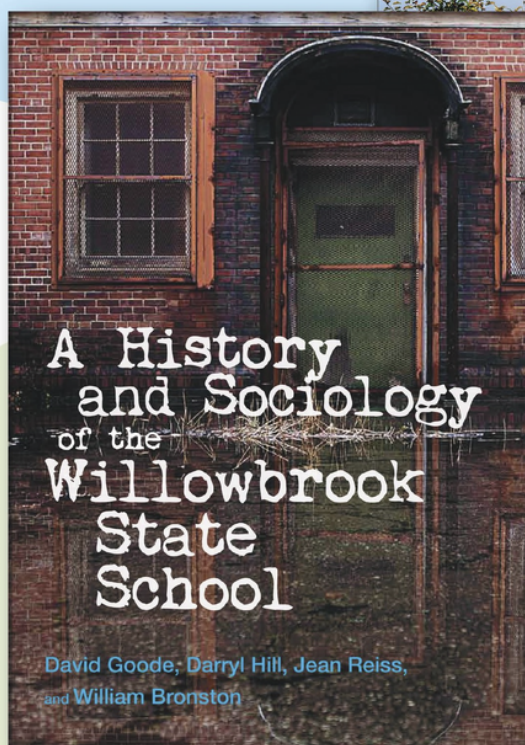
GOOD
BLOOD

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For these and other resources
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Daily Schedule

Tuesday, July 25th, 2023

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Registration

Outside Palm Ballroom

6:00pm- 8:00pm

Welcome Reception

Palm Conference Center Terrace

Wednesday, July 26th, 2023

7:30am - 3:00pm

Registration

Outside Palm Ballroom

8:00am - 9:30am

Breakfast Buffet

Outside Palm 2



9:00am - 9:30am

Welcome to the 2023 NACDD Annual Conference

Palm 1 & 2

Donna Meltzer, NACDD

Santa Perez, Nevada DD Council

Caitlyn Clibbon, Disability Rights, Florida

9:30am - 11:00am

Opening Keynote address

Palm 1 & 2

Join us as NACDD engages in a lively discussion with former ADD (now AoD) Commissioner and drafter of the ADA Deborah McFadden about the early days of passage to actions the passage has led to. Deborah's daughter Tatyana McFadden, a world class disabled athlete, will talk about growing up disabled with the ADA and actions she has taken to ensure school sports are fully inclusive. Current AoD Commissioner Jill Jacobs will join in to share insights and information about how the ADA is driving ACL and its work today.

Donna Meltzer, NACDD

Jill Jacobs, Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities

Deborah McFadden, Former US Commissioner on Disabilities and advocate

Tatyana McFadden, Paralympian. Advocate

11:00am - 11:30amm

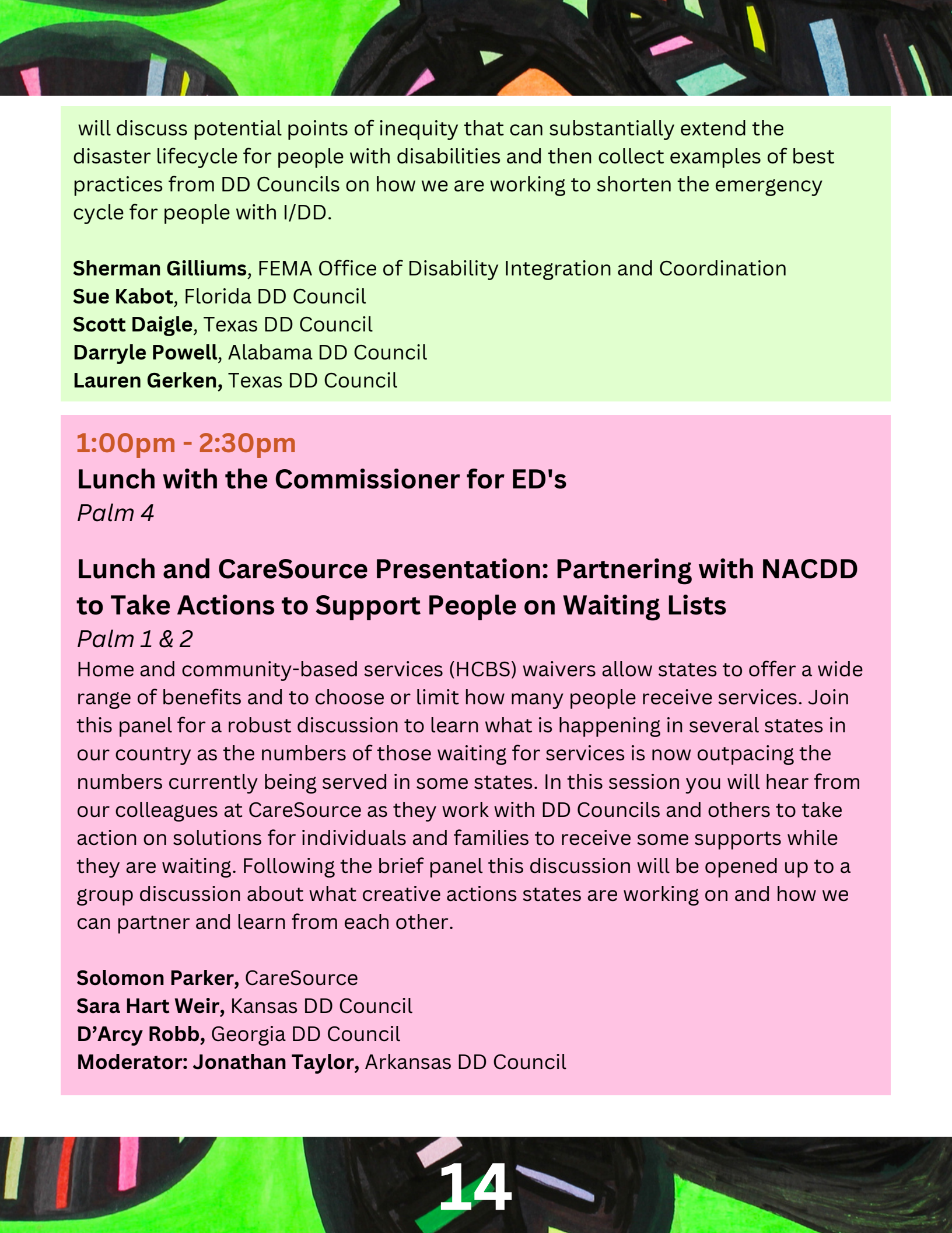
Break

11:30am - 1:00pm

FEMA Office of Disability Integration Panel: Beyond the Conversation: It's about Action!

Palm 1 & 2

This is a working session to inform FEMA of key opportunities for DD Councils to engage, collaborate, and communicate with FEMA RDIS, state and local agencies throughout the emergency cycle. Sherman Gilliums, Director, FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination



will discuss potential points of inequity that can substantially extend the disaster lifecycle for people with disabilities and then collect examples of best practices from DD Councils on how we are working to shorten the emergency cycle for people with I/DD.

Sherman Gilliums, FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Sue Kabot, Florida DD Council

Scott Daigle, Texas DD Council

Darryle Powell, Alabama DD Council

Lauren Gerken, Texas DD Council

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Lunch with the Commissioner for ED's

Palm 4

Lunch and CareSource Presentation: Partnering with NACDD to Take Actions to Support People on Waiting Lists

Palm 1 & 2

Home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers allow states to offer a wide range of benefits and to choose or limit how many people receive services. Join this panel for a robust discussion to learn what is happening in several states in our country as the numbers of those waiting for services is now outpacing the numbers currently being served in some states. In this session you will hear from our colleagues at CareSource as they work with DD Councils and others to take action on solutions for individuals and families to receive some supports while they are waiting. Following the brief panel this discussion will be opened up to a group discussion about what creative actions states are working on and how we can partner and learn from each other.

Solomon Parker, CareSource

Sara Hart Weir, Kansas DD Council

D'Arcy Robb, Georgia DD Council

Moderator: Jonathan Taylor, Arkansas DD Council



Presentation on the National Learning Consortium on Developmental Disabilities

The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities is a partnership of 18 national developmental disabilities organizations. The Consortium offers intensive week-long leadership institutes virtually or in-person in your state or province, leadership training designed to meet the specific needs of disability organizations, a resource-rich website tailored to the needs of emerging leaders in the disability field, a community of practice aimed at supporting the growth and knowledge of disability leaders and research on best practices and innovations in disability supports and leadership.

Kristin Loomis, NLCDD

2:30pm - 3:00pm

Break

3:00pm - 5:30pm

Workshop: Being a Sexual Self-Advocate and Teaching Others

Palm 3

We know that people with I/DD often lack basic sexual education knowledge and skills, leading to many negative outcomes. We also know that having people with a shared/lived experience makes a difference in how education is received. In this workshop, we will teach self-advocates the knowledge and skills needed to support, educate and provide resources for other people with disabilities.

Katherine McLaughlin, Elevatus

Mary Shehan, Michigan DD Council

Tia Nelis, TASH

Frank Vaca, Michigan Advocates



Workshop: Storytelling Workshop: Two Ways of Writing your Story

Palm 1 & 2

Councils all share the desire to educate, advocate, and inform their communities about topics that are important to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Reaching out to legislators, people with disabilities, family members, news media, and allies is a key strategy. This session will describe how the use of a documentary featuring individuals with developmental disabilities can be a powerful advocacy and education tool.

Kristin Harvey, Delaware DD Council

Stefanie Lancaster, Delaware DD Council

Maitri Campbell, Delaware DD Council

Daniese McMullin-Powell, Delaware DD Council

Nancy Lemus, Delaware DD Council

Nadine Chance, Delaware DD Council

Patty Fazio, Delaware DD Council

Rachel Lieberman, Cow Tipping Press


Maeve McDevittm, Cow Tipping Press

Workshop: Civic Engagement and Self-Advocacy

Palm 4

We are in a place of major societal challenges that are both complex and diverse. Civic engagement plays a critical role in fostering inclusive and democratic societies. This session aims to inspire and equip participants with knowledge, tools, and strategies to actively engage people in shaping the future of their communities.

During this interactive workshop, participants will discuss what civic engagement is, and how civic engagement fosters collaboration, empathy, and collective action, while creating a platform for diverse voices to be heard. Participants will hear from VoteRiders on the new laws and regulations around voting in the



United States and how they are equipped to help people navigate voter ID laws. Then participants will work with the Texas DD Council to discuss the importance of speaking with your legislators.

The Texas DD Council team will discuss ways to create messages that are both educational and also impactful. By the end of the session, participants will have a deeper understanding of the importance of civic engagement in driving social progress and will leave with practical tools to foster inclusive participation in their own communities.

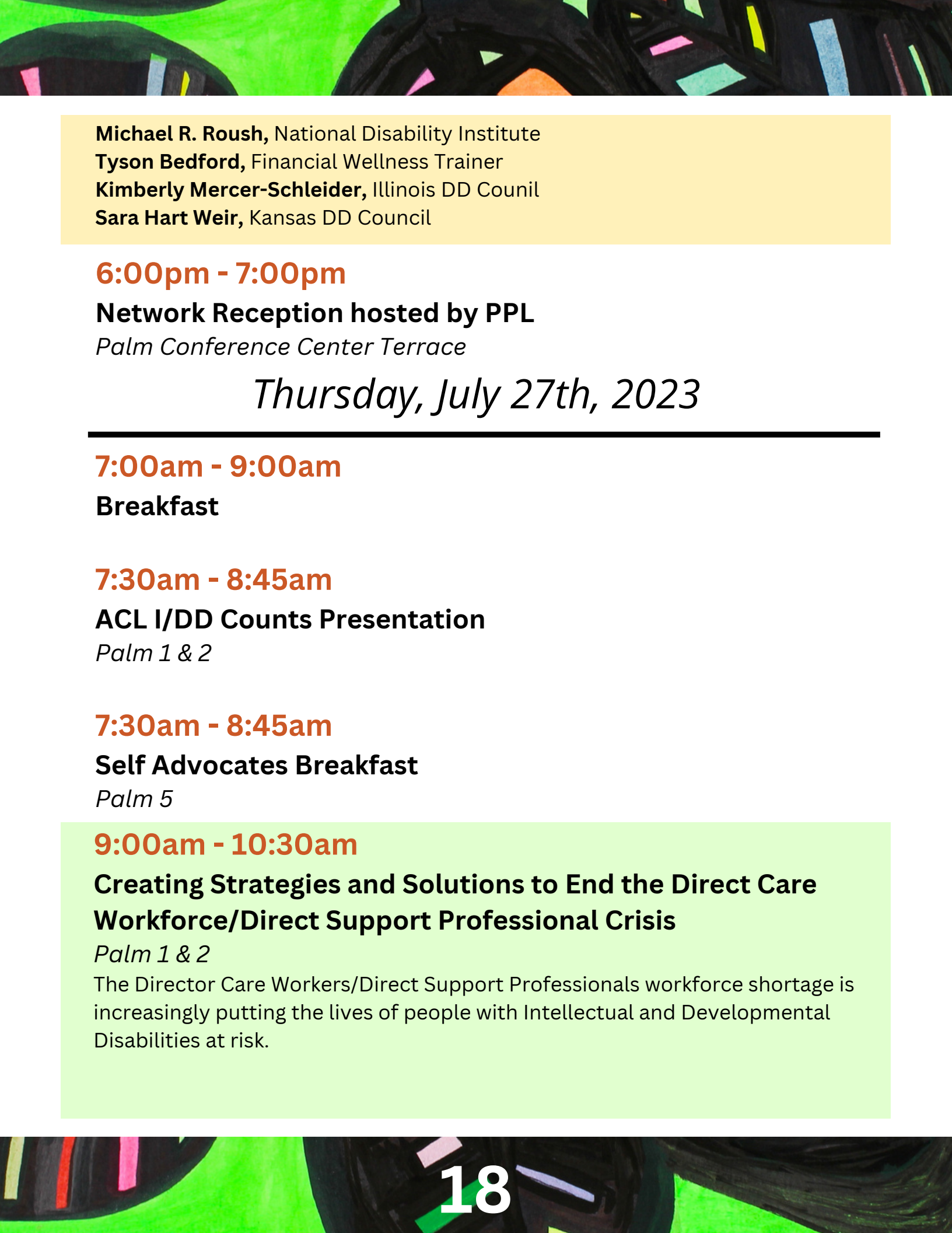
Scott Daigle, Texas DD Council;
Lauren Gerken Texas DD Council;
Eli Garcia, VoteRiders

Workshop: Financial Wellness and You

Palm 5

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) states that economic self-sufficiency is one of the proper goals outlined in the civil rights legislation for people with disabilities. Financial wellness education, programs, and policies are making that goal of the ADA a reality. Self-advocates, parents, siblings and supporters of the disability community are creating new conversations on the importance of financial wellness and taking action to achieve it. Over the course of three years, National Disability Institute (NDI), with an investment from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, trained over 100 individuals (self-advocates, family members, siblings, and providers) in Illinois to become Financial Wellness trainers on topics ranging from Money 101, housing, credit, guardianship, benefits, employment, keeping money safe and more. These trainers have since used the skills and resources to reach more than 11,000 individuals with disabilities and family members with at least one hour of financial wellness training in basic money topics.

This session will provide an overview of financial wellness, examples of community inclusion and self-determination, and the impact on the community. It will also share stories of individuals' journeys toward financial wellness.



Michael R. Roush, National Disability Institute
Tyson Bedford, Financial Wellness Trainer
Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Illinois DD Council
Sara Hart Weir, Kansas DD Council

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Network Reception hosted by PPL

Palm Conference Center Terrace

Thursday, July 27th, 2023

7:00am - 9:00am

Breakfast

7:30am - 8:45am

ACL I/DD Counts Presentation

Palm 1 & 2

7:30am - 8:45am

Self Advocates Breakfast

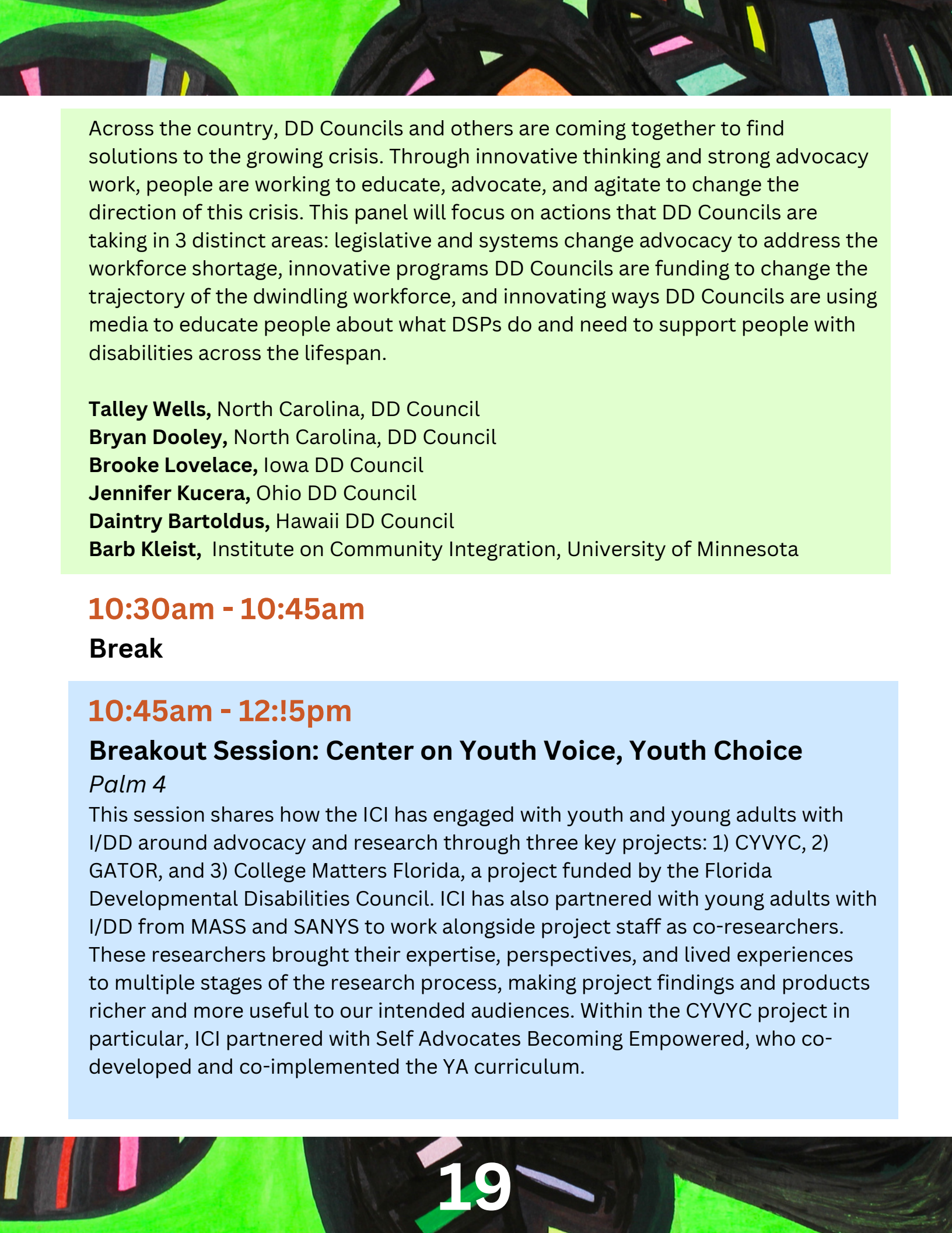
Palm 5

9:00am - 10:30am

**Creating Strategies and Solutions to End the Direct Care
Workforce/Direct Support Professional Crisis**

Palm 1 & 2

The Director Care Workers/Direct Support Professionals workforce shortage is increasingly putting the lives of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at risk.



Across the country, DD Councils and others are coming together to find solutions to the growing crisis. Through innovative thinking and strong advocacy work, people are working to educate, advocate, and agitate to change the direction of this crisis. This panel will focus on actions that DD Councils are taking in 3 distinct areas: legislative and systems change advocacy to address the workforce shortage, innovative programs DD Councils are funding to change the trajectory of the dwindling workforce, and innovating ways DD Councils are using media to educate people about what DSPs do and need to support people with disabilities across the lifespan.

Talley Wells, North Carolina, DD Council

Bryan Dooley, North Carolina, DD Council

Brooke Lovelace, Iowa DD Council

Jennifer Kucera, Ohio DD Council

Daintry Bartoldus, Hawaii DD Council

Barb Kleist, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota

10:30am - 10:45am

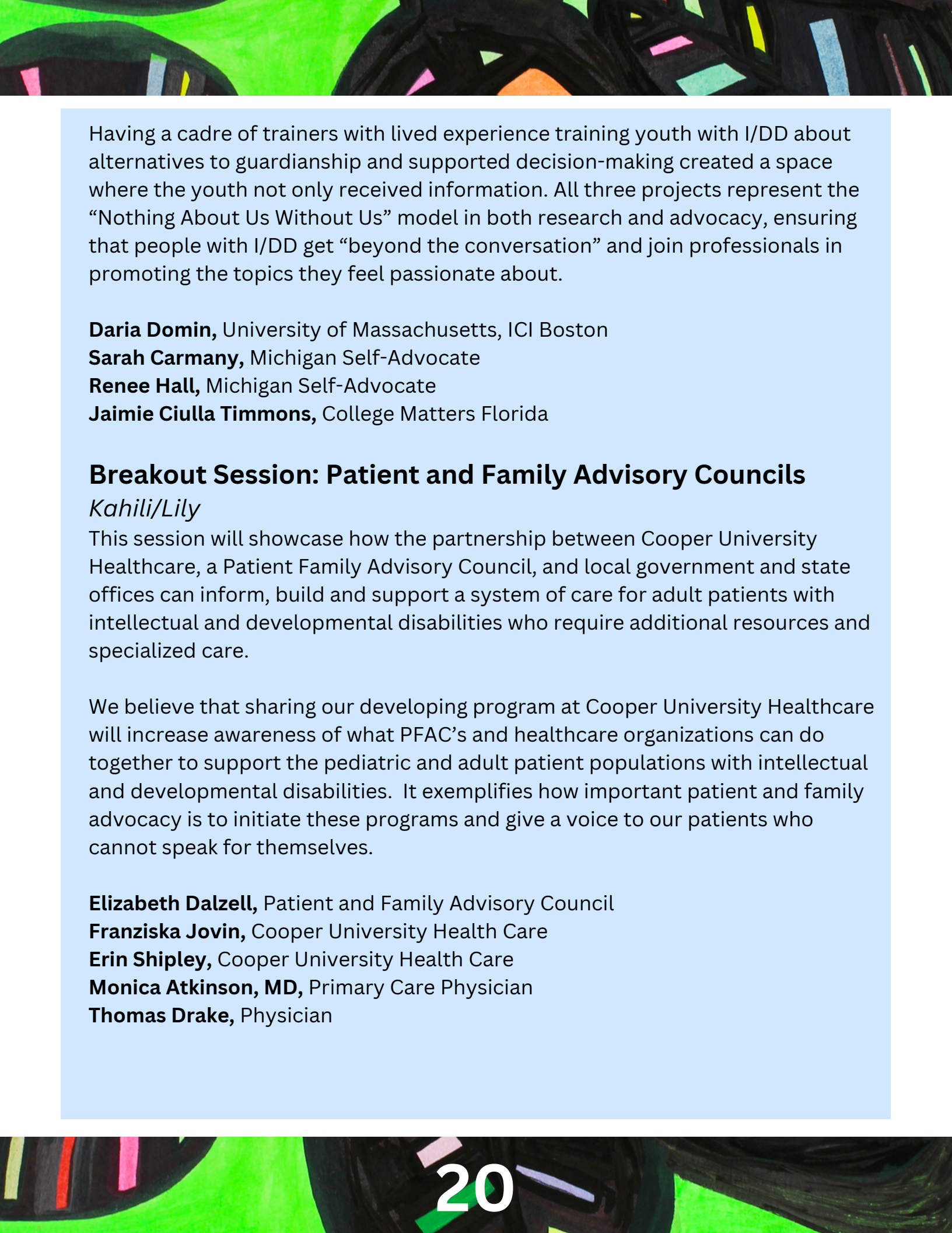
Break

10:45am - 12:15pm

Breakout Session: Center on Youth Voice, Youth Choice

Palm 4

This session shares how the ICI has engaged with youth and young adults with I/DD around advocacy and research through three key projects: 1) CYVYC, 2) GATOR, and 3) College Matters Florida, a project funded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. ICI has also partnered with young adults with I/DD from MASS and SANYS to work alongside project staff as co-researchers. These researchers brought their expertise, perspectives, and lived experiences to multiple stages of the research process, making project findings and products richer and more useful to our intended audiences. Within the CYVYC project in particular, ICI partnered with Self Advocates Becoming Empowered, who co-developed and co-implemented the YA curriculum.



Having a cadre of trainers with lived experience training youth with I/DD about alternatives to guardianship and supported decision-making created a space where the youth not only received information. All three projects represent the “Nothing About Us Without Us” model in both research and advocacy, ensuring that people with I/DD get “beyond the conversation” and join professionals in promoting the topics they feel passionate about.

Daria Domin, University of Massachusetts, ICI Boston

Sarah Carmany, Michigan Self-Advocate

Renee Hall, Michigan Self-Advocate

Jaimie Ciulla Timmons, College Matters Florida

Breakout Session: Patient and Family Advisory Councils

Kahili/Lily

This session will showcase how the partnership between Cooper University Healthcare, a Patient Family Advisory Council, and local government and state offices can inform, build and support a system of care for adult patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities who require additional resources and specialized care.

We believe that sharing our developing program at Cooper University Healthcare will increase awareness of what PFAC’s and healthcare organizations can do together to support the pediatric and adult patient populations with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It exemplifies how important patient and family advocacy is to initiate these programs and give a voice to our patients who cannot speak for themselves.

Elizabeth Dalzell, Patient and Family Advisory Council

Franziska Jovin, Cooper University Health Care

Erin Shipley, Cooper University Health Care

Monica Atkinson, MD, Primary Care Physician

Thomas Drake, Physician



Breakout Session: Advocacy in Action for Young Children with Disabilities and Delays

Palm 5

Research is clear on the importance of the earliest years in a child's life for their development and ability to reach their greatest potential in school and life. While federal laws and powerful guidance from federal agencies support access to high-quality inclusive experiences for children with delays and disabilities, families still face significant barriers in accessing services. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to understand how they can take action through their Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) to support innovative and impactful strategies to improve the systems that impact our youngest children with developmental disabilities and delays and their families.

The session will highlight work that advocates in Illinois have been able to do in partnership with policymakers, providers, and families with investment from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities to improve early childhood inclusion across birth to 5 settings and to improve connections to Early Intervention for children exiting NICUs.

The presentation will include parents with young children with developmental delays and disabilities and early childhood providers and teachers who can speak powerfully to their lived experiences and how these efforts are impacting them and their communities. Participants will be provided tangible examples for advocacy in their states, and opportunities for collaboration across states to achieve even greater impact. Participants will have opportunities to engage in discussion and will leave with actionable next steps, tools, and resources.

Karen Berman, Start Early

Kayla Goldfarb, Start Early

Zareen Kamal, Start Early

Alison Liddle, M Street Pediatric Therapy

Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Illinois DD Council



Breakout Session: Participant Direction-- An Effective Solution to the Care Giving Crisis

Palm 3

Participant-directed options truly touch on issues pertaining to employment, healthcare and equity, housing, and transportation. Participant direction allows the individual the choice and control over who is employed to provide their services. Programs like Money Follows the Person targeted the issues of housing transition and inherently transportation to promote independent community living.

Participant-directed options truly touch on issues pertaining to employment, healthcare and equity, housing, and transportation. Participant direction allows the individual the choice and control over who is employed to provide their services. Programs like Money Follows the Person targeted the issues of housing transition and inherently transportation to promote independent community living. Participant-directed models are inherently local and rely on the broader community to thrive. Individuals opting to self-direct their long term supports and services are facing the same worker and provider shortages in their recruitment efforts. The individual's social support system, including the Financial Management Service provider, can collaborate and innovate to address the care giving and often provider workforce crisis.

The session will cover participant-directed models, the range of services available, and benefits. Experts in the area of Medicaid authorities for participant direction, models, and the roles and responsibilities of the individual and supporting organizations will be joined by an individual self-directing their services. Speakers will talk about the models from different perspectives and discuss the future of participant direction and keys to successful expansion.

Mark Alteri, Public Partnerships

Suzanne Crisp, Parent Advocate

Cecile Comrie, Participant Directed Option, Florida

12:15pm - 12:30pm

Break



12:30pm - 2:45pm

**CEO Awards Lunch Sponsored by Optum
Self-Advocacy Panel**

Palm 1 & 2

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Break

3:00pm - 3:30pm

Creating Magic Through Accessibility at Disney

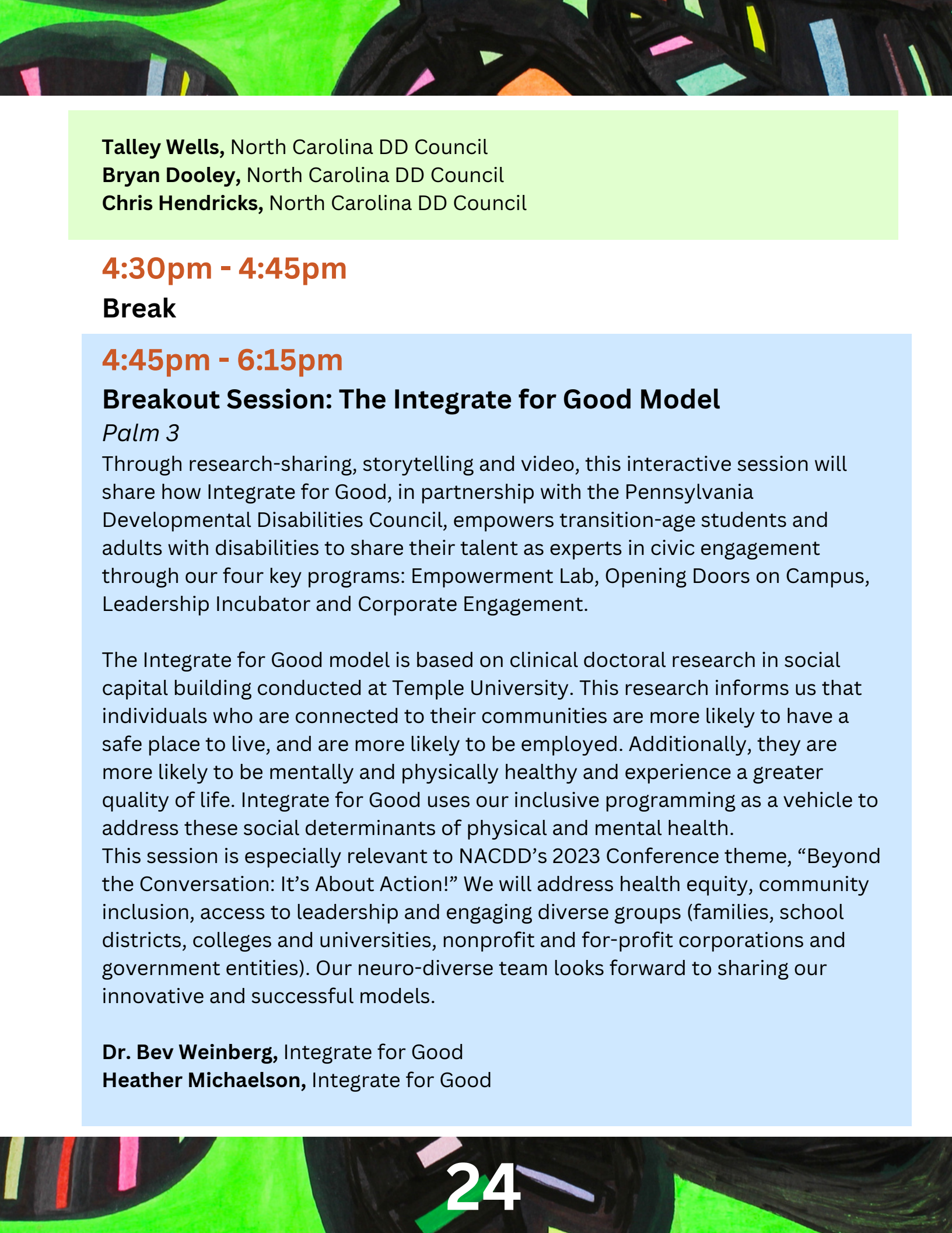
Palm 1 & 2

Mark Feltner, Park Operations, Walt Disney World Resort

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Unmet Needs: Using Media and Creative Solutions to
Capture Attention on the Direct Care Workforce (DCW) Crisis**

This afternoon session will be a deeper dive into how the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCDDC) has worked to address co-occurring issues in their state. The co-occurring issues are the Direct Support Professional workforce crisis and the ever-expanding waiting list for I/DD services. North Carolina has built a coalition in the state to address these needs and has taken other steps to bring attention to the crisis including funding a film called Unmet. The film tells the stories of individuals with unmet needs who are either on the Registry of Unmet Needs or who are supposed to receive services but their needs are unmet due to the Direct Support Professional workforce shortage. The film is being used to educate and increase awareness about how individuals with unmet needs struggle to live full and meaningful lives in the community. It also gives an honest portrayal of the lives of people in North Carolina who desire to live full lives in the community of their choosing but who, due to lack of resources resulting either from having Waiver funding for Home and Community-based Services or from having funding but not being able to secure staff are living lives that are below the level of engagement, health, access, and connection that they desire.



Talley Wells, North Carolina DD Council
Bryan Dooley, North Carolina DD Council
Chris Hendricks, North Carolina DD Council

4:30pm - 4:45pm

Break

4:45pm - 6:15pm

Breakout Session: The Integrate for Good Model

Palm 3

Through research-sharing, storytelling and video, this interactive session will share how Integrate for Good, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, empowers transition-age students and adults with disabilities to share their talent as experts in civic engagement through our four key programs: Empowerment Lab, Opening Doors on Campus, Leadership Incubator and Corporate Engagement.

The Integrate for Good model is based on clinical doctoral research in social capital building conducted at Temple University. This research informs us that individuals who are connected to their communities are more likely to have a safe place to live, and are more likely to be employed. Additionally, they are more likely to be mentally and physically healthy and experience a greater quality of life. Integrate for Good uses our inclusive programming as a vehicle to address these social determinants of physical and mental health.

This session is especially relevant to NACDD’s 2023 Conference theme, “Beyond the Conversation: It’s About Action!” We will address health equity, community inclusion, access to leadership and engaging diverse groups (families, school districts, colleges and universities, nonprofit and for-profit corporations and government entities). Our neuro-diverse team looks forward to sharing our innovative and successful models.

Dr. Bev Weinberg, Integrate for Good
Heather Michaelson, Integrate for Good



Cara Cushing, Integrate for Good

Breakout Session: Collaborative for Citizen-Directed Supports' Interactive Map

Palm 4

This learning session will highlight the Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports' Interactive Map. Initially funded by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Interactive Map was awarded the grand prize by the Administration for Community Living's "Blazing New Trails: Solving the DSP Crisis Challenge" in 2021. The Interactive Map is a tool that people can use to identify and promote staffing needs for people with disabilities and their families as well available positions and employment opportunities for staffing. Born out of the pandemic as a response to reduced access to congregate settings and services, the Interactive Map creates opportunities for people with disabilities to actively engage in solving their support needs and gaps in service. It also serves as a vehicle for those looking for employment to learn of the opportunities in their communities to work as a direct support professional.

Amy N. Jedele, New Jersey DD Council

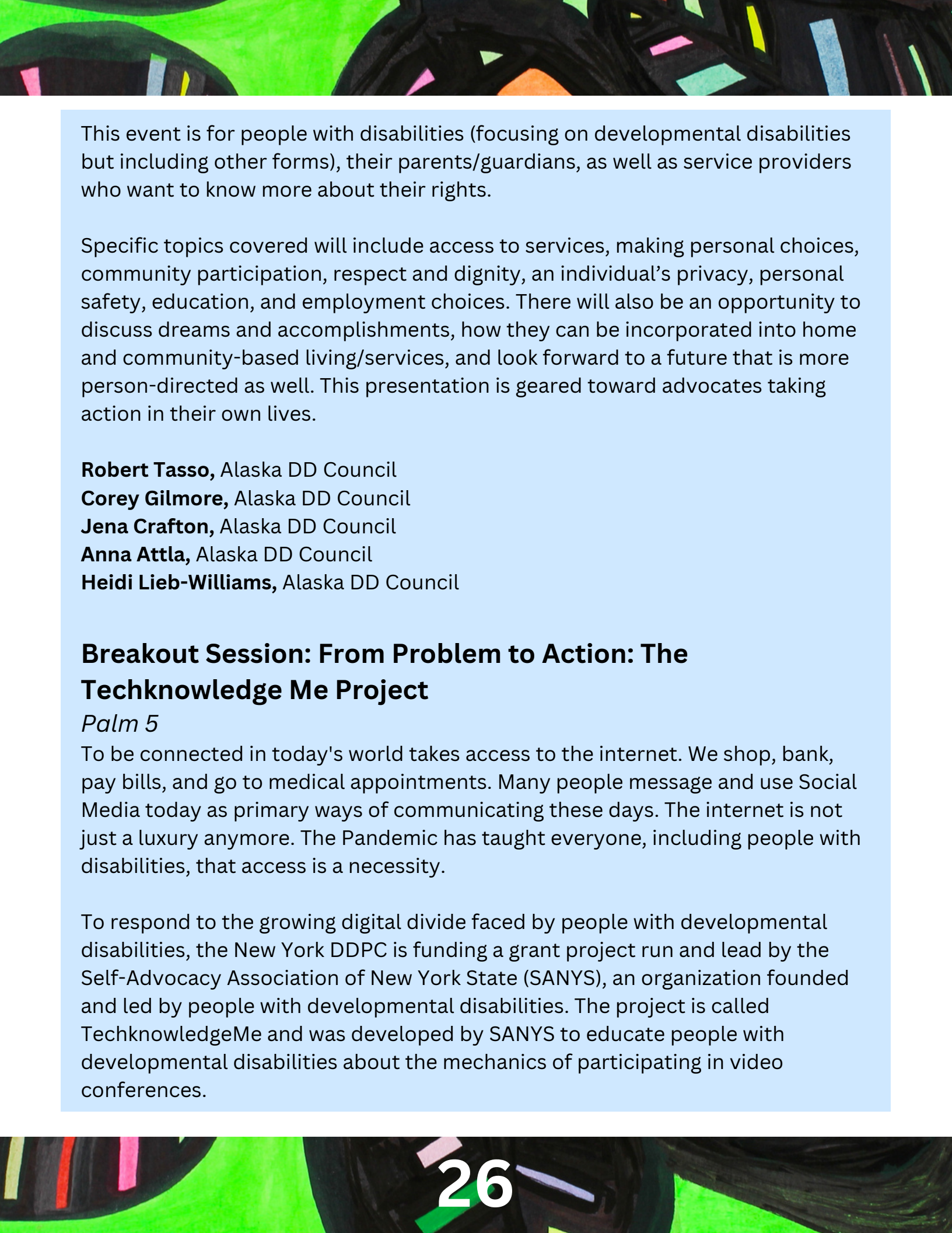
Anthony Vazquez, Self-Advocate

Kyoko Coco, New Jersey DD Council

Breakout Session: "I Have Rights" - Alaska Advocates

Palm 1 & 2

I Have Rights presentation brings together individuals with disabilities as panelists to talk about their rights and be an open forum for others in the audience to share as well. This presentation will introduce the guide produced by the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and the Senior and Disabilities Services Division, called Living Well: I Have Rights. We will go over the new guide, go into discussion, and have a Question-and-Answer session.



This event is for people with disabilities (focusing on developmental disabilities but including other forms), their parents/guardians, as well as service providers who want to know more about their rights.

Specific topics covered will include access to services, making personal choices, community participation, respect and dignity, an individual's privacy, personal safety, education, and employment choices. There will also be an opportunity to discuss dreams and accomplishments, how they can be incorporated into home and community-based living/services, and look forward to a future that is more person-directed as well. This presentation is geared toward advocates taking action in their own lives.

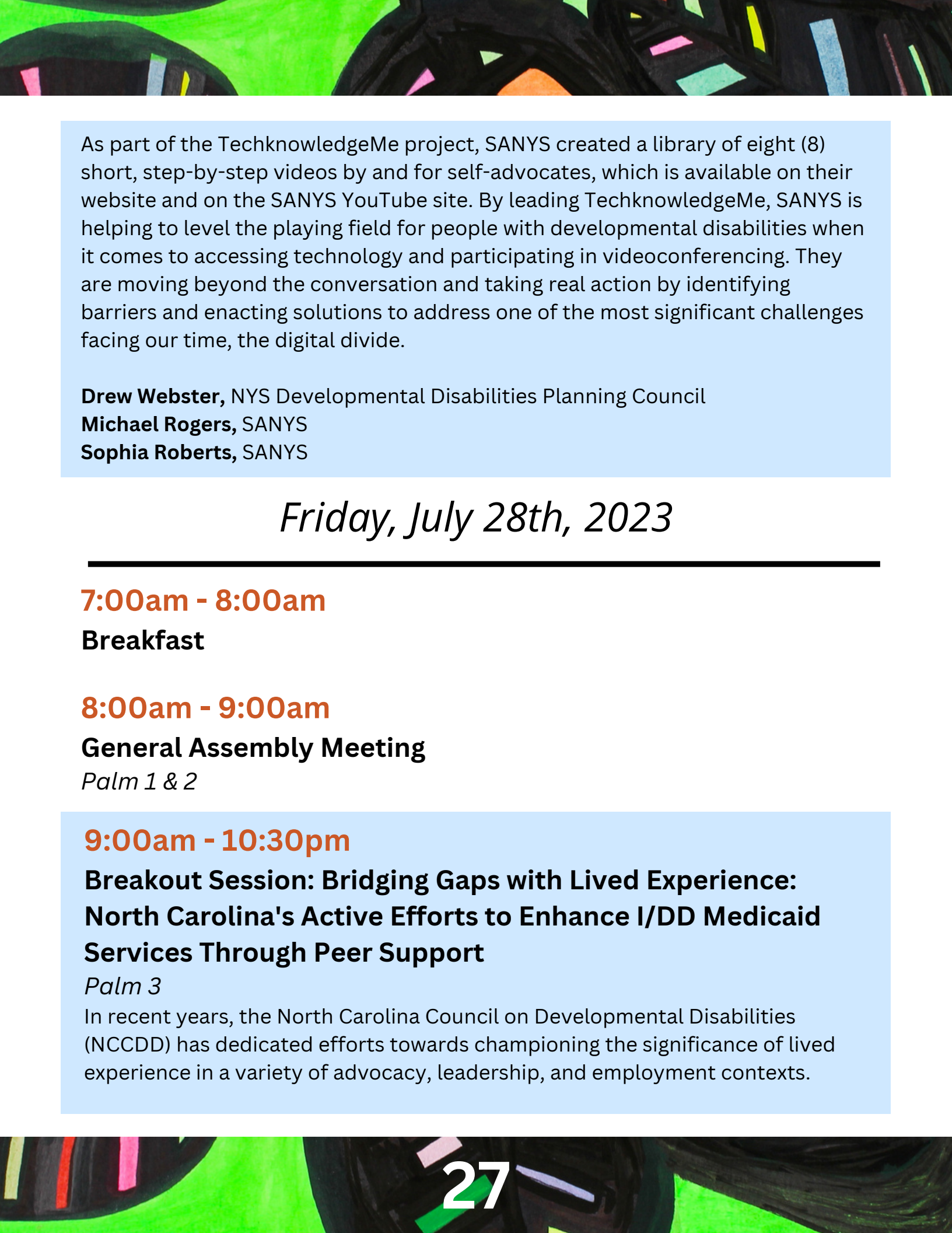
- Robert Tasso**, Alaska DD Council
- Corey Gilmore**, Alaska DD Council
- Jena Crafton**, Alaska DD Council
- Anna Attla**, Alaska DD Council
- Heidi Lieb-Williams**, Alaska DD Council

Breakout Session: From Problem to Action: The Techknowledge Me Project

Palm 5

To be connected in today's world takes access to the internet. We shop, bank, pay bills, and go to medical appointments. Many people message and use Social Media today as primary ways of communicating these days. The internet is not just a luxury anymore. The Pandemic has taught everyone, including people with disabilities, that access is a necessity.

To respond to the growing digital divide faced by people with developmental disabilities, the New York DDPC is funding a grant project run and lead by the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS), an organization founded and led by people with developmental disabilities. The project is called TechknowledgeMe and was developed by SANYS to educate people with developmental disabilities about the mechanics of participating in video conferences.



As part of the TechknowledgeMe project, SANYS created a library of eight (8) short, step-by-step videos by and for self-advocates, which is available on their website and on the SANYS YouTube site. By leading TechknowledgeMe, SANYS is helping to level the playing field for people with developmental disabilities when it comes to accessing technology and participating in videoconferencing. They are moving beyond the conversation and taking real action by identifying barriers and enacting solutions to address one of the most significant challenges facing our time, the digital divide.

Drew Webster, NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
Michael Rogers, SANYS
Sophia Roberts, SANYS

Friday, July 28th, 2023

7:00am - 8:00am

Breakfast

8:00am - 9:00am

General Assembly Meeting


Palm 1 & 2

9:00am - 10:30pm

**Breakout Session: Bridging Gaps with Lived Experience:
North Carolina's Active Efforts to Enhance I/DD Medicaid
Services Through Peer Support**

Palm 3

In recent years, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) has dedicated efforts towards championing the significance of lived experience in a variety of advocacy, leadership, and employment contexts.



This presentation will concentrate on pivotal initiatives that have facilitated the development of professional, compensated opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in North Carolina.

The Peer Mentor Training Program for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: The NCCDD, in collaboration with Optum and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), introduced and piloted an innovative peer training curriculum tailored for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities residing in the community who utilize home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

Mission Possible: Advancing Whole Person Care by Employing People with I/DD & Family Members as Care Extenders: This initiative's objective was to produce a Care Extender Paper that encapsulates the viewpoints of diverse stakeholders, including families, individuals with I/DD, LME MCOs, DD providers, policymakers, and healthcare providers. Additionally, the paper outlines strategic recommendations for addressing potential obstacles that could impede success.

The presentation will underscore how these initiatives have effectively transformed the concept of lived experience from mere conversation to concrete actions. Building upon one another, these initiatives have generated momentum for policy alterations and improved practices, empowering individuals with I/DD and their family members to secure employment and assume leadership roles within various systems supporting the developmental disability community.

Kelly Friedlander, Community Bridges

Kelly Woodall, Community Bridges

Cheryl Powell, Self-Advocate & Peer Support Professional

Breakout Session: Housing in Pennsylvania

Palm 4

In this session, we will show how the Housing Demonstration Project supported with funds from the PA Developmental Disabilities Council has partnered with a variety of stakeholders to demonstrate a comprehensive, person-directed housing model that ensures people with developmental disabilities can legally control their own housing, choosing where and with whom to live, and ensuring that the housing is separate from their service provision.

We will share strategies for reaching out to all stakeholders, including people with developmental disabilities, families, supports coordinators, generic housing industry representatives, and state officials to increase their understanding of available services, challenges to accessing affordable housing, and recommendations for system-wide improvements.

Attendees will gain access to the Finally Home Housing Toolkit User Guide, including the Housing Assessment, Person-Centered Housing Plan, training modules that can be customized for use in their communities, and an overview of Pennsylvania's Housing Transition & Tenancy Sustaining service available through the I/DD waiver.

The result of the Project was the implementation of a Housing Symposium to share lessons learned, identify key next steps, and to engage with state and national representatives to continue the conversation.

Marian Frattarola Saulino, Values into Action

Pamela Zotynia, Values Into Action-PA


Robert Zotynia, Self-Advocates United as 1

Lisa Tesler, Pennsylvania DD Council

Breakout Session: Living a Self-Directed Life

Kahili/Lily

We want self-advocates to find their voices by being Self-Determined and to take action in their lives. I feel strongly that this is moving beyond the conversation.



We are taking action by making choices in our lives and helping others find their voices by teaching them about being Self-Determined.

Participants will hear from two advocates on their experiences with their work and how they advocate for themselves and other people with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Eric Stoker, Utah DD Council

Sydney Kresbach, Washington State DD Council

Igniting Change: An Innovative Approach to Building Scalable and Sustainable Ventures

Palm 4

is even more crucial when we consider the challenges faced by disabled entrepreneurs in accessing economic opportunities and overcoming ableist attitudes and stereotypes. The passing of the ADA was a significant step forward, but the economic inclusion of people with disabilities still remains elusive

Through this presentation, attendees will learn practical strategies and tools that can help disabled entrepreneurs turn their ideas into action and build scalable and sustainable ventures that have the potential to transform communities and build a more equitable economy. The session will highlight examples of successful disabled entrepreneurs and showcase innovative approaches to entrepreneurship that can help overcome common challenges faced by disabled entrepreneurs.

Aarti Sahgal, Synergies Work

10:30am- 10:45am

Break



10:45am - 12:30pm

**Breakout Session: Improving Postsecondary Outcomes:
Florida's Targeted Disparity Initiative for Improving Access
to and Completion of Postsecondary Education Programs**

Palm 3

The population of individuals identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is significantly growing, as is the population of youth who identify as Hispanic/Latino, with many of these youth speaking Spanish as their first language. To address disparities found in access to and completion of postsecondary education, particularly in the realm of state colleges (i.e., community colleges) for these youth, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council implemented a 4-year project in partnership with the University of Central Florida, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities.

The project's work has resulted in significant improvements. This session will include an examination of the extensive research; promising practices and tools developed as a result of the research findings for all constituents (i.e., secondary and post-secondary students, families, secondary and post-secondary educators, and others); and most importantly, the positive outcomes of the project. Participants will hear first-hand from Council staff, the Project Coordinator, and a state college graduate who provided input into the project, and who used the promising practices and tools developed by the project to successfully earn certificates and complete a state college program. Participants will leave this session with new knowledge, immediate access to the promising practices and tools, and the capacity for replication to achieve positive improvements in their own states.

Jamie Mayersohn, Florida DD Council

Terri Daly, Ph.D., University of Central Florida, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities,

Ian Adames, A.S., Self-Advocate

Breakout Session: Transition Discoveries Framework

Kahili/Lily

Our initiative has taken the Transition Discoveries Framework and moved to real-world practice through the development of multi-step model where youth, families and transition stakeholders co-lead the evaluation of transition in their community. Together, they identify strengths and capitalize upon them to design and fully implement improvements to areas of needed support. Often, gaining a clear picture of a complex system can be a significant challenge, and even more so, ensuring that all voices are heard equally – youth, families, and stakeholders – so that all silos of knowledge are linked together. To support this work, we have developed a series of universally designed tools to gather information about effective transition, areas for improvement and potential implementation factors.

Most importantly, the knowledge gained by communities using these tools has empowered them to develop unique strategies for relationship-building and empowerment for youth and families. We have taken what was once a conversation over the importance of youth empowerment in systems and have gone beyond the conversation to bring these passions to real world implementation.

Dr. Joan Kester, George Washington University, Graduate School of Education and Human Development


Matthew Flanagan, Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistant Network (PaTTAN), as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Special Education.

Erin Black, Transition Discoveries and Self-Advocate

Breakout Session: : A leadership Model, Idaho's Journey.

Palm 5

Council members from the Latino community in Idaho will present how language barriers and other issues they face make accessing services for people with disabilities extremely difficult.



Council members will present the work they have done as family advocates and as a person with a developmental disability. The three council members will speak about the success they are beginning to see as a result of their work.

The lack of inclusion of diverse communities is often discussed, and we often hear from organizations about their plans to include diverse communities and their efforts to become more inclusive. We rarely hear directly from members of diverse communities speak about the real needs that exist in their communities. It is uncommon to see members of such communities leading and take action because they have never been afforded the option to do so. Three Idaho DD Council members with support from the staff at the DD Council have been doing the work of making needed changes through advocacy, leadership development and proposing changes to the system to better meet the needs of the Latino community.

Miguel Juarez, Idaho DD Council

Maria Juarez, Idaho DD Council

Breakout Session: Nothing About Us Without Us in Michigan

Palm 4

Historically the advocacy movement in Michigan has been lead by advocacy groups without people with lived experience taking the lead. While self-advocates may have been involved, other advocates and allies still held prominent roles of leadership and power. That's changing here. Self-Advocates of Michigan is going beyond talking about self-advocates leading and the self-advocates are actually leading. Statewide they have a Board of Directors comprised solely of people who identify as having a developmental disability and now they are working to implement community based local chapters. These local chapters will feed the Board membership so that communities are well represented in the statewide leadership. The local groups will be involved in policy issues and other issues that impact people with DD in the places they live, work and play.

Sarah Carmany, Michigan Self-Advocate
Renee Hall, Michigan DD Council

12:15pm - 12:30pm

Break

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm - 2:00pm

Wrap- Up and Closing Remarks

See you in Washington DC!



NACDD Staff Information



The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) is the national association for the 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) across the United States and its territories. The DD Councils receive federal funding to support programs that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion for all people in the United States with developmental disabilities.

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Join us again next year in

Washington, D.C.

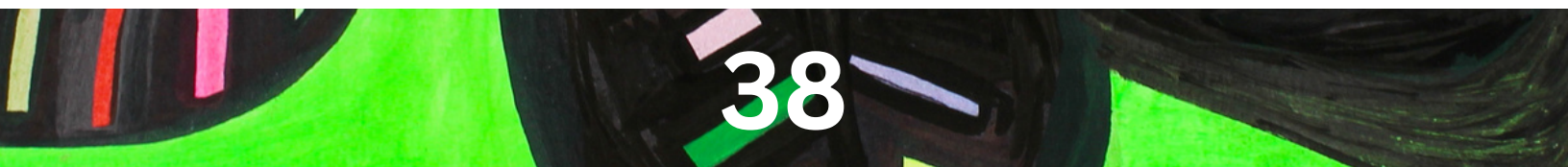
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For more information, visit nacdd.org

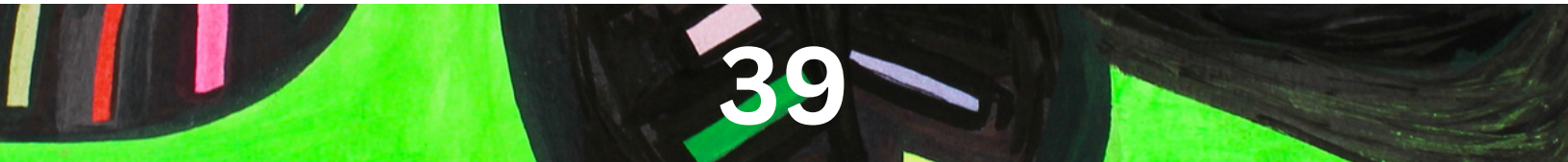


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