

2022

disAbility Rights and Resources **Virtual Summit**

Disability Through the Ages

Event Schedule

9:00 - 9:45 Introduction and Keynote Address

Colleen Miller

Jill Jacobs

In America the “dark ages” for people with disabilities was not long ago. For many, institutions were the norm and community living a pipedream. For others, exclusion prevented realization of their human potential. Fortunately, systems advocacy has brought about civil rights in the form of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Act, and other pivotal laws that enable access to and inclusion in our society. What does equity look like for people with disabilities and what needs to be done to ensure full justice for all?

10:00 - 11:00 Brief History of Disability in America

SYSTEMIC

Dana Traynham

There is an important Civil Rights movement we don't learn about in school... the Disability Rights movement. Come learn about the heroes who paved the way for the rights we now rely on, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

CHILDHOOD

Public Supports: A Panel on Medicaid Waivers, EPSDT, REACH, and SSI

Lucy Cantrell

Elizabeth Horn

SSI can be an important support for children with disabilities and their families. Key financial and medical criteria will be shared along with various resources available to assist in understanding and navigating this system.

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TRANSITION

Plan Early to Avoid the Cliff

Rachel Loria

As your student approaches the end of high school, what can be done to prepare them for the workforce and life after graduation?

Learn about the free services that the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) can provide for students who are at least 14 years old. Learn how to ask for these services, what types of services should be provided and how your child can benefit.

ADULTHOOD

Reasonable Employment Accommodations: What They Are and How/When to Request Them

Chris Lavach

Requesting reasonable accommodations and weighing the decision to potentially disclose one's disability to an employer can be intimidating and even a little scary. Many people have questions about disclosing their disability and how this may impact them. The good news is disclosure can be a simple process. Often people do not need to label themselves with a disability to advocate for reasonable accommodations that can help people succeed in the workplace and benefit both the employee and the employer. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires employers to provide qualified disabled applicants and employees "reasonable accommodation," but provides minimal guidance. This presentation will look at the Who's, What's, When's, Where's, Why's and importantly the How's of requesting a reasonable accommodation from an employer under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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ELDER

Act Now Before It's Too Late: Pro-Active Planning Tips Legal and Caregiving Planning, Four Keys to Making a Difference

Kathy Matthews

Steve Burns

This session aims to help families and caregivers better understand legal and estate planning issues, and their relationship to planning for the caregiving needs of your loved one with a disability. Attendees will learn about the essential documents needed, the priority issues to consider for advance planning, and why it is important to act now.

11:00 - 11:30

Break

11:30 - 12:30

SYSTEMIC

Words Matter: Disability and Language

Hannah Setzer

Molly Carter

Molly and Hannah will be discussing Disability & Language. They will be sharing lived experiences with disability and discuss topics such as advocacy, identity first vs. person first language, the medical model vs. social model of disability, and equality and equity.

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CHILDHOOD

The Intersection of Disability and Juvenile Justice in the School and Community

Amy Walters

This session will focus on the ways students with disabilities interact with police and the justice system in and outside of school. In addition to providing advocacy tips and information on student rights, this session will discuss recent legal changes and trends in Virginia. Topics will include school-based arrests and emergency custody orders, the criminalization of disability manifestations, the juvenile court system, and discrimination in these contexts.

TRANSITION

Legal Rights at 18: Who is in charge of the IEP? What is HIPAA? How do we make decisions with support?

Dana Traynham

Coming of Age: The Musical! So many changes occur when a child becomes an adult at age 18. We will take a look at some of these changes and talk about how to be prepared for this milestone.

ADULTHOOD

Changing Mental Health Assumptions to Change the Mental Health System

Bonnie Neighbour

We'll take a look at the assumptions we personally have about mental illness and what assumptions Virginia's mental health system seems to make. How do these assumptions impact the narrative? What does a system based on these assumptions accomplish? What does it miss? What do you wish the Mental Health Care delivery system assumed about mental health? How do you think that might change these systems? What can you do when you leave here to have an impact on changing these systems?

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11:30 - 12:30

ELDER

Using Supported Decision Making as a Tool to Achieve Self-Determination

Steven Traubert

Rebecca Herbig

This session will teach you about alternatives to guardianship, including supported decision-making as a tool to achieve self-determination. We will discuss capacity, advance directives, powers of attorney, and supported decision-making plans that allow individuals to retain their decision-making authority, while providing them with flexibility and additional support for their decisions.

12:30 - 1:45

Lunch Break

1:45 - 2:45

SYSTEMIC

Numbers Talk: Using Incident Data to Drive Systems Change in Virginia

Erin Haw

Virginia Pharis

Disability is a big world that encompasses a lot of different people, conditions, and settings. In order to effectively serve people with disabilities across the entire Commonwealth, dLCV relies on data. Learn more about how dLCV uses incident data to identify trends, target monitoring efforts, and affect policy change. We hope to demonstrate how your agency could benefit from harnessing data.

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1:45 - 2:45

Resolving IEP Differences: Dispute Resolution Options

CHILDHOOD

Love Kingsbury

Even when we do our best to collaborate and reach an agreement, things don't always go well at IEP meetings or other special education proceedings. This is why the law makes dispute resolution options available to families and schools. While this process can be stressful, information is power; the more you know, the more prepared you will be if things don't go as planned.

This presentation will describe dispute resolution options, how they work, and when it may be best to use a specific option. We will also guide on you on how to prepare when entering into a dispute resolution process. Being knowledgeable will help you make the best decisions for your child as you work to ensure that his or her rights are protected.

TRANSITION

Important Changes in Social Security Disability Benefits at 18

Elizabeth Horn

Medicaid waiver services and/or SSI benefits in place in childhood require specific actions to ensure they continue when the individual turns 18. Rules also change at 18, enabling access to SSI that was not available in childhood. Learn what steps you can take to make sure there is a smooth transition and that vital supports begin or remain in place.

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ADULTHOOD

The Twin Challenges of Community-Based Living: Housing and Transportation

Brian Koziol

Brittany Voll

Housing Affordability is a complex issue involving federal, state, and local housing policy decisions and funding. In Virginia, there is currently a shortage of at least 200,000 affordable homes. Further, just 1 out of 4 households that qualify for assistance receive it due to a lack of funding. This session will provide an overview of the current affordable housing environment and outline available resources.

Transportation Navigator is a free online resource to help connect people with transportation options in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation collaborated with Virginia Navigator to develop resources that help make it easier for people to search for transportation providers and identify a service to meet their needs. Brittany Voll with DRPT will give an overview of the resource and discuss ways that individuals and families can use it to navigate public and human services transportation in Virginia.

ELDER

Assistive Technology for Aging in Place

Tony Gentry

Your home should be a safe haven and supportive place for your everyday activities, not an obstacle to function. If you have cognitive, sensory or mobility difficulties, home-based assistive technologies can help. From low-tech grab bars to high-tech smart appliances, an individualized suite of tools can help you manage your everyday tasks, while conserving energy and living safely at home. This talk will survey up-to-date and affordable assistive technologies, informational resources, and funding options for making your house or apartment a smarter, safer, more enabling home. It will also include a walk-through video of a smart home solution for a couple with intellectual disabilities.

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2:45 - 3:15 Break

3:15 - 4:15 Remaining Hurdles: What can disability justice look like in Virginia and beyond?

SYSTEMIC

Claire Stanley

Colleen Miller

What is the future of disability justice? What is on the horizon at the federal level? What about any state initiatives in Virginia? How can our constituents help promote disability justice in the Commonwealth and in the country? Claire Stanley, policy specialist at the National Disability Rights Network, and Colleen Miller, Director of the disAbility Law Center of Virginia, will share their insights about the future of disability justice and learn your thoughts and hopes for the future.

CHILDHOOD

Side by Side: Navigating Life with Siblings with Disabilities

Lisa Coates

Siblings spend more time with each other in childhood than with anyone else. More importantly, siblings tend to be in the life of a family member with disabilities longer than anyone else, including parents. The impact of having a sibling with a disability change over a timespan. This presentation will offer tips to help you or a loved one navigate the complexities of growing up with a sibling with disability. As a sibling of two younger brothers with disabilities and a leader in the field of special education, the presenter has both personal and professional experiences.

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3:15 - 4:15

TRANSITION

Using Social Security Benefits as You Test the Work Waters and How to Avoid and Overpayment of Benefits

Julie Triplett

In this session, we will:

- Learn the difference between Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Understand that it is still a possibility to work and not lose SSI or SSDI right away
- Define Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) and what it means to you
- Answer: What is the Student Income Work Exclusion (SEIE)?
- Answer: What is an Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)?
- Answer: How can SGA and IRWEs be of benefit to me?
- Answer: How do I avoid an overpayment of SSI or SSDI benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA)?

ADULTHOOD

Using Supported Decision Making as a Tool to Achieve Self-Determination

Steven Traubert

Rebecca Herbig

This session is so important, we have offered it twice to ensure you can get your question answered! This session will teach you about alternatives to guardianship, including supported decision-making as a tool to achieve self-determination. We will discuss capacity, advance directives, powers of attorney, and supported decision-making plans that allow individuals to retain their decision-making authority, while providing them with flexibility and additional support for their decisions.

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Panel: Public Benefits that Support Aging in Place with a Disability

ELDER

Linda Hamrick

Pam Smith

Eric Beasley

Elizabeth Horn

Four main areas will be covered within this panel:

Social security disability benefits can be received until one reaches their full retirement age. Learn how you can parley this benefit with your Social Security retirement benefits for maximum financial and healthcare security.

The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) was established to help adults ages 55+ who are living with chronic healthcare needs or disabilities by providing community-based healthcare services and supports. By providing flexibility in how participants' healthcare needs are met, PACE is often able to help people reside within their own homes and communities longer than would have otherwise been possible.

The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services' Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman has independent Medicaid Managed Care Advocates to help with information and problem solving for individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care. The Advocate team assists with benefits access, facilitation of communication with Managed Care plans, and support filing grievances and submitting appeals when benefits have been reduced or denied.

The presentation will provide a background of the **SHIP/VICAP program** and the services that we offer to Virginia's Medicare beneficiaries.

4:15 - 5:00

Closing Remarks

Colleen Miller