

2015 TOGETHER WE CAN CONFERENCE

Supporting Each Other Through Change and Transition



Saturday, May 2, 2015 ♦ 8:15 am– 5:00 pm

Varied Industries Conference Center (south side of the Varied Industries Building)
Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:15–9:00 a m	VENDORS & STORY BOOTH OPEN ALL DAY LOBBY & LOWER LEVEL	LOBBY	REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN & CHILDCARE DROP-OFF • Pick up your conference packet • Visit the vendors and Story Booth • Enjoy coffee and donuts sponsored by Dunkin Donuts				
Open All Day		UPPER LEVEL, SOUTH END	ART EXHIBITS Studio E: The Epilepsy Art Therapy Program The Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa partnered with Lundbeck to give individuals with epilepsy an opportunity to express themselves and their emotions through art. Beyond Expectations 2015: Whatever Makes You Happy! Quad cities parent Mindy Pace, and her daughter, Francine, who has autism, have been organizing art displays in their community for the past four years because Francine wanted to give all children with disabilities an opportunity to share their artwork. The art was created by children with disabilities living in the Quad cities. This year’s theme is “Whatever Makes You Happy!”				
9:00–9:15 a m		UPPER LEVEL	WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS Bob Selby, Co-Founder, Holding Tiny Hands KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION Lisa Arechavaleta, President, ASK Board of Directors				
9:15–10:15 a m			CONFERENCE KEYNOTE I Need to Touch the Words: A Different Path to Literacy Ralph James Savarese & Emily Thornton Savarese 1.0 Foster Training Credit				
10:15–10:30 a m		CONFERENCE BREAK • Visit the vendors • Share your story at the Story Booth • See the art displays					
		MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS					
10:30–11:45 a m		CHOOSE ONE	ROOM A	ROOM A1	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
Session content focus			Lifelong Links: Your Connection. Your Community. Your Choice Ruth Thompson, Aging and Disability Resource Center	Tell it Like it Is! What You Want Health Care Providers to Know Mike Hoenig & Ann Riley, Center for Disabilities and Development	It’s Not My Fault! Help Me! Ellen McGinnis-Smith, Ph.D, Consultant, Learner Strategies and Supports 1.25 Foster Training Credit	Student and Parent Rights at IEP Meetings Nathan Kirstein, Beth Rydberg & Cyndy Miller, Disability Rights Iowa 1.25 CLE 1.25 Foster Training Credit	Is My Child Really an Adult? Negotiating Difficult Life Transitions Ralph James Savarese & Emily Thornton Savarese 1.25 Foster Training Credit
Disability Rights Law			E A	H A	E A	D E A	T A
Health							
Education							
Transition							
Advocacy							
11:45 a m–Noon	LOWER LEVEL	BOX LUNCH PICK-UP Sponsored by Jason’s Deli & UnitedHealthcare Community Plan					
Noon–1:00 p m		CONFERENCE BREAK Enjoy your lunch and explore the conference area! • Stop by the FIND table to learn more and sign up • Visit the vendors • Share your story at the Story Booth • See the art displays					

EDUCATION & TRAINING CREDITS

Attorneys 3.75 CLE*

Social Workers 5.5 CEU

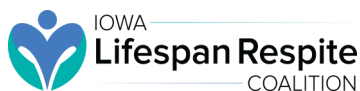
Foster Parents 5.75 Training Credit*

*See agenda for approved course offerings. Entire conference approved for Social Work CEUs.

		BREAKOUT SESSIONS					
1:00–2:15 p m	VENDORS & STORY BOOTH OPEN ALL DAY LOBBY & LOWER LEVEL	CHOOSE ONE	ROOM A	ROOM A1	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
Session content focus Disability Rights Law Health Education Transition Advocacy			Activate! Engaging Literacy with Sensory Experiences Zachary Stier, ZLS Consulting 1.25 Foster Training Credit E A	Powerful Tools for Thriving Caregivers, Part 1 of 2 Kristi Cooper & Donna Donald, Iowa State Extension and Outreach H A	Thought it was a Light at the End of the Tunnel, Turns out it was an Oncoming Train... Steph Steveson, Parent T A	Employment: Transition to Work and Reasonable Accommodations Cyndy Miller & Beth Rydberg, Disability Rights Iowa 1.25 CLE 1.25 Foster Training Credit D T	Planning for Permanency after Foster Care, Part 1 of 2 Lori Moore, ASK Resource Center 1.25 CLE 1.25 Foster Training Credit E A T
2:15–2:30 p m	CONFERENCE BREAK • Visit the vendors • Share your story at the Story Booth • See the art displays						
	BREAKOUT SESSIONS						
2:30–3:45 p m	VENDORS & STORY BOOTH OPEN ALL DAY LOBBY & LOWER LEVEL	CHOOSE ONE	ROOM A	ROOM A1	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
Session content focus Disability Rights Law Health Education Transition Advocacy			Learning Disabilities 101 Kathy Specketer & Vicki Goshon, Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa 1.25 Foster Training Credit E A	Powerful Tools for Thriving Caregivers, Part 2 of 2 Kristi Cooper & Donna Donald, Iowa State Extension and Outreach H A	Assessing Skills for Future Living, Learning and Working: Parents Are Key! Ann Lupkes & Sandy Kraschel, AEA 267 E A T	Discipline under IDEA Nathan Kirstein, Beth Rydberg & Cyndy Miller, Disability Rights Iowa 1.25 CLE D E A	Planning for Permanency after Foster Care, Part 2 of 2 Tonia Smith, Iowa College Aid/DHS 1.25 CLE 1.25 Foster Training Credit E A T
3:45–4:00 p m	CONFERENCE BREAK • Visit the vendors • Share your story at the Story Booth • See the art displays						
4:00–5:00 p m	VARIOUS ROOMS		LET’S CONNECT! Room assignments and other details on page 4. 1.0 Foster Training Credit				
5:00 p m	CONFERENCE WRAP-UP & EVALUATIONS • Submit your completed conference evaluations prior to leaving. Your feedback is very important to us! • Children must be picked up from childcare no later than 5:15 pm. Thanks again to the Bob & Billie Ray Child Development Center at Easter Seals for providing fun, nurturing, and safe activities during the conference!						

VENDORS & STORY BOOTH OPEN ALL DAY
LOBBY & LOWER LEVEL

CONFERENCE PARTNERS





CONFERENCE KEYNOTE & SESSION DETAILS

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE 9:15-10:15 am	<p><u>Upper Level Conference Room</u> I Need to Touch the Words: A Different Path to Literacy <i>Ralph James Savarese & Emily Thornton Savarese</i> 1.0 Foster Training Credit The Savarese family shares their inspiring story of discovering how to give their adopted son, DJ, the words to communicate with other people and the partnership they built with their son's school on his path to literacy.</p>
BREAKOUT SESSIONS 10:15-11:45 am	<div> <div> <p>Room A Lifelong Links: Your Connection. Your Community. Your Choice <i>Ruth Thompson, ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center)</i> Participants will learn how statewide Option Counselors and Iowa's Aging and Disability Center, known as Lifelong Links, is a resource for Iowans 18 years and older, with any disability or income level, to find long term supports and services in your own community. E A</p> <p>Room A1 Tell it Like it Is! What You Want Health Care Providers to Know <i>Mike Hoenig & Ann Riley, Center for Disabilities and Development</i> This is an interactive workshop designed for participants to tell their positive and negative experiences to help healthcare providers understand how to work respectfully with individuals with disabilities and you as a caregiver. Your stories and feedback will contribute to a training video. See conference packet for details. Come prepared to share! H A</p> <p>Room B It's Not My Fault! Help Me! <i>Ellen McGinnis-Smith, Consultant, Learner Strategies and Supports</i> 1.25 Foster Training Credit What happens to the brain when a child is stressed? Learn about brain development, the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACES) study and strategies to help your child access their "thinking brain". E A</p> </div> <div> <p>Room C Student and Parent Rights at IEP Meetings <i>Nathan Kirstein, Beth Rydberg & Cyndy Miller, Disability Rights Iowa</i> 1.25 CLE 1.25 Foster Training Credit This presentation will review commonly asked questions of what are student and parent legal rights at IEP meetings. Questions include signing a blanket release of information, what to do if school says they cannot afford special education services, and do we have to agree to use of restraint or seclusion in the IEP. There is time planned for questions from participants at the end of the session. D E A</p> <p>Room D Is My Child Really an Adult? Negotiating Difficult Life Transitions <i>Ralph James Savarese & Emily Thornton Savarese</i> 1.25 Foster Training Credit Learn more strategies from Ralph and Emily as they continue to share their experiences as a family preparing for their son DJ's transition to living and learning as a college student. T A</p> </div> </div>
BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1:00-2:15 pm	<div> <div> <p>Room A Activate! Engaging Literacy with Sensory Experiences <i>Zachary Stier, ZLS Consulting</i> 1.25 Foster Training Credit Join this interactive presentation to learn reading techniques with books, music, puppets, and more to enhance sensory experiences for your child. Participants will receive a resource list of books and activities to use at home. E A</p> <p>Room A1 Powerful Tools for Thriving Caregivers, Part 1 of 2 <i>Kristi Cooper & Donna Donald, Iowa State Extension and Outreach</i> Discover self-care tools designed to help you thrive as a family caregiver. Experience and introduction to "Powerful Tools for Caregivers", and evidenced based curriculum that has positively impacted thousands of men and women across the nation. Learn about opportunities to bring this education series to your community. H A</p> <p>Room B Thought it was a Light at the End of the Tunnel, Turns out it was an Oncoming Train... <i>Steph Steveson, Parent</i> Join in on the discussion of how to balance the beauty, the boundaries, and the bizarre days of your life as a parent of an adult with disabilities. T A</p> </div> <div> <p>Room C Employment: Transition to Work and Reasonable Accommodations <i>Cyndy Miller & Beth Rydberg, Disability Rights Iowa</i> 1.25 CLE 1.25 Foster Training Credit This presentation will review the transition planning process for students with disabilities including the federal laws that govern transition and how to plan for competitive employment following high school. This session includes an overview of employment law under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the right to reasonable accommodations. D T</p> <p>Room D Planning for Permanency after Foster Care, Part 1 of 2 <i>Lori Moore, ASK Resource Center</i> 1.25 CLE 1.25 Foster Training Credit Participants will discuss permanency and how important it is for young adults as they prepare to age out of the foster care system. The transition planning process, specialized resources, and the necessary documents for this group of young adults will also be reviewed. E A T</p> </div> </div>

Room A Learning Disabilities 101

Kathy Specketer & Vicki Goshon, Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa

1.25 Foster Training Credit

This session will discuss the who, what, when, and why of Learning Disabilities. Basic information will be given about Specific Learning Disabilities and related disorders. Successful solutions and strategies will be shared for individuals across the lifespan.

E A

Room A1 Powerful Tools for Thriving Caregivers, Part 2 of 2

Kristi Cooper & Donna Donald, Iowa State Extension and Outreach

Discover self-care tools designed to help you thrive as a family caregiver. Experience and introduction to "Powerful Tools for Caregivers", and evidenced based curriculum that has positively impacted thousands of men and women across the nation. Learn about opportunities to bring this education series to your community.

H A

Room B Assessing Skills for Future Living, Learning and Working: Parents Are Key!

Ann Lupkes & Sandy Kraschel, AEA 267

This interactive session will provide some ideas of how families can and should be involved in the transition planning process. Questions that will be answered: What is a transition assessment and why is it important for planning? How can assessments help parents and students today and in the future at school, home and in the community?

E A T

Room C Discipline under IDEA

Nathan Kirstein, Beth Rydberg & Cyndy Miller, Disability Rights Iowa

This presentation is a review of discipline regulations under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). Discussion includes: when a student with a disability can be disciplined; procedural safeguards regarding change in placements; restraint and seclusion under Iowa regulations, reporting bullying and harassment; how bullying can lead to a denial of a free and appropriate public education.

D E A

Room D Planning for Permanency after Foster Care, Part 2 of 2

Tonia Smith, Iowa College Aid/DHS

1.25 CLE**1.25 Foster Training Credit**

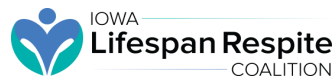
Participants will continue to learn about the unique opportunities and supports available to youth in foster care as they prepare to transition to adult living, learning, and working. Special youth guest Micaela Osuch, from AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential), will share her story.

E A T

Various Rooms (see chart below) Let's Connect!

1.0 Foster Training Credit **NOTE:** The Family Caregiver Let's Connect! group is not approved for Foster Training Credit. All other groups are Foster Training Credit approved. This is a planned activity with facilitators to meet and network with other families from across Iowa. Meet in the rooms assigned below to each broad category of disability. Facilitators will review instructions and answer questions. Refer to the Let's Connect! information in your conference packet for detailed instructions.

DISABILITY GROUPS	LOCATION
Autism/Sensory	Room D
Emotional/Behavior	Room C
Learning Disability/ADD/ADHD	Room B
Physical Disability	Room A
Significant/Multiple/Low Incident	Room A1
Intellectual Disability	Upper Level, South end
Family Caregiver	Upper Level, North end

CONFERENCE PARTNERS



CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

Ralph James Savarese, Ph.D., is the author of *Reasonable People: A Memoir of Autism and Adoption*, which Newsweek called “a real life love story and an urgent manifesto for the rights of people with neurological disabilities”. The book has been featured on CNN’s “Anderson Cooper 360” and NPR’s “The Diane Rehm Show”. Dr. Savarese has published some twenty-five articles on autism, and with his wife, Emily, he co-edited the first collection of its kind on the concept of neurodiversity. A recent fellow at Duke University’s Institute for Brain Sciences, he currently teaches at Grinnell College.

Emily Thornton Savarese, M.Ed., is a parent and education consultant who has presented at various conferences and universities on topics related to inclusion. With her husband, James, she coedited a special edition of *Disability Studies Quarterly* on Neurodiversity and co-authored an article titled “Literate Lungs: Breathing Difference into Literacy”. Before moving to Iowa, she was the educational coordinator and assistant director at the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Kristi Cooper, B.S., M.S., is a Certified Master Trainer with the National Powerful Tools for Caregivers program and provides leadership for its implementation across Iowa. Kristi is a seasoned family caregiver and educator with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Donna Donald, B.S., M.A., is a Certified Master Trainer with the National Powerful Tools for Caregivers program and provides leadership for its implementation across the state. Donna is a seasoned family caregiver and educator with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Vicki Goshon, M.A.Ed., is a parent and grandparent of individuals with learning disabilities. She is also a special educator and a board member of the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa and the Learning Disabilities Association of America.

Mike Hoenig, M.A., has been blind since birth and considered himself a strong disability advocate. At the same time, he respects and values the role of family and their ability to help individuals with disabilities identify and fulfill their dreams and to achieve a quality life. Mike currently works for the Centers for Disabilities and Development at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Nathan Kirstein, J.D., Drake University Law School, is a staff attorney at Disability Rights Iowa. He has previously worked as a contract attorney for the Public Defender’s Office in Des Moines. He is very involved in community activities, especially those relating to children and youth.

Sandy Kraschel, B.A., provides education, support and training to parents, teachers and AEA staff in her role as an AEA 267 Family and Educator Connection Coordinator. She collaborates with AEA staff from Early ACCESS to Secondary Transition and takes an active role in helping improve educational and support services for all students.

Ann Lupkes, M.A., is the Work Experience/Transition Coordinator for Area Education Agency 267. Ann provides leadership and consultation services for local school district and AEA staff regarding secondary transition.

Ellen McGinnis-Smith, Ph.D., holds degrees in elementary education, special education, and school administration. She has taught elementary and secondary students in the public schools in Minnesota, Iowa and Arizona. In addition, she has served as a special education consultant in both public and hospital schools and as an assistant professor of special education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Dr. McGinnis also served with Des Moines Public Schools as Principal of the education program at Orchard Place, a residential and day treatment facility for children and adolescents with emotional/behavioral disorders. She has been an executive director of student support services in both Iowa and Colorado and is currently a private consultant. The author of numerous articles on identifying and teaching youth with emotional/behavioral disorders, Dr. McGinnis collaborated with Dr. Arnold P. Goldstein on earlier Skillstreaming books and is author of the newly released third editions of *Skillstreaming the Elementary School Child* and *Skillstreaming the Adolescent*.

Cyndy Miller, J.D., is a Senior Staff Attorney at Disability Rights Iowa (DRI), where she provides legal representation and advocacy to individuals with disabilities in areas including special education, community integration, guardianship and employment law. She earned a B.A. in English, with distinction, from University of Iowa and her Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School. Prior to joining DRI, she was an associate in a private practice law firm in West Des Moines.

Lori Moore, B.S., M.S.Ed., earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After teaching six years in Milwaukee, Lori returned to Madison to pursue her interests in supporting students with disabilities. While earning her Master of Science degree in Special Education from UW-Madison, Lori served as grant coordinator for the Wisconsin School Inclusion Project. She returned to teaching and served as an Inclusion Facilitator for two years where she assisted other teachers in establishing learning environments where all students successfully participate and learn. Currently, Lori is the Program Coordinator for the Post-Secondary Transition Project at ASK Resource Center where she enjoys providing information and support to people with disabilities and their families. She strives to collaborate with families, schools, community agencies and the Iowa Department of Education to positively impact outcomes for youth with disabilities.

Ann Riley, B.S.N., M.A., is the mother and extended family member of multiple young adults with disabilities. She worked for many years supporting families through creating one of the first inclusive childcare programs in Iowa. For the last ten years she has worked with state initiatives for improving access to programs and services for people with disabilities. Ann is a program manager at the Centers for Disabilities and Development at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Beth Rydberg, B.S., is an Advocate/Investigator at Disability Rights Iowa (DRI). She has worked at DRI for 13 years advocating for individuals with disabilities in areas including education, community integration, prisons, and abuse and neglect. Prior to her employment at DRI, Beth worked as part of the Parent Educator Connection at AEA 11 and as a social worker for children with significant disabilities.

Tonia Smith, B.A., M.A., is an Education Training Voucher (ETV) and All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant (Foster Grant) Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Human Services and Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Tonia has over 15 years of experience working with youth in foster care and youth in a variety of settings and areas ranging from shelter, detention, substance abuse counseling, education and vocational planning. Her current position administers the ETV and Foster Grant program for qualified students who have aged out of the Foster Care system in the state of Iowa within in 30 days of their 18th birthday. ETV and Foster Grants have a similar eligibility criteria providing financial assistance to students from ages 16-24 with grant amounts up to \$8,500 dependent upon enrollment status and school selection. The Foster Grant program serves additionally qualified students who have exited Eldora State Training Home and Toledo Iowa Juvenile Home. She also serves on the Foster Care Youth Transition team.

Kathy Specketer, M.A.Ed. is a former special education teacher and currently the State Coordinator of the Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa. Kathy also has personal experience as the parent of a child with a disability.

Steph Steveson, is the mother of three wonderful adult children—all of whom are a lot of work at any given moment. She has spent time in the trenches with fellow parents as a Parent Educator Coordinator for Heartland AEA, and in her current job directing 3 to 400 children and 95 volunteers each week at the Indianola Community Church.

Zachary Stier, M.L.I.S., M.A. Ed., is the founder of ZLS Consulting whose primary mission is to ensure each learner's potential. He is also the Director of Children's Services at the Ericson Public Library in Boone. Zach has been a librarian for ten years, and has worked with countless families and communities on literacy needs that related to their situation to empower them to be lifelong readers. Zach is an active community member and sits on Drake University Head Start Policy Council, Storytellers Roundtable of Iowa, and Read Iowa.

Ruth Thompson, M.A., is the Program Manager for Iowa's Aging Disability and Resource Center (ADRC) at the Iowa Department on Aging. She has years of experience in program development throughout the aging network, advocacy for persons' with disabilities and collaboration with local, state and federal partners.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

