



**Thirty Sixth Annual  
Developmental Disabilities Day  
Registration & Workshop Information**



**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**

Doors open at 8:00 am

**Niagara Falls Convention Center**

101 Old Falls Street - Niagara Falls NY 14303

Visit [ddday.org](http://ddday.org) to register online.

**2024 Features**

Innovative Workshops – Concession Service – Agency and Vendor Fair

Pop-up Art Gallery – Healthy You Experience – Therapy Dogs

Awards Luncheon – Closing Reception

**Presenting Sponsor**



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## 2024 Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration, Vendor Fair begins
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Announcements and Awards
9:30 – 10:15 AM	Keynote Presentation
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Break and Vendor Fair
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Morning Workshops, Executive Meeting
11:45 – 12:15 PM	Break and Vendor Fair, Lunch seating begins
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Awards Luncheon
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Break and Vendor Fair
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions
3:15 – 5:00 PM	Reception (Entertainment/Food/Basket Raffle)

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

9:30 – 10:15 AM

## **Katherine McLaughlin, *Sexuality Educator and Author***

Katherine is certified as a sexuality educator by AASECT (American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists) and is the Founder of Disability Workshops, now Elevatus Training, LLC. She is the CEO, Lead Trainer and delivers our live and online training. Katherine is also the author of *Sexuality Education for People with Developmental Disabilities Curriculum* and develops educational materials for others to use in teaching and communicating.



### **How Learning and Teaching about Relationships and Sexual Self-Advocacy Increases Healthy, Satisfying Relationships and Helps Reduce Sexual Abuse**

Self-advocates are telling us that they want and need sexuality education because those topics are important to live a full life, but also because they didn't receive this education in schools or their programs. We also know the rate of sexual abuse among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) is very high, seven times higher than the general population. One way to help prevent abuse, and support healthy, satisfying relationships is with teaching relationships and sexuality education.

In this keynote, we will explore why it is important to learn and discuss sexuality and healthy relationships. We will discuss topics such as: myths about people with I/DD and relationships, what is relationship and sexual self-advocacy, and hear self-advocate voices about why they want and need relationships and sexuality education.

**Intended Audience Key: I=Individual, F=Family, P=Professional, E=Everybody**

**#1. Forget the Limitations – Focus on Solutions. Learn the Process to Obtain Seating, Mobility and Adaptive Equipment**

***Jenn Ball, Occupational Therapist, People Inc; Brian Clayback, General Manager, People First Mobility and Joanna Jackson, Physical Therapist, People Inc.***

This presentation will consist of education on the importance of fitted durable medical equipment (DME) and how it makes positioning, posturing, and daily functions throughout the day optimal. We will review our most popular equipment that is requested as well as equipment that some families did not know was available to them. We will also educate on the process of how to get most, if not all, cost of the equipment covered by insurance. We will also share some other avenues to cover costs if the insurance carrier does not cover as much as expected. We will bring a variety of durable medical equipment for participants to view and inquire about. (E)

**#2. Planning for a Meaningful Day after High School: So Much to Do, Only So Many Hours**

***Tonji Weichmann, Transition Coordinator, Parent Network of WNY***

After high school, determining our activities of the day becomes part of adulting. This can be an overwhelming part of adulthood but is necessary to reach goals and enjoy life. This presentation will focus on goal setting, getting a better understanding of services, and the importance of working with your Care Coordinator/Manager. Continue to use the Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy skills to reach your goals and bring your family members and support providers to work on your meaningful day. (E)

**#3. Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace**

***Kathryn Lyons, Associate Director of Residential Opportunities, Aspire of WNY; Dawn Plumb, Director of Community Habilitation & Respite, Aspire of WNY and Lori Stein, Director of Self-Directed Services, Aspire of WNY***

This presentation will walk you through the creation of Aspire of WNY's Quality Partnership on Diversity and Inclusion. We will take you from its inception to where it stands today. We will share the success and failures we have encountered doing this important work and infuse the presentation with some of our Implicit Bias Workshop activities to inspire participants to embark on this journey within their own workplaces. (P)

**#4. Supporting the Right to Make Decisions: The SDM Process**

***Emily Tennant-Koller, Education and Training Coordinator, Parent Network of WNY***

Self-determination is a right that all people have, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This means people have a right to make their own choices, set goals and have support in achieving self-determination. Dignity of risk is part of the process of self-determination, and being able to make choices, even if it could have a negative effect. Learn about Supported Decision-Making (SDM), one method by which self-determination is created with the support of trusted individuals. (E)

#### **#5. Get Involved in the Partnership Coalition!**

***Sam Mattle, Executive Director, Center for Self Advocacy and Jeff Sanderson, Vice President Strategic Initiatives, People Inc.***

Participants will learn about best practices for agencies to follow to truly include people living with disabilities on their boards and committees. Learn strategies for advocating and promoting these practices in organizations you are involved with. Learn directly from people who have successfully established inclusive practices that have elevated the voice of people living with disabilities in organizational and community decision-making. (E)

#### **#6. Fearlessly Authentic: It Starts with You!**

***Carlie Arnone, Sr. Manager of Inclusion & Belonging, Person Centered Services and Erin McGee, Director, Learning, Development & Diversity, Person Centered Services***

During this interactive session, you will learn about the power of authenticity. What does it mean to be authentic? Authenticity begins with self-awareness. In this session, we'll talk about strategies to enhance our self-awareness, we'll talk about ways to make genuine connections with others, and how authenticity makes you magnetic. This session will also include exercises to help us lead more authentic lives. (E)

#### **#7. TIES (Together Including Every Student)**

***Kathy Costello, TIES Program Director, Starbridge and Karen Polizzi, TIES Coordinator for Springville, Griffith Institute***

Together Including Every Student (TIES), a program of Starbridge, promotes the participation of students and young adults who have developmental disabilities in inclusive, organized, extracurricular and community activities, with the natural support of trained peer volunteers. TIES has been implemented in several school districts in the WNY region. The presentation will include the value and benefits of inclusive experiences for people with and without disabilities, as well as perspectives from parents, participants, peer volunteers and school administrators. (E)

#### **#8. The Future Begins Here! – Family Engagement in Early Childhood**

***Erin Reisdorf, Family Support Specialist, Parent Network of WNY and Ann Kinney, Centralized Access Coordinator, Parent Network of WNY***

This presentation will focus on the do's and don'ts of family engagement in early childhood (ages 0-5). Professionals working in the early childhood field play a vital role when it comes to meeting the needs of families with young children. They are in a unique position that allows them to often be the first to help families when it comes to early identification of and intervention for developmental delays and disabilities. This presentation will review best practices for interacting with families of young children, as well as tips for creating a trusting cooperative relationship. (P)

### **#9. The Self-Advocacy Movement: What's it All About?**

***Mike Rogers, Regional Organizer, Self-Advocacy Association of NYS (SANYS); Sophia Roberts, Regional Coordinator, Self-Advocacy Association of NYS (SANYS) and Hanna Brecher, AmeriCorps Member, People Inc. E.T.H.O.S. AmeriCorps/SANYS***

Are you shy and wish you could speak up more? When you try to speak to people or speak up about something, do you feel like the words come out all wrong? Do you want to advocate for people with disabilities and do you know you have something to say? How do you do it and how do you get involved in self-advocacy? Join experienced people from the Self-Advocacy Association of NYS to discuss this and more. You don't have to be perfect or what you think everyone else thinks – you should be to speak up for yourself or others. (E)

### **#10. Ease of Access**

***Molly Saper, Technology Services Supervisor, Aspire of WNY***

How can computers and assistive technology create a sense of normalcy for an individual with a disability? Computers give individuals a voice and can level the playing field through music and music production. (E)

### **#11. Art of Advocacy**

***BJ Stasio, Western Region Board Member/Executive Committee, Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS); Joe Damiano, Peer Specialist, The Arc® Allegany-Steuben and Max Donatelli, Family Advocate***

This workshop will provide an overview of the Art of Advocacy: Assuring the Rights of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Participants will share how advocates with disabilities, family members, and allies can gradually build on their skills and become more effective in advocating for themselves; and for some help change larger systems by their efforts. Presenters hope to teach new ideas, inspire those who attend and offer next steps for their advocacy journeys. (E)

### **#12. Creativity and Actionable Empathy**

***Brian Kavanaugh, Founder, Language for Listening***

The language used to shape and describe the connection between direct support providers and adults with moderate to severe disabilities is crucial for fostering creativity and empathy. Drawing from my research and leadership in art studio programs for adults with I/DDs. I'll emphasize how cultivating language in these settings centralizes curiosity, expression, and creative growth. This approach enhances habilitative support, contributing to the overall well-being and individual empowerment of those receiving support. (E)

### **#13. Legal and Regulatory Update**

***Roger Bearden, Senior Counsel, Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC***

This presentation will address recent legal and regulatory developments impacting provider operations. Among topics to be covered will be new Office of Medicaid Inspector General regulations, new OPWDD regulations and ADMs, and new federal regulations impacting disability providers. The objective of this session will be to give directors and managers the tools to effectively address these requirements. (P)



## PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:00 – 3:00 PM

### **#14. Relationship and Sexually Healthy You!! Becoming a Strong Sexual Advocate**

***Katherine McLaughlin, M.Ed. Certified as a Sexuality Educator by AASECT (American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists) Founder of Disability Workshops, now Elavatus Training, LLC. Author of Sexuality Education for People with Developmental Disabilities Curriculum***

You deserve to learn about how to have positive, healthy relationships, to be sexually healthy, and to be a strong sexual self-advocate. We will talk about what you can do to have the relationships that you want in your life including sexual/romantic relationships. We will talk about what a healthy sexual self-advocate thinks or believes and the information and skills they need to be happy and healthy. You will learn tips for having a sexually healthy life.

***Note: This workshop is for people with I/DD who are 18 years old or older.***

### **#15. Healthy You Experience**

***Olivia P. Johnson, RDN, SNAP-Ed New York Nutrition Educator and Amanda Squires, YogaSix Instructor, 500 Hour E-RYT***

NEW THIS YEAR: Come join us for an afternoon of physical and mental wellbeing. During this session you will enjoy a 30-minute journey of self-awareness and rejuvenation followed by 30 minutes of nutrition education focused on learning to make healthy choices in all five food groups and other tips to save time + money in the kitchen. (E)



# Event Features

## Art Gallery

Pop-up Art Gallery – Back by popular demand! Displayed throughout the building, selected artists from across WNY will share their many talents. The winning DD Day logo design will be found on merchandise available for purchase at the DD Day Souvenir “MERCH” Shop, during the conference.

## Agency and Vendor Fair

A wide variety of agencies and vendors who serve people with developmental disabilities will be on hand to provide information and linkage for everyone in attendance. **Some vendors may be selling some of their products at the conference, so be sure to bring some extra money for shopping!**

## Therapy Dogs

Throughout the public areas of the convention, there will be therapy dogs and their owners on hand who can help provide general information about therapy dog programs and answer questions you may have. There will also be items for sale to promote their program.



## Reception 3:15 PM – 5:00 PM

Please join us for a reception featuring the hip sounds of **Universal Mind**. There will be free pop and appetizers, along with a basket raffle and cash bar. You must be present to win the basket raffle.

# **A Healthy You Mind, Body & Soul**

**This year we will be offering  
a custom-made area for those  
attendees who want to experience  
something a little more interactive.**

## **MORNING SESSION:**

Healthy You Corner - Join us in the CATARACT ROOM for a morning of Healthy You activities. Offering ZUMBA sessions with Maria Kirkpatrick, certified Zumba Instructor, at 10:15 AM and 11:15 AM. As always interactive games will be offered throughout the morning for all to enjoy including corn hole, putt-putt, football toss, and so much more. Come join the fun! (E)

## **AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION:**

Healthy You Experience - NEW THIS YEAR. Come join us in the main BALLROOM for an afternoon of physical and mental wellbeing with Olivia P. Johnson, RDN, SNAP-Ed New York Nutrition Educator and Amanda Squires, YogaSix Instructor, 500 Hour E-RYT. During this session you will enjoy a 30-minute journey of self-awareness and rejuvenation followed by 30 minutes of nutrition education focused on learning to make healthy choices in all five food groups and other tips to save time + money in the kitchen. (E)



## DDDay Merchandise

Make sure to stop at our souvenir MERCH SHOP to pick up some of your 2024 DD Day swag. Psychedelic tees, totes, mugs and more...

Tees (S, M, L, XL)	\$15
Tees (XXL, XXXL)	\$20
Mugs	\$10
Totes	\$5



## Concessions

Coffee	\$2
Water	\$3
Soda/Juice	\$3
Gatorade	\$4
Whole Fruit	\$2
Muffin	\$3
Hot Dog	\$4
Chicken Fingers	\$8
Pizza Slice	\$4
Giant Cookie	\$4



**Find us on social media!**



**Facebook:** [Ddday - Developmental Disability Awareness Day](#)

**Website:** [DDDay.org](#)

**Contact us at:**

**Email:** [devdisday@gmail.com](mailto:devdisday@gmail.com)

# 2024 DD Day Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please check all that apply:**

Person with Disability     Family Member     Professional     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about DD Day (check all that apply)?**

Print Advertisement     Social Media     WNY Family Magazine

School     Parent Network     SANYS

**I am registering for:**

Workshops and Lunch (\$50)     Lunch Only (\$25)     Workshops/Fair Only (\$30)

**Lunch Choices:**

Tuscan Stuffed Shells with Artichokes and Roasted Red Peppers and Served with a Cherry Tomato Bruschetta (vegetarian)

Chinese Teriyaki Chicken Salad with Wontons and Mandarin Oranges Served with a Crystallized Ginger Vinaigrette (gluten free without the wontons)

Chicken A La King Stuffed Crepes Topped with a Creamy Cheese Sauce and Served with Roasted Potatoes and Green Beans

**Scholarships are available on a first-come-first-served basis on EventBrite.**

**Workshop attendance will be on a first-come basis.**

**Event Special Rate Parking of \$5**

**TO GET THIS DISCOUNT, BRING YOUR PARKING SLIP INTO THE EVENT TO GET VALIDATED!**

- Registration deadline is **5/10/2024**.
- Register online at <http://www.ddday.org>.
- Registration on the day of the conference is \$35 – **No lunch provided**.
- Mail this registration form (above) with your payment (checks must be made out to DD Day) to:

**DD Day 2023 – PO Box 46 – Strykersville, NY 14145**

**Additional accommodations:** If you need an interpreter, FM loop, or other accommodations, please contact **Rick Banner at 716-322-7070 or [rbanner@people-inc.org](mailto:rbanner@people-inc.org)**