

2021 Mental Health & Employment Summit

Day 1: Supporting the Whole Self



Theresa Koleszar, M.S. Rehabilitation, CRC. Theresa began her employment with the Indiana Bureau of Rehabilitation Services in 2004 as a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor. She has served as the Director of BRS, which houses the state's VR, blind services, deaf services, and independent living services, since 2016. She has played a lead role in implementing several important initiatives for Indiana, including Project Search, Pre-employment transition services, VR employment service revisions, IT systems modernization, and numerous efforts to improve VR staff capacity.

Current projects include work toward implementation of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) to improve employment outcomes for individuals with mental health conditions, studying VR participant engagement, and supporting the Commission on Rehabilitation Services Employment First efforts. Theresa enjoys a positive collaborative working relationship with many stakeholders who share a common goal of improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.



Joan B. Beasley, Ph.D. Dr. Joan B. Beasley is a leader in the development, implementation and study of evidence based best practices to support people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and mental health needs (IDD-MH). She is a licensed mental health counselor and holds a Ph.D. in Social Policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University. Dr. Beasley is a Research Associate Professor and the Director of the Center for START Services at the UNH Institute on Disability UCED and serves as the Primary Investigator for the START National Research Consortium.

Dr. Beasley is the author and co-founder of the START model, first implemented in 1988, a tertiary care crisis intervention team for children and adults implemented across the U.S. The START model is a nationally recognized best practice for children and adults with IDD-MH. The UNH/IOD

Center for START Services trains, credentials and evaluates outcomes for START service providers and programs implementing the START model.



Linda Williams, Program Director for NAMI Indiana assists the local affiliates in Indiana with NAMI signature programs. That includes training the leaders of the programs, marketing, providing the materials, etc. After taking part in one of NAMI's signature programs, Linda became interested in being trained to volunteer as a teacher for NAMI's Evidence based Family-to-Family education class. The importance of that class guided Linda into an entirely new career.

The certification she received in 1987 in medical and dental administration has been helpful in her position. She joined the NAMI Indiana staff in 2010. She works closely with volunteer leaders around the state. She recruits, trains and motivates members to become active volunteers, leaders and advocates. Her lived experience has made her very passionate about the mission of NAMI which is to improve the quality of life for persons who are affected by mental illness by providing education, support, advocacy and promoting research.



Dr. Cathy Pratt, BCBA-D, is the Director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism located at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana's University Center for Excellence in Disabilities. Most recently, Dr. Pratt has become the director of the Indiana School Mental Health Initiative. In the past, she served on the Board of the national Autism Society and is a Past Chair. Dr. Pratt also serves on the Panel of Professional Advisors and the Public Policy Committee for the Autism Society. She also served as a member of the expert working group on services and as a member of the public review committee for the Research Roadmap of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee and in 2010 was invited to the White House to provide feedback on the president's initiatives on autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Pratt has been honored by the Autism Society with the Individual Achievement Award, with the 2005 Princeton Fellowship Award, and with various awards through NYFAC (New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.), including recognition from the United States House of Representatives.

In 2008, Dr. Pratt was awarded with the Distinguished Service Award by the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education. Dr. Pratt was the Shibles Distinguished Visiting Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine. In 2016, Dr. Pratt was

awarded with the Charles Heineman Allied Professional Award through the Indiana Psychological Association. She writes and presents internationally on the following topics: autism spectrum disorders, ASD and co-occurring Mental Health, functional behavior assessment/positive behavior supports, applied behavior analysis, instructional approaches, evidence-based practices, systems change, and policy.



Kristy Cook Russell graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in 2003 and from the University of Cincinnati with a Master of Education degree in School Counseling in 2005. Kristy worked for the State of Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services from 2006 thru 2014 as a Counselor, Area and Regional Manager, and Policy Director. Her Counseling experience is with children and youth, mental illness, substance abuse and addictions, and adults with physical and mental disabilities and behavioral therapy. She has served as the Chair of the Indianapolis Mayor’s Advisory Council on Disability for the City of Indianapolis since 2013 thru 2016 and continued to serve on the Executive Council until 2020. Currently, Kristy is the Employment Services Manager at Bosma Enterprises, overseeing the adult and youth employment programs. Additionally, she is a Certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. Kristy, and her husband Ryan, live in Avon with their two sons.



Wendy Waldman, BSW, CBIST has worked in mental health and acquired brain injury since 2000. Wendy worked as a Resource Facilitation Coordinator for Brain Injury Association of Florida for 9 years until moving back to Indiana in 2013. She now works as a Brain Injury Continuum Outreach Manager with the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana (RHI). Wendy educates and presents on acquired brain injury throughout Central Indiana to build professional capacity. She also provides information and navigation to various programs and services available for individuals with acquired brain injury.

In addition, Wendy assists survivors and families to access these resources and services, including RHI’s Resource Facilitation Program. Wendy is the current President for the Brain Injury Association of Indiana and also the past President for INAPSE (Indiana Association for Persons Supporting Employment First). Wendy is nationally certified as a Brain Injury Specialist Trainer (CBIST) and provides trainings all over the state to professionals on

becoming a nationally Certified Brain Injury Specialist through the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists with the Brain Injury Association of America. Wendy is an active member of the Brain Injury Special Interest Group through the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and has coauthored several publications regarding brain injury and various topics.



Dr. Faith Thomas is Sr. Project Coordinator at the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. In her current position, she manages the Utah team of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities National Training Center (mhddcenter.org). Dr. Thomas has 25 years of experience working with people with disabilities, transition-age youth, their families, and adult service agencies. Dr. Thomas has a variety of practical experience including 15 years at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community on multiple transition-related projects funded by Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Indiana Department of Education.

In addition to her academic career, she worked for 4 years as a transition coordinator. This practical experience enabled her to develop an interagency transition council, coordinate services for students and families with employment services, waiver services, mental health, and the related services of secondary staff.

Day 2: It Takes a Village



Eugene Oulvey, Ph.D., has served as the Coordinator of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services for the Illinois Department of Human Services - Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) for 29 years and has been the lead for DRS on the expansion of evidence-based supported employment services to communities and groups throughout Illinois since 1998. In 2020 he became the DRS lead for employment services for the Williams and Colbert Consent Decrees. He has had an appointment as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine since 2002.

He is a Clinical Fellow of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and is licensed in Illinois as a Clinical Professional Counselor and as a Family Therapist. He received the 2013 W.F. Faulkes Award from the

National Rehabilitation Association for contributions to the knowledge base of the fields of rehabilitation of national significance for his work in describing the roles of the VR system in supporting and enhancing evidence-based supported employment services. In 2019 he received the inaugural Rick Martinez Award from the International IPS Learning Community for contributions to evidence-based supported employment practice and research of lasting significance.



Kelsi Linville is the Bureau Chief for Adults with Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Disorders for the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction, which sits in the Family and Social Services Administration. In her role with DMHA, she is primarily responsible for oversight and administration of the federal Mental Health Block Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She also serves as the State Disaster Mental Health Coordinator and works on a variety of discretionary grants, including the US Department of Labor's ASPIRE Training and Technical Assistance grant aimed at improving employment outcomes for individuals with mental health diagnoses through the adoption of an evidence-based practice. Prior to working for the State of Indiana, Kelsi spent about a decade working in Community Mental Health Centers and has experience across the lifespan including children, families, and adults.



Dr. Kristy Eaton is the Assistant Director of the Indiana School Mental Health Initiative (ISMHI) at Indiana University Bloomington. Dr. Eaton trains, consults, and collaborates with K-12 school districts across Indiana to develop an integrated framework of tiered social emotional and mental health services and supports to create conditions for learning for all children.

Dr. Eaton holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree, a Master of Science in Social Work degree, and a Doctor of Education degree. She is a proud IU grad. Dr. Eaton is a past Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar Fellow as well as a licensed clinical social worker, Question Persuade Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Trainer, and an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Interface Master Trainer. Her ACE training was conducted by Dr. Robert Anda, co-investigator of the original ACE study.

Dr. Eaton has over 25 years of experience working in the field of mental health and education. She has worked as an outpatient therapist, school-

based therapist, school social worker, school district administrator, and university faculty member. She is passionate about mental health for all, including the elimination of mental health stigma through education and training. Other practice specialties include youth suicide prevention in schools; social determinants of health; and educator regulation and wellness. She has provided training and professional development at the local, state, and national levels, most recently presenting her research on educator wellness programming at the American Public Health Association's national conference. Dr. Eaton's current research is focused on developing and maintaining the well-being of educators through psychoeducation and peer facilitated support. Dr. Eaton can be reached at kbeaton@iu.edu.



Carla Orr has been working in Supported Employment since the 1990's. She has experience working with many individuals of varying challenges. Carla's area of expertise is working with folks that have a Mental Health Condition. She is involved with a variety of funders including: Recovery Works, Vocational Rehabilitation, Ticket to Work, Pre-Employment Transition Services, ACT- Assertive Community Treatment Teams, DCS-Department of Child Services, Residential Treatment Center Valle Vista Hospital – Adolescent Unit, and our Youth Development Program. Carla's big 'secret' is that her experience as a Community Partner Work Incentive Counselor (certification through VCU) has been crucial in her work with this population.



Dawn, 46 years, was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. As a mental health consumer since 1989, Dawn has a passion for addressing the stigma that is still associated with mental health conditions. She has been an active member of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for over 10 years and volunteers as a presenter as well as trainer for NAMI's In Our Own Voice program. Dawn holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California-Santa Cruz and currently works as a retail manager in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Felicia Howells is an Indianapolis-based attorney and educator. An alumnus of Michigan State University Law School, she has chaired a number of legal workshops. Currently, she is a teacher at Purdue Polytechnic High School Schweitzer Center at Englewood. The proud parent of one child, Felicia values spending time with her family, exercising, and camping. Her guilty pleasure is watching reruns of the original “Twilight Zone” series. Currently, she is editing her memoir. Her personal relationship with Jesus Christ has been her bedrock. You can contact her at felicia.howells@aol.com.



Jodi Whiteman, *Senior Advisor*, has over 20 years of experience in the field of workforce development. She currently provides industry knowledge to lead and assist in strategic planning, product/service line development as well as professional development. She provides subject matter expertise on a range of topics and leads research, speaking engagements and service offerings nationally and internationally. Prior to joining PCG, Ms. Whiteman co-directed the Professional Development and Workforce Innovations department at ZERO TO THREE.

In this position Ms. Whiteman was responsible for advancing ZERO TO THREE’ s capacity to offer high quality professional development and technical assistance services. Her past experiences as a national and international trainer, published curriculum author, adjunct graduate school faculty member, informs her work and passion for supporting workforce efforts. She holds a B.S. in Speech and Hearing Sciences from the University of Arizona and a M.Ed., in Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University.



Candace Luebbehusen (LIB-UH-HOO-ZEN) serves as the Marketing Manager of LifeOmic, a precision health and wellness software company that covers the entire healthcare continuum from prevention to management. Headquartered in Indianapolis, LifeOmic is consistently listed as a top place to work with recent awards including Outside Magazine’s Top 50 Best Places to Work for 2019 and 2020, Fast Company Top 50 Best Workplaces for Innovators in 2019, Top 10 Healthiest Employer of Utah in 2020, TechPoint Mira Award Nominee for Exceptional Employer of the Year and Best Places to Work in Indiana 2021. Prior to joining LifeOmic, Candace served as the Director of Student Activities at Marian University- Indianapolis. Candace

holds a bachelor’s degree in Legal Studies from Texas Woman’s University and a Master of Science in Education from Indiana University-Bloomington.

Day 3: Mental Health in the Workplace

Brian Pier, store manager for Walgreens in Kokomo, Indiana. Brian has been with Walgreens for over 26 years. He has been involved with local agencies in hiring people with disabilities since 2006. Brian has been an active member of INAPSE for over 10 years and is currently the President.



Itta Johnson, Director of Operations, has more than 13 years of experience in Adult Learning collaboratives, facilitation, strategic planning and system integration, change management, coaching, and quality improvement specifically within government agencies and community-based organizations. Mrs. Johnson has designed and implemented multi-disciplinary collaboratives to over 50+ multi-disciplinary, multi-sector providers of services to support system improvement work. She has designed and implemented integrated behavioral health models in clinical settings, and has provided strategic planning support, 1:1 coaching and leadership training for senior leadership, middle management and front-line staff across multiple human service sectors.

Mrs. Johnson brings strategic thinking for practical application and modifications to processes based on the need of the system (s). She uses quality improvement and coaching frameworks to integrate sustainable and transferable systems within organizations. Currently, Mrs. Johnson provides strategic planning support to senior leadership on sustainability, workforce development and program implementation in Alameda County. Some of the outputs of this work has been a series of multiple learning collaboratives which resulted in integration of new systems and defined workflows for sustainability. Sectors include behavioral health, mental health, housing, primary care, care management and more.

Prior to joining PCG, Mrs. Johnson managed large primary and specialty hospital based primary care clinics for the county Medicaid population. She was responsible for the day-to day operations across over 100 clinicians, 20,000 patients and 70,000 outpatient clinical visits annually. In this role, she worked with C-suite staff to support the implementation of a 5-year strategic plan. This included developing standard operating procedures, behavioral health integration in the primary care setting, workflows for co-working models and building “Mini-Collaborative Think-Tank” sessions with staff. Mrs. Johnson holds a Master’s in Public Health from Walden University, and a

Bachelor of Science in Biology/Chemistry from the Xavier University of Louisiana.



Meaghan Emery, Vice President of Human Resources, has served Knowledge Services since 2009. Leading a team who serves over 2,000 temporary employees and over 160 corporate employees, Meaghan guides the quality work experience of each Team Member ensuring all HR functions, and Federal and multiple state regulations, are compliant. She considers company culture one of the most important aspects of her responsibility, ensuring all Team Members have a caring, welcoming, and productive environment.



Samantha Villegas has served as the Program Account Manager for Knowledge Services since 2018, leading the implementation and program delivery for the State of Arizona’s Vocational Rehabilitation Managed Service Provider (MSP) Program. Samantha partners with our client stakeholders and leads a team of 14 to ensure positive outcomes for the State and those citizens receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services. Prior to serving as Program Account Manager, Samantha held roles as a healthcare recruiter and MSP Program Coordinator. Samantha is a graduate from Arizona State University and still loves cheering on the Sun Devils!



Jade Schluttenhofer is the Program Coordinator of Valley Enterprises at Valley Oaks Health. She has been the Program Coordinator for 5 years. Previously she was a case manager at Valley Oaks Health for 4 years. Jade is currently a member of Valley Oaks Health’s Retention Committee, Diversity Pillar for Strategic Planning and Quality Services Pillar for Strategic Planning. Jade is also a member of the Indiana Council Employment Services Committee. In addition, she is also a member of the Improving Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Mental Health Diagnoses Task Force and the VR Improving Discovery Cohort. Jade received her Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in Public Health. Jade’s current project: Make more people Rainbow Thinkers.



Eduardo Ortiz J.D., Ph.D. is a Senior Research Associate at the Research and Training Division (RTD) of the Center for Persons with Disabilities (CPD) at the College of Education of Utah State University (USU) having 15+ years of research and training working on multiple projects at the local, state, regional, and international levels with families, organizations, and individuals with and without disabilities. Dr. Ortiz got his Ph.D. in Sociology (2009) from Utah State University and his dissertation work was about the influence of family structures and the role of siblings on early language development of preschool Latino children. He also holds a Law Degree (J.D.) from the Catholic University of Ecuador (1996), his native country.

Dr. Ortiz is also adjunct assistant professor at the Dept. of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology at USU and professor at Casa Grande University (Guayaquil, Ecuador). He also is a Core Faculty (Cultural Competency Learning coordinator) of the Utah Regional Leadership Educational in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities URLEND program. Dr. Ortiz has collaborated on many projects focused on multicultural (including Hispanic/Latino, Refugee and Native American) populations and he has served as Project Director of some international projects.