

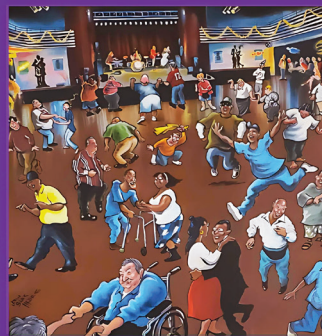
THE 34TH ANNUAL

AGING

with Developmental
Disabilities Conference



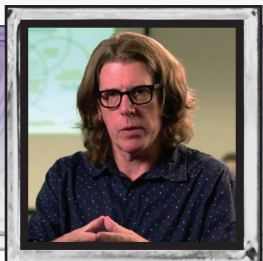
May 12-13, 2025
St. Charles Convention Center
www.agingwithdd.org
Phone: 314-647-8100



4 PLENARY SESSIONS 3 CE OPTIONS 2 DAYS 1 GOAL
DEVELOPING THE BEST SUPPORT PRACTICES FOR AGING WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.



MARVELL ADAMS JR.



JOSEPH MACBETH



DR. SELENA WASHINGTON



DR. CRAIG ESCUDÉ



KATHY PARRY

The 34th Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference is presented by:



ASSOCIATION ON AGING WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

[illegible]



ASSOCIATION ON AGING WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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May 12, 2025

Dear Conference Participant,

Welcome to the 34th Annual Conference on Aging with Developmental Disabilities!

We hope that you find these two days to be educational, thought provoking and enjoyable. We also hope that you will take what you learned and what is reinforced and continue to provide the best supports and services to our aging population. We believe that everyone here has that very goal. Whether you are joining us in-person or virtually, **we are glad that you are here!**

As you attend different sessions, listen to different speakers, and network, we ask that you keep in mind that the knowledge you acquire comes from professionals of different disciplines. You are in the company of doctors, nurses, administrators, nurse aides, habilitation specialists, DSPs, QDDPs, family members, self-advocates, service coordinators, case managers, social workers and a host of other people who care and worry about people with developmental disabilities who are aging. With that said, you may notice that language, philosophy and practices differ from state to state, one profession to another, as well as person to person. For example, many of us are quite familiar with, and committed to, "people first" language, which is commonly preferred in the field of developmental disabilities, but there are also advocates for "identity first" language. Please take the opportunity to listen to the message, even when the terminology may differ from yours, and use what you learn for the betterment of the people we all support.

Thank you for your continued support of older individuals with developmental disabilities!

Sincerely,

The 34th Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference Committee

Sheila Wunning, MO Dept. of Mental Health & 34th Annual Aging with DD Conference Chair

Mary Anne Tolliver*, St. Louis Arc & President of the AADD Board of Directors

Edward Ansello, Virginia Geriatric Education Center

Sheri Beezley, MO Department of Mental Health

Jill Cigliana*, Memory Care Home Solutions

Sharon DeBoever, National Task Group on IDD

Katherine Farache, Association on Aging with DD

Natalie Galucia, Center for Aging at WashU

Dishon Knox, MO Department of Mental Health

Denise Limback, MO Department of Mental Health

Pamela Merkle, Association on Aging with DD

Terry Reiser*, Optum

Craig Sever*, EverSpring Pharmacy

Emma Swinford, Washington University

Monty Wilroy, Progressive Community Services

Kelli Barton*, UMKC Institute for Human Development

Britney Burkart, UMKC Institute for Human Development

Michelle Darden, Association on Aging with DD

Leslie DeGroat, MO Department of Mental Health

Yvonnda Ford, Missouri Baptist University

Catherine Goebel*, Retired Professional Guardian

Rebecca LaGore, MO Department of Mental Health

Serena Lowe, National Association of Councils on DD

Samantha Montgomery, St. Louis Office for DD Resources

Gwen Rodriguez*, Beverly Farm Foundation

Nancy Shrewsbury*, Retired Registered Nurse

Mary Willard, National Association of Councils on DD

**AADD Board Member*

The Conference Planning Committee has selected speakers who are experts in their field. Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their presentation.

St. Charles Convention Center Map



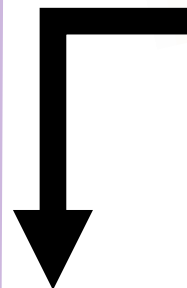
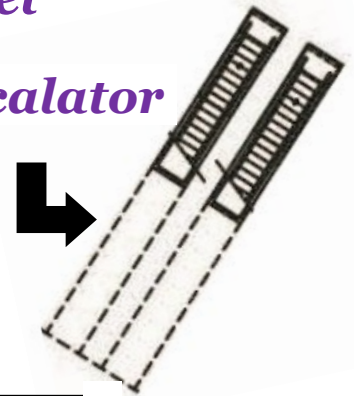
Denotes room entrances.

Upper Level

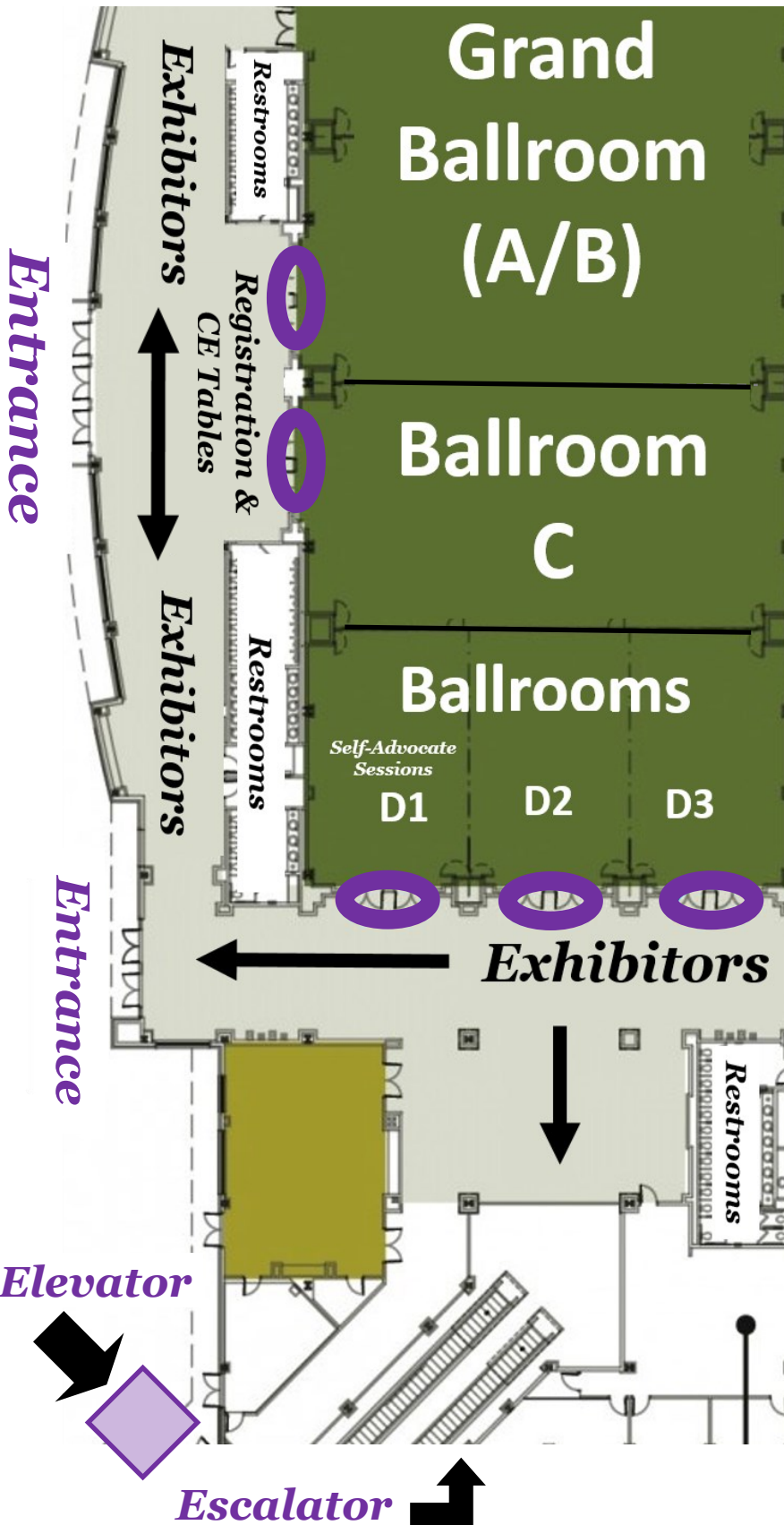
Lower Level

For lunch, take the *escalator*, *elevator*, or *stairs* downstairs to the *North Exhibit Hall in the Lower Level*

Escalator



North Exhibit Hall



THE 34TH ANNUAL AGING

with Developmental Disabilities Conference
May 12-13, 2025



St. Charles Convention Center

Monday, May 12

- 8:30 Registration/Exhibitors
- 9:15 Welcome Address
- 9:30 MORNING PLENARY ADDRESS:

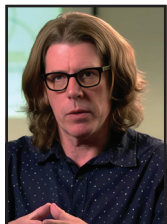


SUSTAINING THE BACKBONE AND OXYGEN OF LTSS FOR AGING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES-STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE

JOSEPH MacBETH, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (NADSP) AND MARVELL ADAMS JR., CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CAREGIVER ACTION NETWORK



MARVELL ADAMS



JOSEPH MACBETH

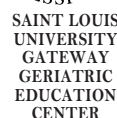
Across the country, the increasing shortage of long-term care workers requires finding innovative ways to support aging individuals with disabilities in order to ensure that people continue to get the services they need to be optimally independent and fully included in the community. Joe MacBeth and Marvell Adams will share their observations about the challenges ahead and new solution-oriented models for building a robust, competent, and healthy direct care workforce as well as ensuring comprehensive supports for paid and unpaid family caregivers.

10:30 Break/Visit our Exhibitors

10:45 Breakout Session I

DIRECT CARE	PROFESSIONAL	MEDICAL	POTPOURRI
BALLROOM C	BALLROOM D3	GRAND BALLROOM	BALLROOM D2
DECODING MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR: THE IMPORTANCE OF CAUSE IDENTIFICATION	NAVIGATING GOVERNMENTAL BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AGING WITH DD	UPDATE ON THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE	YOUR NEXT MOVE: TRANSITIONING TO THE NEW RETIREMENT
<p>Theresa Roberts, MSW, BCBA, LBA, Coordinator, Crisis & Behavior Svcs for State-Operated DD Programs</p> <p>Learn about contributing factors to maladaptive behaviors, such as medical issues, environmental factors, and other common behavioral triggers, and gain insight into how a clear understanding of behavior origins can lead to more targeted and sustainable solutions.</p>	<p>Nikki Mitchell, JD, Owner, Mitchell, Brown & Associates, LLC</p> <p>Is the person you support taking advantage of the many benefits for which they are eligible? Learn what governmental benefits are available for people with developmental disabilities who are aging and how to access them.</p>	<p>David Carr, MD, Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine</p> <p>This session will provide a greater understanding of dementia and explore risk factors, preventative measures, diagnosis, and current and future treatments for dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.</p>	<p>Chris Frey, LCSW, Instructor, Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging, Washington University</p> <p>A person with a developmental disability, like any other person, has the option of retirement from their life in the workforce. This session will cover skills and essential elements, such as purpose, leisure, and well-being, necessary for yourself and those you support in making a successful transition to retirement and a fulfilling next chapter.</p>

We gratefully acknowledge our partners:





Monday, May 12 (continued)

11:45 Lunch (lower level)

1:00 Breakout Session II

DIRECT CARE	GRAND BALLROOM	PROFESSIONAL	BALLROOM C	MEDICAL	BALLROOM D3	POTPOURRI	BALLROOM D2
ADAPTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FALL PREVENTION		TRENDS IN DUE PROCESS		WEIGHT & NUTRITION IN THE OLDER ADULT WITH IDD		EPILEPSY ALONG THE LIFECYCLE: WHERE SEIZURES AND AGING INTERSECT	
<p>ISABELLE ROTH, OTD, OTR/L, MENTAL HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, MAYO CLINIC</p> <p>Learn how to teach individuals with developmental disabilities ways to strengthen their cognition, protect their body, and modify their environment to prevent falls. Come prepared to share ideas about ways to incorporate physical and cognitive stimulation in the day to day. We will discuss home modifications for fall prevention and how to support implementation.</p>		<p>THERESA ROBERTS, MSW, BCBA, LBA, COORDINATOR, CRISIS & BEHAVIOR SVCS FOR STATE-OPERATED DD PROGRAMS AND RACHELLE MOFFAT, PROGRAM SPECIALIST, DIV OF DD, MO DMH; KRISTIN SEVANI, ADMINISTRATOR, IL DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES; AMY NEMIROW, PhD, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, OFC OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>A multi-state panel will discuss how different states ensure that the rights of individuals served are not restricted without due process, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned.</p>		<p>JULIE GAMMACK, MD, CMD, FACP, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, SSM HEALTH/ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE</p> <p>Older adults with IDD face unique challenges regarding weight and nutrition. This session will review risk factors, medical conditions, and medications that contribute to overweight, underweight, and malnutrition in this population. Nutritional screening and approaches to weight management will be discussed.</p>		<p>JONATHAN WILLIAMS, MD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGY, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE</p> <p>Though epilepsy can be diagnosed at any age, it most often begins in childhood or in older adulthood. This session will cover the impact of an epilepsy diagnosis across the lifecycle and will offer tools to recognize and document seizure activity.</p>	

2:00 Break/Visit our Exhibitors

2:15 Breakout Session III

DIRECT CARE	BALLROOM D3	PROFESSIONAL	BALLROOM C	MEDICAL	GRAND BALLROOM	POTPOURRI	BALLROOM D2
ADVOCATING FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR LOVED ONE IN A MEDICAL SETTING		RELATIONAL HEALTH: THE IMPACT OF RELATIONSHIPS ON HEALTH AND STRATEGIES TO BUILD RESILIENCE		MEDICAL AND POTENTIAL NEURODEGENERATIVE RISKS WITH AGING IN AUTISM		DISABILITY, AGING, AND THE ADA: MY LIVED EXPERIENCE	
<p>KIMBERLY SCHIEL, MD, INTERIM CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE, AND PROFESSOR, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE</p> <p>Learn how best to navigate the process of obtaining medical care for patients with IDD in the outpatient setting. Explore the flow of a typical visit from both the provider and patient perspectives. Best practices in obtaining acute and preventive care will be outlined, with a special emphasis on the role of the patient's advocate.</p>		<p>KELLIE HANS GREEN, MA, LCPC, DIRECTOR OF CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH, CARESOURCE</p> <p>According to recent reports, many Americans are experiencing high levels of loneliness. Relational richness is a key contributor of health and well-being across the life course. This thought-provoking, interactive workshop will demonstrate the power of harnessing positive, strong, and nurturing relationships for growth, protection, and healing.</p>		<p>DAVID BEVERSDORF MD, NEUROLOGIST AND PROFESSOR OF RADIOLOGY, NEUROLOGY, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI</p> <p>Until recent years, there has been little research regarding autism spectrum disorder and aging. Gain insight into what is known, and how best to support an individual who is aging with autism spectrum disorder.</p>		<p>ANNIE ZALESKI, JOURNALIST AND NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR</p> <p>An intimate look at how one self-advocate leverages her passion for music into advocacy for accessibility for all. This talk will speak to changing needs as a person ages, both from a personal experience as well as the broader perspective, and lived experience with ADA compliance.</p>	

3:15 Break/Visit Exhibitors

3:30 AFTERNOON PLENARY ADDRESS: THE ASSOCIATION OF FALLS, FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES, AND DEMENTIA RISK SYMPTOMS IN ADULTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME



SELENA WASHINGTON, PhD, OTR/L, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Dr. Washington's plenary address will discuss the relationships between dementia risk, falls, and functional outcomes as potential early indicators of dementia risk in adults living with Down syndrome. She will share findings of her recent study that highlight the importance of integrating fall monitoring, functional assessments, and early interventions into routine care. She will explain how these things address the unique needs of adults living with Down syndrome along with supporting timely detection of dementia risk and management strategies.



DR. SELENA WASHINGTON

4:30 Conference concludes for the day

Tuesday, May 13

8:00 Registration*/Exhibitors (*Check in at Registration Desk only if you did not attend Monday)

8:15 Welcome Address

8:30 MORNING PLENARY: TOP CONCERNS FOR PEOPLE WITH IDD AS THEY AGE

CRAIG ESCUDÉ, MD, FAAFP, FAADM, PRESIDENT, INTELLECTABILITY

Can I age in place? Will I lose my vision? How will my pain be managed? This presentation will cover self-advocate and expert-identified concerns that people with IDD have as they age. Information on how to identify and address these issues will also be covered.

9:30 Break/Visit our Exhibitors

9:45 Breakout Session I



DR. CRAIG ESCUDÉ

DIRECT CARE	PROFESSIONAL	MEDICAL	POTPOURRI
<p>ARTISTIC EXERCISE FOR AGING ADULTS</p> <p>VANESSA WOODS, OWNER, VITALITY IN MOTION/VITALITY BALLET</p> <p>This session will present some of the latest studies in geriatric research in support of the use of dance as a credible form of wellness for seniors. Learn how these programs may benefit you or those you serve. In traditional Vitality In Motion form, don't be surprised if you find yourself dancing in your chair as you experience for yourself the power of moving to music with others.</p>	<p>UPDATE ON MISSOURI'S MASTER PLAN ON AGING</p> <p>MELANIE HIGHLAND, MSW, DIRECTOR, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION OF SENIOR & DISABILITY SERVICES</p> <p>Join Missouri's Division of Senior & Disability Services Director as she offers insight into Missouri's Master Plan on Aging and reviews the latest draft recommendations.</p>	<p>UNIQUE NEEDS OF AGING WITH CEREBRAL PALSY</p> <p>DENA PRILUCK, DPT, PHYSICAL THERAPIST AND KATE MUETH, DPT, PHYSICAL THERAPIST, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS</p> <p>This session will review the impact of aging on adults with CP including the unique physiological factors that affect this population throughout the lifespan with an emphasis on the role of rehabilitative therapy services for health promotion and wellness across the lifespan for adults with CP.</p>	<p>SILENT AGING-HEARING THE UNSPOKEN WORDS</p> <p>SHARON DEBOEVER, MEd, NTG REGIONAL TRAINER, NATIONAL TASK GROUP ON INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND DEMENTIA PRACTICES</p> <p>Words - signed, spoken, or in whatever form, are simply one tool on the communication spectrum. Those who do not have words in their skill set often find their needs and connections to others go unmet. Vocalizations and actions are misinterpreted and labeled as inappropriate or maladaptive. This is particularly true, sadly, as it relates to communicating a need related to pain, depression or anxiety. Join me to hear the unspoken words and learn to listen with your eyes.</p>

10:45 Break/Visit our Exhibitors

11:00 Breakout Session II

DIRECT CARE	PROFESSIONAL	MEDICAL	POTPOURRI
<p>AWARENESS TO ACTION: ADVANCING HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD</p> <p>ALLYSON MCCAIN, MPA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, KCDD AND KAYE STEVERMER, SIBLING/CAREGIVER, KCDD HEALTH EQUITY AND OUTCOMES COALITION</p> <p>Attendees will learn about options for accredited training programs designed to equip healthcare providers with the skills needed to deliver compassionate, person-centered, end-of-life care, as well as the educational campaign to increase awareness and access to these vital services.</p>	<p>BEST PRACTICES IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</p> <p>LORI ANN ELDRIDGE, PhD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY</p> <p>When individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities have co-occurring Substance Use Disorder (SUD), it can be very difficult to access effective treatment for SUD. Learn about current evidence-based treatment models that can support individuals who have IDD with recovery.</p>	<p>MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY MEDICATIONS</p> <p>CRAIG SEVER, BS, RPh, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, EVERSPRING PHARMACY</p> <p>This session will discuss the increased prevalence of the use of monoclonal antibody medications, what they are and how they are currently being used in the treatment of certain types of dementias. Additionally a brief overview of the various types of dementia will be discussed.</p>	<p>PROJECT PRESENT</p> <p>ANN MARIE MOHR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROJECT PRESENT</p> <p>This presentation will focus on improving the quality of life for older adults aging with a developmental disability, caregivers, and individuals living with dementia through strengthening communication practices and exploring the application of improvisation. The presentation will help individuals acquire a new set of verbal and nonverbal tools to create meaningful connection, cultivate creativity, and promote opportunities of joyful collaboration.</p>



Tuesday, May 13

12:00 Lunch (lower level)

1:15 Breakout Session III



DIRECT CARE	GRAND BALLROOM	PROFESSIONAL	BALLROOM D3	MEDICAL	BALLROOM C	POTPOURRI	BALLROOM D2
THE POWER OF ROUTINE: BASIC AM & PM CARE FOR PEOPLE AGING WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	FELICIA HAMPTON, RN, HEALTH OCCUPATION INSTRUCTOR, SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN DIRECT CARE	MICHAEL STROUSE, PhD, PRESIDENT & CEO, AND MEGAN MCKINNEY TODD, CHIEF STRATEGY & INTEGRATIONS OFFICER, GOODLIFE INNOVATIONS, INC.	CANNABIDIOL (CBD) IN AGING AND DD: MYTHS, EVIDENCE, AND CLINICAL PEARLS	CHRIS HERNDON PHARM.D., BCACP, FASHP, FCCP, PROFESSOR, PHARMACY PRACTICE, SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE	EXPLORING SEXUAL HEALTH WITH SELF-ADVOCATES	TIA NELIS, SELF-ADVOCATE ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, TASH
<p>This session highlights the importance of integrating personal care into daily routines for people with developmental disabilities. Discover how these practices enhance comfort, establish structure, and improve mood during the day and sleep quality at night, while promoting hygiene, independence, and dignity. Practical strategies for effective routine implementation will be shared.</p>		<p>This session will dive into the shift toward cutting-edge technology-driven care models and offer a comprehensive toolbox to address and ensure organizational stability. Learn specific and practical proven strategies and methodologies to ensure your workforce positions are filled.</p>		<p>Gain an evidence-based understanding of CBD, its pharmacology, safety profile, and legal considerations. Special attention will be given to its use in aging populations and individuals with developmental disabilities, addressing both potential benefits and risks. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for counseling patients and caregivers on CBD use in these unique populations.</p>		<p>The purpose of this session is to learn about the importance of promoting sexual education and advocacy training for self-advocates and to discuss different approaches and strategies for helping individuals with I/DD explore their sexuality in healthy and positive ways.</p>	

2:15 Break/Visit our Exhibitors

2:30 AFTERNOON PLENARY: JOY JOLT - IGNITE YOUR CULTURE WITH PURPOSE



KATHY PARRY, CSP, CORPORATE ENERGY EXPERT, SPEAKER, AND AUTHOR

Professionals who work with individuals with IDD are often drained of energy. That will not change because the responsibility of caring for others, workforce issues and changing regulations affect even the strongest teams. But that low energy can creep into your culture and negatively affect clients. So how do teams stay energized, productive and engaged? Elevate the motivator behind the energy: Joy. Not just a feel-good word, joy ignites purpose and propels teams to serve at their highest level. Like a big mug of morning coffee, Kathy Parry provides a jolt of power to ignite your joy and tactics to transform your culture into one that leads with joyful purpose.



Kathy Parry

3:30 Conference concludes. Submit survey and continuing education paperwork.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS PROVIDED BY:



**Department of
Developmental
Disabilities**



Please visit the Continuing Education Table in the registration area with any questions.

Disclosure Statement

- This conference qualifies for up to 10 continuing education hours as required by many national, state and local licensing boards and professional organizations.
- To earn full credit, attendees pursuing CEs must participate in the full session. In the event of late arrival or early departure, amended certificates indicating the actual number of credit hours earned will be provided.
- In-person attendees pursuing CEs must sign in each day at the CE table. In addition, attendees pursuing OH Nursing CEs will be issued a sign-in sheet packet to sign in for each session attended and will need to complete an on-line Learning Outcomes Evaluation form.
- Sponsorship and Commercial Support: We are grateful to our Sponsors. Although they provided sponsorship, they had no input or influence over the content or choice of presenters.
- Potential conflicts of interest have been identified in some presenters. However, all presenters are committed to present an unbiased presentation.



Session Sponsors



SUSTAINING THE BACKBONE AND OXYGEN OF LTSS FOR AGING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES – STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING OUR NATION’S FAMILY CAREGIVERS & DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE
Joseph MacBeth, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals & Marvell Adams, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Caregiver Action Network
Monday, May 12, 2025, 9:30 am



NAVIGATING GOVERNMENTAL BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AGING WITH DD
Nikki Mitchell, JD, Owner, Mitchell, Brown & Associates, LLC
Monday, May 12, 2025, 10:45 am



**Missouri Foundation
for Health**

ADVOCATING FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR LOVED ONE IN THE MEDICAL SETTING
Kimberly Schiel, MD, Interim Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Saint Louis University School of Medicine
Monday, May 12, 2025, 2:15 pm

RELATIONAL HEALTH: THE IMPACT OF RELATIONSHIPS ON HEALTH AND STRATEGIES TO BUILD RESILIENCE
Kellie Hans Green, MA, LCPC, Director of Child and Family Health, CareSource
Monday, May 12, 2025, 2:15 pm



TOP CONCERNS FOR PEOPLE WITH IDD AS THEY AGE
Craig Escudé, MD, FAAFP, FAADM, President, IntellectAbility
Tuesday, May 13 2025, 8:30 am



BEST PRACTICES IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Lori Ann Eldridge, PhD, Assistant Professor, East Carolina University
Tuesday, May 13 2025, 11:00 am



MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY MEDICATIONS
Craig Sever, BS, RPh, Clinical Director, EverSpring Pharmacy
Tuesday, May 13 2025, 11:00 am



LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE
Michael Strouse, PhD, President & CEO, GoodLife Innovations, Inc. & Megan McKinney Todd, Chief Strategy & Integrations Officer, GoodLife Innovations, Inc.
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:15 pm

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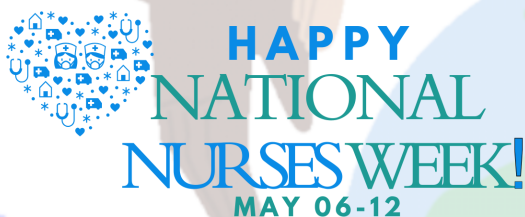
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ASSOCIATION ON AGING WITH
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Donna Mattera, RPh — Director of Business Development
DonnaMattera@hdrxservices.com (217) 622-3674

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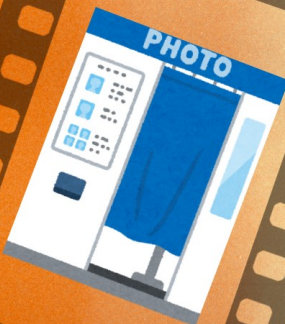
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Marvell Adams Jr. (madams@caregiveraction.org) is a skilled advocate, educator, and leader with a lifelong commitment to supporting caregivers, marginalized communities, and older adults. After a nationwide search, the Board of Directors appointed him CEO of Caregiver Action Network. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from the College of Charleston and a Master of Healthcare Administration specializing in Aging Services from UNC–Chapel Hill. With 20+ years of experience, Marvell has led in diverse environments, from residential care to process improvement in primary, acute, and post-acute healthcare. He has held executive roles in the \$4 billion University of Rochester/URMC System and the \$400 million Kendal System. A veteran surveyor for CARF International, he also coaches dementia care skills, promotes DEIBA, and serves on the boards of LeadingAge and Pioneer Network. His work has earned numerous honors, including LeadingAge NY Administrator of the Year.

David Beversdorf, MD (beversdorfd@health.missouri.edu) earned his medical degree from Indiana University and completed his Neurology residency at Dartmouth, followed by a fellowship in Behavioral Neurology at the University of Florida. He has held faculty positions at Ohio State and the University of Missouri, where he focuses on autism research, particularly pharmacofMRI as a potential treatment marker and gene/stress interactions. His work spans autism, dementia, cognitive neuroscience, stress-related cognition, neuroimaging, and pharmacological modulation of cognition. He has published journals including Neurology, Lancet, and PNAS. His research has received funding from NIH, the Department of Defense, and other institutions. He actively participates in the Brain Imaging Center at the University of Missouri and provides clinical care for adults with autism and dementia, with growing involvement in aging-related autism research.

David Carr, MD (dcarr@wustl.edu) is the Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, where he leads the Geriatrics Section in the Division of General Medicine. He runs an outpatient dementia practice and serves as a clinician in the Memory Diagnostic Center. As a principal or co-investigator, he has contributed to Alzheimer's drug trials and research funded by NIA and the Missouri Department of Transportation. His work focuses on older drivers and validating Alzheimer's biomarker tests. Dr. Carr consults with NHTSA, TIRF, and the American Geriatric Society, helping develop national guidelines on medically impaired older drivers. He has authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications, largely on aging and driving.

Sharon DeBoever, MED, QIDP (sharondeboever@outlook.com) has 40 plus years of experience working with persons with intellectual, physical and other disabilities including mental health and dementia. She is a member of, and regional trainer for, the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia as well as a volunteer community educator for the Alzheimer Association, where she facilitates two support groups. Sharon has recently retired from her position as a licensing inspector for the Virginia Department of Social Services for assisted living and adult day programs.

Lori Ann Eldridge, PhD (eldridgel21@ecu.edu) is an Assistant Professor at East Carolina University, North Carolina. She is a public health implementation scientist specializing in substance use. Her research is dedicated to examining the accessibility of prevention, treatment, and harm reduction services for substance use in rural and underserved communities, specifically for people with disabilities.

Craig Escudé, MD, FAAFP, FAADM (Craig@ReplacingRisk.com) is a board-certified Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Developmental Medicine, the American Association on IDD and President of IntellectAbility. He has more than 20 years of clinical experience providing medical care for people with IDD and complex medical and mental health conditions, serving as medical director of Hudspeth Regional Center in Mississippi for most of that time. While there, he founded DETECT, the Developmental Evaluation, Training, and Educational Consultative Team of Mississippi. He is the author of "Clinical Pearls in IDD Healthcare" and developer of the "Curriculum in IDD Healthcare," an eLearning course used to train clinicians on the fundamentals of healthcare for people with IDD, and the host of the IDD Health Matters Podcast.

Chris Frey, LCSW (freycl@wustl.edu) recently retired from private practice in St. Louis, MO after a 45 year career as a psychotherapist, educator, author, and consultant. He has dedicated his career to helping others lead meaningful lives. He collaborated with colleagues at the Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging at WashU to develop *Your Next Move: Transitioning to the New Retirement*® Course and Seminars. Chris has authored four books, including *Men at Work* and *I'm Sorry, It's Cancer*, and contributed to *Coping with Cancer Magazine*, *GP Solo*, and *Social Work*. He has presented nationally on topics like life transitions, addiction recovery, and cancer care. In his *Next Move*, he writes the Hank Anderson Mystery series under Raymond Parish, plays guitar, and travels frequently.

Julie Gammack, MD CMD FACP (julie.gammack@health.slu.edu) graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School, followed by an internal medicine residency and geriatric medicine fellowship at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She has worked at St. Louis University for over 20 years in the Division of Geriatric

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Medicine and has served as fellowship program director and interim division director. She is a Certified Medical Director with clinical and teaching activities in the hospital, clinic, and nursing home settings. She also serves as the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education.

Felicia Hampton, RN (*fhampton89@gmail.com*) is a passionate Secondary Health Careers Specialist for the St. Louis Public School District, where she prepares students for careers in healthcare through a robust curriculum and partnerships with healthcare organizations. With over 30 years of experience, she has spent more than 20 years as a registered nurse, specializing in mental health and developmental disabilities. She continues to serve her community through compassionate nursing care. Felicia is a fierce advocate for equity in education and healthcare, serving as Vice President of the Advocacy Committee for the Missouri Nurse Association. She mentors youth through The Village 314 and serves on the Board of Directors for Community of Hope. A dedicated educator, nurse, and leader, she uses her platform to address healthcare disparities and social justice issues.

Kellie Hans Green, MA, LCPC (*kellie.green@caresource.com*) is a seasoned healthcare leader with over 20 years of experience in health and child welfare. As Director of Child and Family Health at CareSource, she collaborates with business leaders, policymakers, and community organizations to improve health outcomes for children with complex needs. She leads strategic planning for child welfare programs across multiple markets. Previously, Kellie served as Director of Medicaid and Children's Mental Health for Kansas' Department for Children and Families, expanding access to mental health services and mobile crisis support. She also led communication and recruitment efforts at KVC Health Systems, strengthening foster care and family preservation. Committed to driving meaningful change for children and families, Kellie is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, holding degrees in psychology and counseling.

Chris Herndon Pharm.D., BCACP, FASHP, FCCP (*cherndo@siue.edu*) is a Professor with the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) School of Pharmacy. Currently, Dr. Herndon sees chronic pain and opioid use disorder patients within a family medicine residency clinic. Dr. Herndon's scholarship interest focuses primarily on pain and palliative care education and he is the Principal Investigator for the National Institutes of Health Center of Excellence in Pain Education at SIUE. Dr. Herndon was the 2019 President for the Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists. He was also the 2006 recipient of the "Pain Champion Award" from the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives, the 2012 recipient of the "Academic Pain Educator of the Year Award" from the American Society of Pain Educators, the 2016 "Pharmacist of the Year" from the Illinois Pharmacist's Association, and the 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the American Pain Society.

Melanie Highland, MSW (*melanie.highland@health.mo.gov*) is the Director of the Division of Senior and Disability Services for the Missouri State Department of Health and Senior Services. She has over 14 years of professional experience in the field of budget and policy analysis with the State of Missouri, closely working with the Departments of Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services (including Medicaid) during her tenure at the Office of Administration Division of Budget and Planning and the MO HealthNet Division. She is passionate about the work these departments perform to serve Missouri's most vulnerable populations. Throughout her career, Melanie has been actively involved in the Home and Community-Based Services program, Medicaid policy and financing, and maximizing the use of federal dollars.

Joseph MacBeth (*jmacbeth@nadsp.org*) is the CEO and President of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP). With 42 years in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities, he began his career as a direct support professional and has since become a global advocate for recognizing direct support as a profession. In the early 2000s, he helped New York lead the nation in workforce initiatives, which led to his hiring as NADSP's first Executive Director in 2011. Under his leadership, NADSP has grown to over 250 service provider organizations, representing nearly 60,000 professionals. He spearheaded the E-Badge Academy, a national certification program recognizing direct support skills. Macbeth has advised on workforce policy reform and served on the President's Committee for Intellectual Disabilities.

Allyson McCain, MPA (*allyson@kcdd.org*) is dedicated to advancing policies and programs that empower individuals with developmental disabilities. As Deputy Director of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD), she leads initiatives promoting equity, access, and meaningful participation. She also directs the Health Equity and Outcomes Coalition, addressing disparities in healthcare. Previously, Allyson served as Executive Director at GiGi's Playhouse Annapolis, supporting the Down syndrome community. She has worked as an in-home caregiver and volunteered as an art therapy instructor for adults with developmental disabilities. She holds a Bachelor's in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Mississippi and a Master's in Public Policy and Administration from American University. Passionate about eliminating barriers, she strives to elevate KCDD's mission of equitable healthcare for all Kansans with disabilities.

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Megan McKinney Todd (*megantodd@mygoodlife.org*) works closely with senior leadership and external collaborators to generate support for GoodLife's innovative solutions. She provides high-quality analysis and organizational skills to promote critical decision-making and formulate integral business innovations related to growth, outreach, and development. With a degree in English, graduate coursework in rhetoric and professional communication, and 12 years of direct professional experience across diverse fields, Megan is an effective liaison of the GoodLife service models and initiatives.

T. Nikki Mitchell, JD, CELA (*nmitchell@elderlawstlouis.com*) is owner of Mitchell, Brown & Associates. Nikki earned a Bachelor's degree in communications and Spanish from the University of Texas, Arlington and graduated from the University Of Maryland School Of Law. Prior to joining the firm, Nikki worked as a legal aid attorney handling a variety of legal issues, including disability, SSI appeals, special education, elder law and family law matters; and as an education consultant. Nikki works in all areas of elder law for the firm. She is committed to helping clients in need and guiding them through difficult legal processes with compassion. She understands how overwhelming the situations facing her clients can be and strives to make each one feel heard and understood.

Rachelle Moffat (*rachelle.moffat@dmh.mo.gov*) has dedicated her career to the IDD field since 1993 and has been with the State of Missouri since 2006. Over the years, she has served as a Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professional, a Support Coordinator, and now as a member of the Quality Programs Specialist team. Rachel is deeply committed to enhancing the quality of life for the individuals her team serves. She works to ensure that the services and supports provided effectively meet their needs while also advocating for their right to full community inclusion, ensuring they have the same opportunities and protections as anyone else.

Ann Marie Mohr (*projectpresentstl@gmail.com*) has taught Acting, Improvisation, and Embodied Communication at Washington University since 2006. She is the Executive Director of Project Present, which enhances the lives of older adults, caregivers, and individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementias. Project Present provides improv-based programming, communication training, and caregiver support to reduce isolation, combat stress, and foster creativity nationwide. Mohr also founded Mohr Improv, delivering applied improvisation workshops to strengthen communication and collaboration in business settings. She has worked with organizations like Channel 5 News, Purina, Abbott Pharmaceuticals, and Washington University. She previously founded OnSite Theater Company, St. Louis' premier site-specific theater group. Mohr holds an M.A. in Drama and multiple professional certifications. She has taught, directed, and performed both locally and internationally.

Kate Mueth, DPT (*kate.mueth@wustl.edu*) is a physical therapist at Washington University Program in Physical Therapy. She received a BA in rehabilitation sciences and minor in psychology from University of Missouri-Columbia in 2020 and a doctorate in Physical Therapy from Washington University in St. Louis in 2023. Kate has two years of clinical experience in outpatient physical therapy working with various patient populations. She lab assists in the neuromuscular areas of the DPT curriculum at WashU and regularly works with students completing their clinical rotation work. Kate is part of the multi-disciplinary adult CP clinic at WashU.

Tia Nelis (*tnelis@tash.org*) has been the Self-Advocate Engagement Coordinator at TASH since 2017. She previously served as a Self-Advocacy Specialist at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A longtime advocate, she was chairperson of the National Organization of Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered and founded People First of Illinois, serving as its president. Tia has received the Burton Blatt Award from Illinois TASH and the Elizabeth Boggs Award from the President's Committee. Drawing from her own experiences, she champions empowerment for people with disabilities through training and policy advocacy. She has extensive experience working with legislators and public officials to advance progressive policies that promote inclusion and self-determination.

Amy Nemirow, PhD (*c-anemirow@pa.gov*) has served Pennsylvania's Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health communities since 1991. She is currently the Clinical Director for the Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Community Supports, Southeast Region. Previously she was the Behavioral Health Specialist at the Southeast Region's Health Care Quality Unit, Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care. Prior to that, she served in several positions with Resources for Human Development, a Philadelphia-based human services organization, where she created and managed a community living arrangement program, providing residential and clinical supports to people with intellectual disabilities, mental illness, and autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Nemirow received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1995.

Kathy Parry, CSP (*kathy@kathyparry.com*) is a recognized authority in personal energy, productivity, and resilience, helping professional leaders activate positive change. Before launching her speaking and training business, she worked as a trainer for a super-regional bank, guiding teams through mergers and technology transitions.

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However, a life-changing experience as a caregiver for her daughter with IDD led Kathy to focus on resilience in assisted living, caregiving, and healthcare. She equips professionals with strategies to navigate disruptions, leaving attendees with actionable steps to power up their lives. Kathy holds degrees from Miami University, certifications in nutrition and dementia care, and is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP). She has authored six books, including *Senior Living Power*, and created *Power UP* and *Perform* course for senior living professionals.

Dena Priluck, DPT (dpriluck@wustl.edu) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Washington University Program of Physical Therapy. She received a BA in anthropology from Grinnell College in 2006 and a doctorate in Physical Therapy from Washington University in St. Louis in 2019. Dena is a Board Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist and a RESNA Certified Assistive Technology Professional. She teaches courses within the WashU DPT program in cardiopulmonary and neuromuscular conditions. Dena has five years of clinical experience in outpatient physical therapy working with many patient populations. She is part of the multi-disciplinary adult CP clinic at WashU and is particularly passionate about working with and improving access to care for adults with cerebral palsy.

Theresa Roberts, MSW, BCBA, LBA (theresa.roberts@dmh.mo.gov) is the Coordinator of Crisis & Behavior Services for State-Operated DD Programs, a role she has held since 2019. A board-certified behavior analyst with master's degrees in social work and behavior analysis, she has spent over 20 years in the field of developmental disabilities. Her experience spans direct support, residential supervision, and DD case management. In her current role, Theresa works to enhance person-centered behavior supports in state-operated facilities, focusing on skill-building, independence, and individual rights. She is dedicated to increasing awareness of rights within these programs and has led trainings statewide.

Isabelle Roth, OTD, OTR/L (isabelleroth43@gmail.com) is an occupational therapist with expertise in mental health, cognition, pain rehabilitation, body mechanics, and aging. She currently works at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. While working on her three-year doctoral degree in occupational therapy, she worked part-time for the Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (AADD). Dr. Roth credits AADD for helping her create a home in St. Louis, teaching her togetherness during the COVID pandemic, and allowing her the opportunities to meet fantastic, spirited, and warm-hearted individuals. She is passionate about the mission and community that AADD provides to the St. Louis metropolitan area, and she is honored to present at this conference to uplift and teach evidence-based therapeutic methods for healthy aging.

Kimberly Schiel, MD (kimberly.schiel@slucare.ssmhealth.com) has practiced at SSM SLUCare for 25 years. She has a longstanding patient practice with an interest in meeting the needs of patients with IDD. Dr. Schiel teaches medical students in both the classroom and clinical environments. She is involved in research projects in the areas of medical student education and Down syndrome.

Kristin Semanik, MA (kristin.semanik@illinois.gov) has dedicated 30 years to the field of developmental disabilities, beginning as a Direct Support Professional at a Community Day Service provider in central Illinois. After 12 years in direct support, she transitioned to a Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional role at an Intermediate Care Facility. She later joined an agency providing Waiver services, where she advanced into leadership, focusing on quality supports for individuals at various life stages. Currently, Kristin serves as the Quality Enhancement Unit Supervisor for the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Bureau of Quality Management. Her work centers on improving services and ensuring person-centered supports. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in human service, bringing a wealth of experience to her role.

Craig Sever, BS, RPh (csever@everspringrx.com) has been a Consultant Pharmacist since 2000 and has specialized in the DD and Geriatric population while consulting on approximately 900 patients per month. In 2016 he became the Clinical Director of EverSpring Pharmacy and currently consults on about 700 DD/Geriatric patients per month. Prior to the year 2000 he spent 13 years as a Clinical Pharmacist in a 500 bed acute care hospital and specialized in Intensive Care, Trauma and Infectious Disease. He graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1987 with his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy.

Kaye Stevermer (kstevermer@aol.com) is a retired general manager in the co-packing and distribution industry. Between 2003 and 2008, she experienced the loss of both parents, a brother, and a sister, all of whom wished to live fully and die with dignity at home. This deeply personal experience introduced Kaye to hospice care, where she saw firsthand the invaluable support provided to families navigating end-of-life decisions. Her understanding of hospice care later guided her in advocating for her youngest brother, Eddie, who was born with Down syndrome in 1962. Their mother, Vivian, was an early champion of Eddie's independence, ensuring he had opportunities for education, work, and community living. Kaye became his advocate, managing his medical and social needs. When the time came, hospice care

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allowed Eddie to spend his final months surrounded by love, passing peacefully in his group home. Now in retirement, Kaye honors his legacy by championing inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

Michael Strouse, PhD (mikestrouse@mygoodlife.org) has led GoodLife Innovations, Inc. and its subsidiaries for the past 30+ years. Mike's extensive work encompasses research, development, refinement, and dissemination of evidence-based, nationally-regarded, community service models that consistently produce person-centered care and high quality-of-life outcomes for those served. Mike's consultant services are widely sought after by private corporations, cities, and state governments interested in best-practice and emerging technologies for models supporting semi-independent populations in the community. Mike earned his PhD in developmental and child psychology and holds a courtesy faculty appointment in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas. He continues to participate in research, assist with the training of graduate students, and successfully maintains this important 40-year partnership.

Selena Washington, PhD, OTR/L (selena.washington@health.slu.edu) is an assistant professor at Saint Louis University (SLU), conducting research at SLU and the WashU Medicine Participation, Environment, and Performance Laboratory. She specializes in Dissemination & Implementation research focused on fall prevention and home modifications for diverse older adults and individuals aging with disabilities. She has contributed to federal grant applications (HRSA, HUD, NIA) as a sub-recipient and has established grant-funded staff positions and a research team within her department. Currently, she is an investigator/trainee on an NIA research supplement grant, Falls: A Marker of Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease, studying the relationship between cognition, fall risks, and functional symptoms of preclinical Alzheimer's in adults aging with Down syndrome.

Jonathan Williams, MD (jpwilliams@wustl.edu) is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Washington University School of Medicine. Clinically, he treats patients with epilepsy. His research leverages machine learning and community-engaged methods to enhance the detection and prediction of epilepsy outcomes in vulnerable populations. His research interests include the intersection of epilepsy, dementia, and lesion-related epilepsy, with a special interest in social determinants of health. Dr. Williams is dedicated to integrating social determinants of health into healthcare delivery. As an active member of the American Epilepsy Society (AES), Dr. Williams contributes to projects aimed at improving care for people with epilepsy. He is committed to developing integrated care systems that prioritize patient-centered outcomes, advancing health equity, improving access to neurological care, and training the next generation of clinicians.

Vanessa Woods (info@vitalityinmotion.com) is the owner and founder of Vitality In Motion based in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a former professional dancer with the Saint Louis Ballet and an ACE certified Group Fitness Instructor. Her innovative senior dance program, Vitality In Motion, has been featured in local and national news, and is held at senior living communities in St. Louis, Kansas City, Phoenix and Tucson. Founded in 2012 in collaboration with her mom, a Certified Occupational Therapist, Vitality In Motion helps bring the research-backed benefits of dance to older adults in CCRCs, Adult Day Centers and community organizations. Her extensive professional dance career, performing on stages in New York, Philadelphia, and Denver, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, helps inform her unique approach to making authentic dance accessible as an engaging and inclusive form of physical and cognitive exercise designed for seniors to do from a chair, wheelchair or standing.

Annie Zaleski (anniezaleski@gmail.com) is an award-winning author, journalist and editor with profiles, interviews, and criticism in a variety of publications. Bylines include Rolling Stone, NPR Music, The Guardian, Salon, Time, Billboard, The A.V. Club, Vulture, Classic Pop, Record Collector, The Los Angeles Times, Stereogum, Cleveland Plain Dealer, and Las Vegas Weekly. She contributed liner notes to the 2016 reissue of R.E.M.'s *Out of Time* and Game Theory's 2020 collection *Across The Barrier Of Sound: PostScript* and wrote Duran Duran's essay for their 2022 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction. She has also been a radio commentator on various music and pop culture topics, appearing on NPR (All Things Considered and regional stations), the CBC, Sirius XM Canada and MPR.

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AADD's History & Notable Distinctions

The Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (AADD) was initially formed in 1989 as a special interest group and became incorporated in 1994, thus celebrating its 30th Anniversary last year. AADD has a primary objective of bringing the aging and developmental disability fields together to create and provide best practices for people aging with developmental disabilities. It is a one of a kind organization in the United States, serving three area counties through ongoing programs and providing consultation and education beyond the geographical service area. Under the leadership of Executive Director, Pamela J. Merkle, programs for people with developmental disabilities supported by AADD have been successful with progressive growth over the past 29 years.



Pamela J. Merkle

Through our direct services, AADD's overarching goal is to prevent entry into unnecessary long-term care placement and premature death in individuals who are aging with developmental disabilities. Accordingly, all AADD programs have a common goal to provide necessary supports to assist individuals in achieving a greater independence in the home and community, while aging in place.

- In 2011, AADD's Final Game Plan program received the Missouri Association of County Developmental Disability Services Cutting Edge award for its approach to end of life issues facing individuals with developmental disabilities
- In 2013, AADD was the topic of a doctoral dissertation written by Dr. Tina Grosso, Assistant Professor of Gerontology at Lindenwood University entitled Maximizing Independence for Older Adults With Developmental Disabilities Via Andragogical Techniques: A Program Evaluation - The Association on Aging With Developmental Disabilities.
- In 2017, AADD collaborated with funders and agency providers to create a Dementia Capable Care Team in the St. Louis metropolitan area, bringing in the National Training Group (NTG) to provide nationally recognized training on dementia capable care.
- In 2019, AADD became the first known international organization to provide Circle of Friends®, an evidenced-based social isolation prevention curriculum developed in Finland, to individuals aging (60+) with a developmental disability. Data gathered throughout the service provision of Circle of Friends® will be included in a St. Louis University Gateway Geriatric Education Center study entitled The Use of Psychosocial Groups to Alleviate Loneliness and Isolation in Seniors.
- AADD and its programs have been highlighted in several recent media articles including Impact magazine, Aging Successfully, and has been featured in the ProAging podcast.
- In 2022, AADD's Executive Director, Pamela J. Merkle, was nominated for and selected as the awardee of the 2022 Harvey A. and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Award for Excellence in Service to Older Adults by the Friedman Center for Aging at Washington University.
- In 2022, AADD was awarded the Innovation in Supporting Aging Adults with Developmental Disabilities project funded by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council. The intent of this project was to collaborate with self-advocates and other organizations to create, implement, and evaluate a curriculum to support aging adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. The culmination of this project in 2024 resulted in the development of WE♥CARE, a comprehensive eight-week curriculum shared for implementation by organizations and communities to empower mutual caregivers with developmental disabilities nationwide.
- In collaboration with an ever-growing network of diverse stakeholders, AADD has assiduously planned and hosted an annual professional conference for the past 30+ years. Garnering interest both nationally and internationally. AADD has forged partnerships with several academic institutions, including St. Louis University Gateway Geriatric Education Center, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development, and the Washington University School of Medicine Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. The 33rd Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference, offered in 2024 as an in-person as well as a virtual event, drew more than 500 attendees. Attendees included doctors, nurses, social workers, case managers, direct support professionals, self-advocates, and many others from 28 different states plus DC and Canada.

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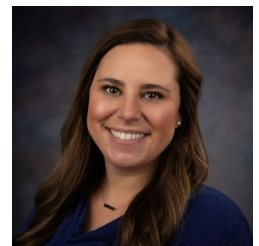
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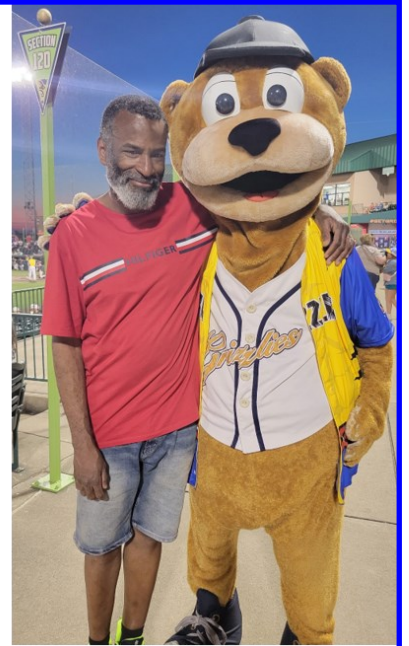
Buz Zeman, LCSW
Housing Options Provided for the Elderly

The AADD Board of Directors thanks the Conference Committee members for their year-long dedication to planning the Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference.

Also, many thanks to our speakers who have agreed to share their expertise on aging and/or developmental disabilities in order to promote best support models and practices in supporting individuals aging with a developmental disability with living their best life!



In Action



Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary!



April 26, 2025 marked the 50th wedding anniversary of John and Maureen, two of AADD's "Senior Hot Shots". At a recent AADD event, they celebrated this milestone event with many of their friends!

Thank you to the Speakers for our Self-Advocate Track:

Matt Davis

Joanie Senteny

Marge Lohmar

Ellen MacDonald

Isabelle Roth

Tia Nelis

Vanessa Woods

Sharon DeBoever



ASSOCIATION ON AGING WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SAVE THE DATE

35th Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference

May 11-12, 2026

St. Charles Convention Center



*We hope to see
YOU there!*



Our Mission: We stand together with people aging with developmental disabilities.

Our Vision: People aging with developmental disabilities are valued members of the community.

Thank you for attending the 34th Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference!

**To stay in touch with us throughout the year,
please follow us:**



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