

**IOWA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 5TH - 7TH, 2016
RAMADA TROPICS RESORT
5000 MERLE HAY ROAD
DES MOINES, IA 50322**

Wednesday, October 5th, 2016

8:30-11:45AM

Registration open

10:00-11:00AM

IRA Annual Board Meeting (Board Members Attend)

12:00-1:00PM

Lunch

1:00-2:30PM

General Session – Keynote Speaker: Mental Health Advocacy in the Community, Joan C Becker

BIO: In her book, *Sentenced to Life*, you will see how Joan Becker's personal family experience served as the catalyst for her to become an advocate and public speaker for individuals with mental illness. Her focus is to open the doors and promote change in our mental health system

Joan speaks regularly to colleges, churches, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) groups, high schools, communities, and mental health service providers.

She lives in Iowa with her husband of 36 years, David Becker. They have three sons, Brad (Jackie), Scott (Nikki), and Mark. She and Dave believe God wants them to share their family's story about Mark and the experience their family had of coping with Paranoid Schizophrenia in the hope that it will help other families, caregivers, and professionals understand how they can make a difference in moving forward and improving our mental health system.

Learning Objectives:

As a mother of a son with Paranoid Schizophrenia, I will...

1. Share our family's story of working through the mental health maze in an attempt to find a diagnosis and treatment plan for our son.
2. Expose the breakdown of communication between mental health agencies, law enforcement, hospitals, patient, and families in an individual's treatment.
3. Challenge participants to do their part in closing the communication gap by brainstorming ways to communicate effectively and within the boundaries of HIPPA along with the importance of providing vocational rehab and job opportunities for individuals living with mental illness.

2:30-3:00PM

Break/Vendor Booths

3:00-4:30PM

Sessions

Session 1: Universal Design Practices, Tracy Keninger and Molly Wuebker

BIO: Tracy is currently a director at Easter Seals Iowa where she is involved with overseeing services for farm family members with disabilities, veterans, and various statewide assistive technology services for children and adults with disabilities and persons with special needs. Keninger holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Minnesota State University as well as her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Minnesota State University. Additionally, she is a certified Assistive Technology Practitioner through the RESNA. Easter Seals Iowa serves more than 2,500 families each year reaching all Iowa's 99 counties.

BIO: Molly Wuebker graduated from Creighton University in 2010 with her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy and proceeded to specialize in pediatrics across multiple settings ranging from outpatient to school-based to adaptive sports and recreation. All while, employing adaptive processes, modifying equipment and designing new products in collaboration with Iowa State University's Industrial Design Program. Passionate about accessibility and occupational therapy, Molly has begun to pursue certification as an assistive technology professional and is partnering with the Easter Seals Rural Solutions program to provide occupational therapy services using a telehealth delivery of care to farmers throughout the State of Iowa. In her current role as assistant professor and academic fieldwork coordinator at Drake University's OTD program, Molly is committed to sharing her passions with the next generation of OT practitioners.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will learn about universal design practices, along with assistive technology that enriches the lives of individuals with and without disabilities.

Attendees will learn:

1. Participants will be able to define universal design and assistive technology.
2. Participants will be able to identify universal design in the workplace in the physical environment and via communication, and technology.
3. Participants will be able to discuss 25 examples of assistive technology and universal design practices.

Session 2: A Call to Action for Mental Healthcare, Theresa Bomhoff

BIO: Theresa Bomhoff is the President of NAMI Greater Des Moines. She has been in this role for 11 years. She is also the Chairperson for the Iowa Mental Health Planning Council. Theresa originally got her degree in English and Secondary Teaching but after both of her adult kids became effected by severe mental illness, she began learning how to cope and became involved in mental health in Iowa. Prior to working for NAMI, Theresa worked for the USDA as a Business Specialist for 39 yrs. She retired from this job 5 years ago, while jointly working for NAMI full-time. Since then, she's been able to focus fully on NAMI and the needs of the community related to mental health.

Learning Objectives:

During this session, attendees will learn about Mental Health issues in Iowa. Theresa will share information about what services individuals need and what is available as well as set stereotypes to rest. It is important that as a community we see individuals for who they are treat them with dignity and respect, with attention to the diagnosis only after seeing the human. Theresa will discuss ways professionals and community members can become involved in the

mental health community. She will share simple ways to be an ally as well as options to get involved on a larger front. Understanding your client and their needs, as well as resources available, is the best way to effectively support them.

Attendees will learn:

1. Learn about mental health issues and condition of the state of Iowa
2. Learn how to take action on mental health, including both small and large steps
3. Learn about the importance of seeing individuals first and illness second

Session 3: Pre- Employment Training Services: Finding and Using the Resources for High School Students, Ellen Sokolowski, MS, CRC

BIO: Ellen is employed with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services where she works as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. She has experience in the field of rehabilitation both in the non-profit and for-profit sectors. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Briar Cliff College and a Master's Degree in Counseling and Personnel Services from Drake University. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

Ellen is active with the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), the Iowa Rehabilitation Association (IRA) and the Job Placement Division (JPD) having served as President of all three. She has received awards for outstanding leadership within the field of rehabilitation.

Learning Objectives:

This presentation will provide information as what information is available for PETS presentations on the Internet, in print and other resources.

Attendees will learn:

1. Present and discuss various internet sites to be used in PETS presentation;
2. The availability of resources for PETS in print material
3. How an counselor can evaluate the material and be able to use it effectively with a job candidate or in the classroom
4. Leave the presentation with resource packet of PETS information

4:30PM

Adjourn

4:45-6:00PM

IRA Board Meeting (All invited to attend) – Opening Session

6:00 PM

Social Hour

Thursday, October 6th, 2016

8:00- 8:30AM

Registration open

8:30-10:00AM

General Session: Legislative Panel

10:00-10:15AM

Break

10:15-11:45AM

Sessions

Session 1: Ethics and Cultural Humility, Breanne Ward, CRC, (T)LMHC

BIO: Breanne Ward is a certified Sexual Assault Counselor through the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (Iowa CASA) and a nationally recognized certified rehabilitation counselor with the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC). She serves on numerous boards and committees, including the African American Case Review Team for Department of Human Services and Trauma Informed Care Stakeholder's Committee. She has provided vast trainings to Iowa CASA, Iowa's 5th Judicial Department of Corrections, Drake University, and Simpson College.

Her graduate alma mater is Drake University where she earned a Master's in Counseling at Drake University. Her undergraduate degree was obtained at Iowa State University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult, and Family Services with a specialization in Youth. Ward has her temporary license to provide mental health counseling for the state of Iowa. She has great faith that she will continue to be a vessel to carry out the work of her community and welcomes new opportunities to strengthen and empower others.

Learning Objectives:

Many of the individuals who come into our office setting have been severely injured as children. Their behaviors, although ineffective, are ways to maintain and cope with toxic stress within their cultural framework.

Attendees will learn:

1. How to provide a safe space to share common experiences regarding clients from different cultures
2. Insight on a more trauma-informed way to communicate with all clients
3. Ways to increase productivity in your office

Session 2: Customized Employment as a Pre-Employment Transition Service, Kari Tietjen and Ciara Ladroma

BIO: Kari Tietjen is the Employment Specialist Coordinator at Candeo. Since starting with Candeo in 2015, Kari Tietjen has shaped a career in supporting businesses to view inclusion as a best business practice. With experience in higher education career coaching, Kari uses her familiarity with business practices to support jobseekers of all abilities throughout Polk County. A familiar face at numerous Chamber engagements throughout Polk County, Kari is a trusted voice for local decision makers who seek guidance on integrating qualified jobseekers with diverse abilities into the workforce. Kari was Candeo's first Customized Employment Specialist and recently moved into the role of Employment Specialist Coordinator in 2016. She holds a Masters of Education from Iowa State University and a BA from Drake University. Kari is credentialed as a Certified Employment Support Professional through the Association of People

Supporting Employment First. Kari can be reached at kari.tietjen@candeiowa.org or 515-259-8170.

BIO: Ciara Ladroma is a Career Coach at DMACC Urban Campus. Ciara Ladroma has nearly 10 years of experience within the Human Services field. Prior to becoming a Career Coach for the HiSET Program at DMACC, Ciara served as the Employment Specialist Coordinator at Candeo. Ciara had led the Employment Department and has a vast business network and strong employer and business group connections. In June 2016, Ciara joined the DMACC Urban Campus HiSET Team as a Career Coach, providing wrap around supports to students pursuing their High School Equivalency Diploma. Ciara recognizes and prioritizes the correlation between Education and Employment by having a strong interest and drive in supporting individuals to succeed in the classroom, pursue continued education, and/or secure meaningful employment with the end goal of self-sufficiency. Ciara graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a minor in Social Work. Ciara can be contacted at culadroma@dmacc.edu or 515-697-7808.

Learning Objectives:

WIOA legislation encourages a much larger role for VR in the transition from school to adult life. As part of this, WIOA states that 15% of VR funds be spent on 'pre-employment transition services' (PETS) to students with disabilities. With the addition of customized employment (CE) as a VR service, this session will cover how CE can be used to meet the PETS requirements, including using discovery as job exploration counseling, work based learning experiences, and counseling on post-secondary education.

Attendees will learn:

1. Examples of discovery activities as career exploration and person-centered planning
2. How to use information learned from observation at home and in the community to guide the employment search
3. Learn skills of how to create job opportunities for individuals with most significant disabilities by focusing on skill sets and job carving.

Session 3: Overview of Registered Apprenticeships, WIOA and Grant Benefits, Dane Sulentic, MBA, MPA and Richard Madden

BIO: Richard Madden, Employed by the U. S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship in Des Moines IA since May 2010. In this capacity, he is responsible for developing apprenticeship programs throughout Central/Western Iowa, as well as giving technical assistance to established apprenticeship programs.

Assistant Director of Training, Iowa Electrical Apprenticeship, Clive, IA from 1996-2010. Involved with all facets of administration regarding apprenticeship, which included advertising, interviewing, and placement of apprentices as well as giving technical advice regarding apprenticeship issues to various committees. Involved with the Veterans Administration ensuring all apprentices who were eligible for veterans benefits were enrolled thru the VA.

U. S. Navy – 1974-1994 – He began his naval career at Great Lakes, Recruit Training Command, Waukegan, IL. He attended Yeoman "A" School in Meridian, MS and his first assignment was to the USS WORDEN (CG 18), home ported in Yokosuka, Japan. During the next twenty years he had assignments in San Diego, CA, London, England, Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba, Key West, FL, Iceland and finally a NATO Command in Naples, IT. He retired as a Chief Yeoman in 1994.

BIO: Dane Sulentic is an Employability Services Specialist with Iowa Employment Solutions @ DMACC. Dane works with employers to educate and inform them on what benefits they may be eligible for through WIOA and the Statewide Apprenticeship Grant. Acting as a liaison between employers and job seekers, Dane's goal is to help individuals find the right job and employers fill their employment needs. Throughout the last 10 years Dane has worked in career education and services helping everyone from high school students, college students, and adult professionals hone their employment skills and reach their career goals.

Learning Objectives:

They will be explaining how the Statewide Apprenticeship Grant works and how both employers and job seekers can receive benefits. I will also explain different WIOA benefits and how they relate to apprenticeship and on the job training.

Attendees will learn:

1. Learn how to utilize the Statewide Apprenticeship Grant
2. Identify the right candidates for apprenticeship
3. Learn what benefits WIOA has to offer qualifying individuals

11:45-12:00PM

Break

12:00-1:00PM

Awards Luncheon

1:00-1:15PM Break

1:15-2:45PM

General Session - WIOA Basics: The Collaborative Effort Between IVRS and Education,
Mary Jackson and Kim Drew

BIO: Mary Jackson is a Resource Manager for Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) who specializes in transition. Mary has been working for IVRS for the past 11 years and began as a VR Counselor in Waterloo. She obtained her Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Iowa in 2005. Learning Objectives:

BIO: Mrs. Kim Drew has a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Science degrees in Education/Special Education. Kim's current role is an Educational Consultant for the Iowa Department of Education, focusing on Special Education and Secondary Transition. Prior to her work at the Department, she has more than 30 years of teaching experience, both in general and special education. During her years in the public school setting, she also worked as a Transition Specialist in a high school in the Blue Valley (Kansas) school district for six years. In addition to her years in the education, she worked for five years in the non-profit sector as a community relations director which entailed fundraising and event planning as well as five years working for a technology company in the training department. She has also served on the boards of several non-profit organizations.

Learning Objectives:

This presentation will be an initial explanation of the WIOA legislation as it applies to the enhanced collaborative effort to improve employment outcomes for students and youth with disabilities.

Attendees will learn:

1. Definitions on new terminology from the legislation
2. A basic understanding of changes due to WIOA
3. An overview of the collaboration between IVRS and Education

2:45-3:00PM

Break

3:00-4:30PM

Sessions

Session 1: Special Education Post-Secondary Transition Rights, Nathan Kirstein and Beth Rydberg

BIO: Nathan Kirstein's title is Children's and Investigations Staff Attorney for Disability Rights Iowa. Nathan was hired by DRI in October of 2012. He specializes in representing students in special education cases and has provided training to Iowa attorneys who are also interested in representing students in such cases. He also specializes in monitoring and investigating various facilities in which youth with disabilities reside and providing individual/systemic advocacy to residents who have had their federal or state rights violated.

BIO: Beth Rydberg's title is Children's and Investigations Advocate for Disability Rights Iowa. Beth earned a B.S. in Family Services from Iowa State University and has worked with individuals with disabilities and their families in residential, community, and school settings. Beth focuses on the areas of special education, juvenile justice, and other children's issues at Disability Rights IOWA. Outside of the office, she continues her passion for children with work as the manager of a community garden for a local food pantry and founding member of Umafasha, an outreach center for refugees from East Africa. She is the parent of 4 adult children including sons with disabilities that are living independently in the community.

Learning Objectives:

The session will provide basic information regarding the post-secondary transition rights for students under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including the rights that parents and students have if they believe these rights have been violated. Also, the session will include information regarding the interaction with the interaction of other federal laws with the IDEA in the context of transition.

Attendees will learn:

1. The basic framework for the post-secondary transition requirements under the IDEA
2. The basic framework for exercising the student's/parent's rights under the IDEA
3. The interaction of the IDEA with other federal laws in the context of transition

Session 2: Generational Poverty, Brian Dennis, MS, CRC

BIO: Brian S. Dennis works for the Iowa Employment Solutions program at DMACC. He has worked in disability and low-income services for the past 18 years. His career includes residential care, mental health case management, local housing services; and now education/training and employment services through Iowa's implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant. He has presented on this model of poverty-informed care at the National Council on Rehabilitation Council and the Rehabilitation Services Administration conferences. Mr. Dennis holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling; as well as his CRC (Certified Rehabilitation Counselor) licensure and is a certified SSDI/SSI benefits planner. He currently is the president of the City of Des Moines Access Advisory Board and sits on the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), Iowa's Employment First Initiative and Olmstead Taskforce. He has worked with the YMCA Fatherhood Initiative; and he is an adjunct professor at Drake University teaching courses related to Family Counseling and Disability Policy which integrate insight into the systemic issues which contribute to generational poverty.

Learning Objectives:

In today's competitive workforce; various cultures come together in every workplace. Understanding the unwritten rules of any culture is vital to assisting the person's we serve move forward into economic independence. In this session; attendees will learn the hidden rules within the culture of poverty. How this contrasts against the middle-class rules which are prevalent in educational and employment environments; and strategies to assist persons in becoming "culturally bilingual". Systemic barriers such as the "Cliff Effect" will also be discussed; as a model of poverty-informed care is described to break the cycle of generational poverty within our shared customer base.

By creating a deeper understanding of the cultural and systemic barriers faced by the shared customers who often access our services; we can become more responsive in our case planning and better able to integrate collaborative strategy to meet the needs of those with the most significant barriers to employment and improve outcome attainment. A poverty-informed customer services style is the first step in true systems change. This workshop will assist Rehabilitation Counselors develop and adapt interventions and services to incorporate consideration of cultural perspective of clients who experience Generational Poverty and increase recognition of barriers presented by this cycle which may interfere with achieving effective rehabilitation outcomes.

Attendees will learn:

1. Differences between situational and generational poverty
2. The coping skills and mechanisms of a poverty mindset
3. Understanding of the "Cliff Effect"
4. Strategies of breaking cycles of behavior through poverty-informed care

Session 3:

TBA

4:30PM

Adjourn

6:00 PM

Social Hour

Friday, October 7th, 2016

8:00- 8:30AM

Registration open

8:30-9:00AM

General Session: Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and the Unified State Plan,
Charlie Levine and Linda Rouse

BIO: Charles Levine is the Assistant Bureau Chief for Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. He started with the agency as a counselor in 1987 in the Iowa City Area Office. He supervised the Burlington and Council Bluffs offices before entering into his current position. He works with the IVRS Resource Managers in providing support to the area offices and supervisors in regard to assistive technology, transition, working with community partners, quality assurance, policy and training of new staff.

BIO: Linda Rouse, Veteran Program Manager at Iowa Workforce Development, is a native of San Diego, California. She enlisted in the United States Marine Corps out of high school and honorably served 20 years active duty serving at various bases in California, Tennessee, and Okinawa. Linda has been with Iowa Workforce Development for almost 10 years. She has been a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program specialist, a One-Stop manager and now the Veteran Program Manager for the Jobs for Veterans State Grant. She is also the co-lead for the Disability Employment Initiative and oversees Ticket to Work. Linda has her BA from National University in psychology and an internship away from earning her MA in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling.

Learning Objectives:

This session will focus on the new legislation that impacts four core partners: Wagner-Peyser, Dislocated Worker, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Adult Education. The development of a Unified State Plan to assure that services to Iowans are provided in an efficient and effective manner. How this system change will this impact service delivery to individuals with disabilities.

Attendees will learn:

1. Learn About the Vision for Iowa
2. Knowledge about the goals of the Unified Plan
3. Impact on delivery of services to individuals with disabilities

9:00-9:15AM

Break

9:15-10:15AM

General Session: Integrated Resource Teams – Rethinking Collaboration, Panel will consist of a variety of professionals that are part of an IRT team – led by Diane Hernandez, *MS, CRC, CBIS*

BIO: Diane Hernandez is the disability resource coordinator through Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC. In this position, Diane is responsible for the implementation of the Disability Employment Initiative activities for Region 11 in Iowa. She also serves as a WIOA employability services specialist. In both positions, she provides services to persons facing a

variety of barriers to employment. Diane also had a previous career as a public relations executive with a concentration on consumer accounts and the travel and tourism industry.

Learning Objectives:

Even as the national and statewide unemployment rates drop, the unemployment rate for many populations continues to rise. Customers who continue to struggle in our current economy are those with the most significant barriers to employment and economic independence. The response to these needs: A new style of case conceptualization and strategic planning is necessary to continue assisting the persons we serve move forward. One such strategy is the use of integrated resource teams, which bring together public and private sector representatives, employers, and service agencies to coordinate resources in order to meet the employment and service needs of our shared customers.

Attendees will learn:

1. Learn a new approach to collaboration
2. Learn how the concept of IRTs has been implemented successfully
3. Learn creative approaches to problem solving through collaboration

10:15-10:30AM

Break & IRA Election of Officers

10:30-12:00PM

Sessions

Session 1: Brain Injury: Preparing for Change, Diane Hernandez, MS, CRC, CBIS and David Demarest, Ph.D.

BIO: Diane Hernandez is the disability resource coordinator through Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC. In this position, Diane is responsible for the implementation of the Disability Employment Initiative activities for Region 11 in Iowa. She also serves as a WIOA employability services specialist. In both positions, she provides services to persons facing a variety of barriers to employment. Diane also had a previous career as a public relations executive with a concentration on consumer accounts and the travel and tourism industry.

BIO: Dr. Demarest is a clinical neuropsychologist with more than 25 years of extensive experience in the rehabilitation and neuropsychology field. Dr. Demarest has a Doctoral degree from West Virginia University. He did his neuropsychology and rehabilitation internship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center while in college. He completed his fellowship at Specialty post-doctoral fellowship in neuropsychology and rehabilitation in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Missouri Medical School and Rusk Rehabilitation Center. As an Iowa- and Nebraska-licensed psychologist, Dr. Demarest has been involved in numerous neuropsychological studies that have helped advance the brain injury field. Highlights from Dr. Demarest's professional career include:

- Published articles in numerous professional psychology journals
- Experience in worker's compensation and forensic evaluation - including testimony, capacity, and deposition.
- Serving as a member of the Iowa Governor's Advisory Council for Brain Injuries
- Sharing his expertise as a member of the Brain Injury Association of America, the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa, and the North American Brain Injury Society

- Surveying rehabilitation facilities around the world as an accredited surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Learning Objectives:

Returning to work after brain injury can be a complicated and amazingly interesting process.

Every person, every brain and every injury is different. Yet, experience tells us that there are some tools and strategies that can increase the likelihood of people not only obtaining but also maintaining employment. This presentation will answer some common questions regarding brain injury and the return to work utilizing real-world examples on how to assist people in moving forward with their lives.

Attendees will learn:

1. What is the person and what is the brain injury?
2. How do we address awareness of deficits?
3. What is the role of assessment in establishment of a successful individual employment plan?
4. How and what long-term supports are available for maintaining employment?

Session 2: Waiver 101, LeAnn Moskowitz

BIO: LeAnn Moskowitz is a Policy Specialist for the Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. She joined the state in 2009 and prior to that worked in the private sector for over 23 years managing Medicaid funded facility and community-based residential and vocational service programs serving people with disabilities. Her special areas of focus with the state include HCBS Prevocational and Employment services, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) and HCBS Transportation, Mental Health and Substance Abuse services, the HCBS Habilitation program and the HCBS Brain Injury Waiver program. She graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sociology in 1992 and graduated from Drake University in 1999 with a Masters Public Administration focusing on Health Care Administration.

Learning Objectives:

The presentation will highlight Iowa's seven Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers and the State Plan HCBS Habilitation program. Collaboration with waiver programs is a priority for professionals working with individuals with disabilities to achieve their employment outcomes.

Attendees will learn:

1. Medicaid basics
2. Introduction to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)Waivers
3. HCBS Waiver Program Description and Services
4. HCBS Consumer Choices Option
5. State Plan HCBS Habilitation program
6. Questions and Answers

Session 3: What a Collective Can Accomplish, Jessica Kreho, M.S., CRC, Amy Desenberg-Wines

BIO: Jessica Kreho began her work in mental health back in 2004, as both direct care and a team lead in residential and community-based, integrated services settings, working with individuals with chronic mental illness, intellectual disabilities, brain injury, and developmental disabilities. Jessica completed her Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling at Drake University, graduating in December of 2012. After graduation, Jessica has been self-employed for Life Enrichment Counseling Services, LLC, and continued working in community mental health, facilitating Wellness and Recovery Action Planning groups, Parent and Family Support groups, and contracting with the Veteran's Administration, before moving on to project coordination with the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment. Her primary responsibilities and areas of work for the project include Coalition engagement and communication, technical assistance and support to diverse stakeholders, Parent and Family Coalition engagement and support, and systems change planning, implementation, and monitoring.

BIO: Amy Desenberg-Wines is a self-employed consultant for Disability Consulting, LC. Currently she manages the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment, a systems change project funded through the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Previously, Amy served as the Iowa ADA Coordinator for the Great Plains ADA Center. Amy has developed and implemented a number of different initiatives related to improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Other consulting projects include contracts with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Labor, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, Drake University, and the University of Missouri, Columbia. Before establishing her consulting business, Amy was the Director of Drake University's Disability Resource Center. Amy has worked in the area of disability for over 30 years and has a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Job Development/Placement.

Learning Objectives:

The Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment is a five year systems change project that represents diverse stakeholders from across Iowa who are working together on various system change activities to increase integrated competitive employment outcomes for Iowans with disabilities. The collective work of the Coalition has focused on increasing expectation and demand for integrated competitive employment, grassroots advocacy efforts, building stakeholder capacity, determining effective and replicable strategies in transition and obtaining paid employment for students prior to leaving high school, and effective and replicable strategies to place individuals with the most significant disabilities. Join Amy and Jess to hear how collaborative partnerships and innovative strategies are increasing expectations, and achieving outcomes in transition and integrated employment.

Attendees will learn:

1. The power of expectations as it all starts there. Everyone can work with the right supports & there are innovative & creative strategies to place those with the most significant disabilities.
2. How working together can achieve better outcomes & strategies to support collaboration & the building of trust amongst diverse partners.
3. Lessons learned throughout the project that can assist the state, communities, & professionals as the state & its providers transition & move away from facility-based to integrated competitive employment.

12:00-12:30PM

Election Results - IRA General Meeting (All invited to attend) – Closing Session

12:30PM
Adjourn