

2023 Together for Choice Conference
Agenda Draft as of 9/21/2023
Subject to Change

Wednesday, October 4

Betty's Village, 7755 W. Oquendo Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89113

6:30 PM Networking Dinner Reception

Keynote address

Congresswoman Dina Titus (1st District, Nevada)

Thursday, October 5

Opportunity Village – Ralph & Betty Engelstad Location, 6050 S. Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89113

7:30 AM Check-in and Continental Breakfast

8:15 AM Announcements

8:30 AM Welcome:
Greetings from Opportunity Village Advocates and Opening Statement from Bob Brown

8:45 AM **Policy Updates**

- Scott Mendel, Together for Choice

9:00 AM **CMS's Medicaid Regulations**

- Melissa Harris, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM **State of the I/DD System**

This talk will focus on the status of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. With Pennsylvania as a case example, national trends will be reviewed and discussed. The concern is that the focus on high functioning individuals (e.g., competitive integrated employment, community participation, independent living), often comes at the expense of funding and flexibility for those with more complex needs (e.g., medical and behavioral complications). While the former is admirable and should be supported, all individuals in need deserve the opportunity to receive services that best support them.

Areas to be reviewed include:

- The movement away from facility-based employment services and the elimination of 14 (c) settings
- Closure of state facilities
- Intentional communities, campuses, farmsteads and CMS guidance
- Advocacy efforts from an historical perspective
- The role of "Choice"

- State initiatives: Use of the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and Selective Contracting
- Funding, waitlists, COVID, workforce, and quality

And more. The goal will be to discuss all these areas and trends, with the goal being able to make recommendations on how to improve the system and array of services for ALL people with disabilities and their families.

- Richard Edley, Rehabilitation & Community Providers Association (RCPA)

11:00 AM

Panel on Residential Services

Building sustainable housing is a first step, but how do you deliver high quality residential services that can successfully meet the needs of your residents with I/DD?" Members of the panel will share their experiences in the provision of services to residents who have varied needs and frequency of staff support, costs and revenue streams, importance of organizational culture and ideas for future growth and sustainability.

- Jim Whittaker, JW Specialized Housing (Moderator)
- Aaron Vorell, Casa de Amma
- Adam Pomeranz, Annandale Village
- Chris Hegg Krackenberger, Misericordia
- Kerst de Jong, Camphill Association of North America

12:15 PM

Networking Lunch

1:15 PM

Championing Growth

Mary has served as A New Leaf's Chief Executive Officer since 2011. During her tenure, she has taken the organization from an \$800,000 organization to a \$12.4M organization, from 20 employees to over 280 employees and from \$1,000,000 in net assets to over \$22,000,000. A New Leaf's latest expansion was The Village, a 62-unit safe and affordable housing neighborhood.

Mary will walk through the steps she followed when deciding what kind of housing to build, building an operating plan for now and the future, and capital campaign fundraising.

- Mary Ogle, A New Leaf

2:00 PM

Aging & Dementia in Residential Services

It is not a matter of *if*, but *when* we are going to be faced with aging in place. Are you ready to face that fact now? Staggering statistics show the aging I/DD population continues to advance and the resources from government agencies is close to nil. Do you want to send your residents to a nursing home when they need you most? Noah Homes said no and embarked on a 10-year journey to keep residents in their home at Noah Homes until the end of life. It has been a struggle with outstanding results and now in its 6th year of walking the journey of memory care for adults with disabilities, Noah Homes is ready to share its resources with other like-minded providers and create more sustainable aging-in-place homes across the country.

- Molly Nocon, Noah Homes

- 2:45 PM Break
- 3:00 PM **Panel on I/DD Employment**
- This panel will highlight the challenges, and more importantly the creative solutions associated with employment for individuals with disabilities. With a focus on empowering individuals with disabilities in the workforce, topics discussed will include funding for employment services, transitions related to competitive integrated employment, the landscape of 14c involvements, and preparations for the future. Panelists will offer insight and perspective from a wide variety of experience from organizations both large and small, urban and rural, and from both a government and privately funded lens.
- Sarah Quinn, Opportunity Village (Moderator)
 - Michael Diaz, Misericordia
 - Parke Pepper, Baddour Center
 - Vivian Shudde, Brookwood Community
 - Woody Woodruff, Red Wiggler Community Farm
- 4:15 PM **Ending the Systemic Discrimination Against Severe Autism/DD**
- Jill Escher, National Council on Severe Autism
 - Amy Lutz, National Council on Severe Autism
- 5:00 PM Wrap-Up & Networking
- 5:30 PM **Dinner and HalloVeen by Opportunity Village**

Friday, October 6

Opportunity Village – Ralph & Betty Engelstad Location, 6050 S. Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89113

- 7:30 AM Check-in and Continental Breakfast
- 7:55 AM Announcements
- 8:00 AM **Grassroots Advocacy Panel**
- Tracy May (Moderator)
 - Opportunity Village Self-Advocates
- 8:45 AM Break
- 9:00 AM **Panel Discussion on Growth & Sustainability**
- How do you achieve sustainable growth for your organization?
The panelists will share insights and lessons from growing pains from the past and present, opportunities in growth and sustainability, and short-term and long-term strategic planning on core issues such as workforce engagement, financial sustainability and succession planning.

- Adam Pomeranz, Annandale Village (Moderator)
- Scott McAvoy, Marbridge Foundation
- Bob Brown, Opportunity Village
- Karen Murphy, Camphill Foundation

10:00 AM

Call to Action: Strategy Session on Advocacy & Best Practices

- **DSP Workforce**
- **Employment**
- **Housing**

- Tracy May (Facilitator)

11:00 AM

Conference Wrap-Up: Next Steps

- Scott Mendel

11:10 AM – 1PM

Lunch & Tours of OV and Betty's Village