



Special Education Conference 2018

April 17, 2018

Session Details

TRACK 1

Understanding Adult Service Agencies

This workshop will explain how Community Employment Specialists, schools, and post-secondary agencies can work together in creating connections for transition aged students. Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Administrators, School Health professionals, Transition Specialists, Social Workers, and School Psychologists will receive an overview of agencies including, but not limited to Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Mental Health, and Independent Living Centers. Information regarding services and application processes will be discussed.

Making a Case for SSI, SSD & OPWDD Eligibility: What School Professionals, Parents and Service Providers Need to Know

This presentation will provide an overview of the different types of social security benefits, explain the different eligibility criteria the agency applies in reviewing children's cases (0-18) and adult cases (18+), as well as offering guidance on how to navigate the system and use special education information and evaluative information to assist you in supporting the claim for benefits. In addition, you will be learn about supports from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, and guidance on how to utilize educational and other records to assist you in obtaining eligibility for these services.

Secondary Employment: Essential Considerations for IEP Transition Planning

Together as a group we will explore mechanisms on improving soft and middle employment skills for people with disabilities in today's economy. This will be an interactive discussion preparing individuals for the IEP transition planning and beyond.

TRACK 2

Resolving Conflict: Communication Strategies and Mediation

Trouble-free communication in the arena of special education is sometimes challenging. This workshop will offer strategies to parents, advocates, and school staff to improve communication. We will also explore dispute resolution options when serious conflicts arise in special education, with specific exploration of mediation as an option of dispute resolution.

Restorative Justice as Alternative to School Suspensions and Other Disciplinary Action

During this session, you will learn more about restorative practices overall and how when it is implemented in schools, it can support the students and school staff to build community and enhance relationships. Also, you will hear about a unique partnership between one school district (Schenectady City Schools) and a local non-profit (Mediation Matters) that has built and sustained restorative programming. To date this school year, we have conducted over 200 restorative practice circles and over 278 mediations/intakes/restorative conversations. Mediation has inverted 160 suspensions through mediation practices which has reduced physical altercations significantly in the past three years.

Helping Children with Disabilities Learn How to Succeed in Social Situations

Social relationships influence what we do, how we communicate, with whom we interact, where we interact, the roles we take in society, and define who we are as individuals. Interpersonal relationships provide us with companionship, emotional support, material aid, access to information, help with decision making, and opportunities to meet new people. These are skills people can learn, but often do not. Students with disabilities need help learning these skills.

TRACK 3

Eligibility Under IDEA and Section 504

Through this presentation, you will learn the basic requirements guiding schools to serve the educational needs of eligible students with disabilities, and how a student can access reasonable accommodations from the school.

Strategic and Individualized IEP Development Part 1: Present Levels of Performance and Evaluations

Present levels of performance (PLEPS) and evaluations are not only helpful, but they are required tools to guide how we help students with disabilities to learn and grow. Learn all about PLEPs and evaluations including how PLEPs are assessed and what kind of evaluations might be needed for solid IEP development.

Strategic and Individualized IEP Development Part 2: Annual Goals, Services and Programs

IEP goals are the standard by which we measure progress and determine the services, supports, and placement of students with disabilities. Vague or immeasurable goals undermine the CSE's ability to effectively tailor interventions and ensure progress and growth in all areas of educational development. Participants will learn how to develop meaningful and measurable goals and how those goals shape services, supports and placement.

Keynote Speaker: John Robinson

John Robinson will share life stories as an individual with disability in regard to obstacles he is overcome in achieving his life dreams. These stories will invoke laughter and tears as we explore together all of our strengths and weaknesses in employment. Robinson has spoken nearly 50 times per year for the past 10 years to organizations large and small about overcoming obstacles.