



Conference Speakers Series

Personal Networks: Creating Community for People with Disabilities

Denise Sonleitner, Lead Facilitator Texas Network Connections

SEPTEMBER 1
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Personal networks build a circle of caring volunteers around a person at risk of isolation. They promote planning and social opportunities in the present, assist with decision-making, and work to be sustainable after parents can no longer be available. Learn more about networks, how they benefit families and how the TxP2P Texas Network Connections Program can help you start a network.

Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtfuuvqD4oG9BLa_no-5LzkoDHroVyM1C

Safer Sexuality and Healthy Relationships for Young Adults

Heidi Lersch & Maggie Suter, Safe Austin

SEPTEMBER 3
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Young adults with disabilities commonly lack access to information about safer sexuality and healthy relationships, which can result in not having the skills they need to be safer in their relationships. Join us to explore practical, hands-on tools that they can use to be safer in their relationships, including romantic and sexual relationships. Heidi and Maggie will address common misconceptions about romantic and sexual relationships and individuals with disabilities. They will provide resources on

Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrfu-vqjMph9Ncizole-xy7T_-6xXKi-J6

Grief and Stages of Adaptation

Patty Geisinger

SEPTEMBER 8
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Learn to make sense of the emotions you may be experiencing, how grief applies to being a parent of a child with a disability or special health care need and how to identify the stages that most parents experience on this journey.

Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkdOqsqzgvGdXYtiZmbplrnhWR6Zdq9GS>

When It Rains It Pours: Resilient Choices When We Feel We are Drowning

Valencia Gensollen, Family Connection of Tarrant County

SEPTEMBER 10
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Have you ever heard the expression, "When It Rains, It Pours?" Would you rather be playing in that rain? Well, you're in luck! Resiliency is a skill that can help us bounce back in tough times and we can quickly build it up by making intentional choices in our day. Join Valencia to explore the world of resiliency. What is it? What does it take to be more resilient and ways it can improve our lives. We will discuss ways to build skills for ourselves and those around us. Not only to get *through* tough times but also to thrive during days when we feel like we are drowning.

Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rceqtrzwjHN3Mxn7Bm2DJp2CEnH53JwU8>

Navigating Special Education: COVID-19 Fast Facts 3.0

Caroline Nelson, Middleway Law

SEPTEMBER 15
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Caroline will discuss IEPs, distance learning and return to campus.

Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcocemgpzkh9FWxiPtvG5eFinrWPy-lxNv>

Families Planning Together: For Now and the Future

Ivy Goldstein, Texas Department of State Health Services and Parent & Laura Buckner, University of Texas Center for Disabilities Studies and Parent

SEPTEMBER 17
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

In the best of times, parents, understandably, can easily be overwhelmed at the thought of making plans to help ensure a good life for their children with disabilities. These are not the best of times. The pandemic has revealed that we need plans in place now. Join Ivy & Laura to find out what parents are doing today to prepare for both the unexpected and the inevitable. Bring your “what if” questions and let’s take small steps forward together.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqdu-pqzsvH9JWEFb-9f5fqHF2r4_zCkyT

Introduction to Mindfulness

Isabel Rivera, Parent

SEPTEMBER 22
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Mindfulness is the art of learning to live in the present. Learn some basic techniques on how to apply mindfulness to your daily life.

Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtd-irrz8vGdSWFPB_8sJpfGJVPPSQbbJO

Want to Learn More About the Upcoming Use of EVV in CDS

April Baker, Vice President Intake and Outreach, CDS in Texas

SEPTEMBER 24
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) in Consumer Directed Services has everyone nervous! Join April from CDS in Texas (FMSA) to get a better understanding of the processes in EVV, things you need to know and answers to frequently asked questions.

Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-irqzwsG93HkhIzEoUqbc7D42V719dO>

Special Needs Planning - Key Steps to Achieving Financial Success

Allison Schaberg, an advocate and leader in the Special Needs Planning Community

SEPTEMBER 29
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

As a parent of a child with disabilities, you know there are many decisions to be made as it relates to the future of your family member. Considerations such as transitioning, future care options and preservation of benefit eligibility are a few items that require intentional evaluation. These are especially important if you have a child who may need care for the rest of their life. Come learn the key steps that should be taken today to protect tomorrow.

Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsc-GgrD4oHN2o0A1p2soXrFCNCXxC1oi4>