

# TOGETHER WE CAN CONFERENCE 2024

A STATEWIDE CONFERENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE PROFESSIONALS WHO SUPPORT THEM.

## Keynote Speaker: Lisa Heddens

Lisa Heddens is a mom with two kids who received a Bachelor of Science Degree in elementary education from Iowa State University. Her career choice changed after the birth of her second child, Paul, who has Down Syndrome. Thirsty for information she got involved on the local boards of directors for The Arc of Story County and Mainstream Living. It didn't take long before her advocacy efforts expanded. She began working for Disability Rights Iowa and then ASK Resource Center, as well as serving on several state boards and commissions. Lisa saw the need to provide support and opportunities for people with disabilities on a larger scale. She ran for the Iowa Legislature in 2002, won, and served 17-1/2 years. Lisa left the legislature in 2019 to become a County Supervisor in Story County. Today, she continues her disability policy advocacy through work, Rotary, and as a mom. She also continues serving on boards and committees in her free time.

## AT-A-GLANCE CONFERENCE AGENDA

<b>EXHIBITORS LOCATED BEHIND MAIN LOBBY</b> See the Exhibitor Raffle form in your conference packet and find out how you can enter to win from over \$1000 in prizes!		
<b>SENSORY ROOM LOCATED NEAR BOX OFFICE WINDOWS</b> See the Registration Desk Attendant for access to the Sensory Room.		
8:15 am - 3:00 pm		
8:15 - 9:00 am	Lobby	<b>REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN &amp; CHILDCARE DROP-OFF</b> Sign in and pick up your conference packet and name badge. Those registered for childcare, please check your child(ren) in by 8:45 am.
9:00 - 9:15 am	Upper Level West	<b>OPENING REMARKS &amp; KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION</b>
9:15 - 10:15 am		<b>MORNING KEYNOTE</b> <b>My Journey from Parent to Policymaker</b> <i>Lisa Heddens, first and foremost a mom; and a policymaker</i> Lisa's advocacy journey started after the birth of her son, Paul. In this empowering Keynote Session, Lisa will share some of the advocacy tools she learned throughout her evolution from parent to 19-year, veteran policymaker. Her examples encourage audience members to take meaningful action themselves - whether that is by learning how to share their own stories to impact change, or by creating partnerships that result in better lives for people with disabilities.
10:15 - 10:45 am		<b>CONFERENCE BREAK</b>

## 10:45 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Choose between the following sessions:

10:45 - 11:45 am

- 1) *Navigating the Diagnostic Odyssey* -Dr. Chandra Bharatendu and Dr. Tung Moon
- 2) *Your Right to Accommodations* -Catherine Johnston
- 3) *Understanding Supplemental Security Income* –Suzanne Paulson
- 4) *What is Being Done to Improve Secondary Transition Outcomes?* - Director Barb Guy and Kelsey Teeter
- 5) *Putting Advocacy Into Action* -Brady Werger, Kris Graves, Hugh Kelly, and Ed Esbeck.

## LUNCH BREAK

11:45 am - 1:00pm

Pick up your boxed lunch at the west end of the Lower Level Hallway.

## 1:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Choose between the following sessions:

1:00pm - 2:00 pm

- 1) *Medicaid and Children's Behavioral Health System Updates* -Director Elizabeth Matney
- 2) *Tips and Tricks to Negotiating with Your Team: How to Avoid (or Resolve) Conflict* –Daniel Van Sant
- 3) *Making it Possible: Innovating the Transition Planning Process with Customized Employment Strategies* -Jessica Kreho and Kelsey Teeter
- 4) *Empowering Conversations: Navigating Bullying with Your Child – A Parent Workshop on Effective Communication Strategies* -Jordan Mix
- 5) *Healthy Relationships Have Healthy Boundaries* –Judy Warth and Joel Wesselink

## CONFERENCE BREAK

2:00 - 2:15 pm

## 2:15 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Choose between the following sessions:

2:15 - 3:15 pm

- 1) *Medicaid Managed Care Grievance Procedures*
  - MOLINA - Nafissa Egbuonye and Jeremy Morgan
  - Wellpoint - Invited
  - Iowa Total Care - Invited
- 1) *Bullying of and by Students with Disabilities: The Law's Requirements* - Thomas Mayes
- 2) *How Does Iowa Workforce Development's Vocational Rehabilitation Division Help People with Disabilities* -Director James Williams
- 3) *From IEP to 504: What Should the Transition Look Like?* -Jennifer Argo
- 4) *Social Security Benefits and Working* -Suzanne Paulson

## CONFERENCE BREAK

3:15 - 3:30 pm

## CLOSING REMARKS AND CALL TO ACTION

3:30 - 4:00 pm

Wrap up the day of learning with Lisa Heddens as she shares takeaways from connecting with everyone at the conference.

## CHILDCARE PICK-UP

4:00 - 4:30 pm

Children must be picked up **no later than 4:30 pm**. THANK YOU Easterseals Bob and Billie Ray Child Development Center staff for providing a fun and inclusive environment!

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS



## CHILDCARE PROVIDED BY



Bob & Billie Ray  
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