

# TOGETHER WE CAN CONFERENCE 2025

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

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. BARBARA GUY

Dr. Barbara Guy is recently retired from the Iowa Department of Education where she served in multiple capacities over 27 years, including division administrator, state director of special education and transition consultant. She received her Ph.D. in special education from the University of Kansas and was in the first cohort of special education teachers after the passage of 94-142 – the law that became what we now call the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She is the oldest sibling of a sister with Down Syndrome.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:15 am - 4:00 pm

### EXHIBITORS LOCATED BEHIND MAIN LOBBY

See the Exhibitor Raffle form in your conference packet and find out how you can enter to win from over \$2,000 in prizes!

### SENSORY ROOM LOCATED NEAR BOX OFFICE WINDOW

See the Registration Desk Attendant for access to the Sensory Room.

8:15 am - 9:00 am

Lobby

### REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN & CHILDCARE DROP-OFF

Sign in and pick up your conference packet and name badge. To ensure exhibitors have adequate time for setup, early entry will not be permitted for attendees, except for those utilizing childcare services. Those registered for childcare, you are allowed to enter early at 8am to check your child(ren) in.

9:00 am - 9:15 am

Upper  
Level

### OPENING REMARKS & KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

9:15 am - 10:15 am

West

### MORNING KEYNOTE

#### More than Enough

*Dr. Barbara Guy*

Join Dr. Barbara Guy as she shares personal tenets learned through her journey as the sibling of a person with a disability and her experience as an education/special education professional. Barb will share relevant and helpful insights for setting and realizing high expectations for living, learning and working in community, including successful and not-so-successful strategies.

10:15 am - 10:45 am

CONFERENCE BREAK

10:45 am - 11:45 am

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ROOM A-1  
YOUTH AND YOUNG  
ADULT LEADERS

**The Top 10 Things Every New Leader Should Know About Section 504 and the ADA.**  
*Catherine Johnson, B.B.A., M.H.Ed., J.D.; Executive Director, Disability Rights Iowa*

ROOM A-2  
POSTSECONDARY  
TRANSITION

**How to Keep a Job Coach – The Parent Edition**  
*Haris Kovacevic, L.M.S.W.; Employment Consultant, Easterseals Iowa*

ROOM B  
EDUCATION

**Everything you Ever Wanted to Know About ACHIEVE**  
*Shannon Grundmeier, M.Ed., Education Program Consultant, ACHIEVE  
Bureau of Special Education Finance, Data and Accountability*

ROOM C  
HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING

**Navigating the Diagnostic Odyssey**  
*Bharatendu “Bharat” Chandra, MBBS, MRCP, FAMS & Moon Ley Tung, MBBS,  
MRCP, FRCPath; University of Iowa Health Care - Stead Family Children’s Hospital*

ROOM D  
DISABILITY LAW

**When the Absent Days Start to Add Up**  
*Stephanie Petrillo, B.A., J.D., Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Iowa*

11:45 am - 1:00 Pm

## LUNCH BREAK

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

**Optional, 30-Minute ASK Each Other Networking Sessions**  
**See the Networking Session Form in your packet to learn more.**  
**Don’t forget to make time to visit the Exhibit Hall during lunch!**

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

## 1:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSION

ROOM A-1  
YOUTH AND YOUNG  
ADULT LEADERS

**How to Run for and Serve on Something**  
*Jenn Wolff, B.A., M.O.T., O.T.; Community Outreach Specialist, Waverly Caring Assis-  
tance Network and Waverly, Iowa City Councilwoman & Alex Watters, B.S., M.S.; Alum-  
ni Engagement Director, Morningside University; Sioux City Councilman*

ROOM A-2  
POSTSECONDARY  
TRANSITION

**The Top 10 Things Every Parent Should Know About Section 504 and the ADA**  
*Catherine Johnson, B.B.A., M.H.Ed., J.D.; Executive Director, Disability Rights Iowa*

ROOM B  
EDUCATION

**What to Do when the BIP Isn’t Working**  
*Kristi Miiller, LISW, ; Grant Wood Area Education Agency - Challenging Behavior Team*

ROOM C  
HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING

**Back to Balance**  
*Courtney Sutherland, C-IAYT, E-RYT 500, YACEP, Yoga Therapist, Unlocking You Yoga  
Therapy*

ROOM D  
DISABILITY LAW

**Deciding When to Dispute**  
*Edie Bogaczyk, Parent & Attorney; Bogaczyk Law Firm*

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**ROOM A-1  
YOUTH AND YOUNG  
ADULT LEADERS**

**How to Keep a Job Coach – the Self-Advocate Edition**

*Haris Kovacevic, L.M.S.W.; Employment Consultant, Easterseals Iowa*

**ROOM A-2  
POSTSECONDARY  
TRANSITION**

**Private Benefits Planning Sessions**

*Pam Woelber, MA, Post-Secondary Transition Coordinator, ASK Resource Center*

**ROOM B  
EDUCATION**

**What Worked and What Didn't**

*Patty Origer, Cheryl Lehman, Emma Bouza, MAE  
ASK Volunteer Mentors*

**ROOM C  
HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING**

**Expanding Iowa's ADRC System - With a Capital D**

*Zachary Rhein, B.A., M.A.; Director of Aging and Disability Services, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services*

**ROOM D  
DISABILITY LAW**

**Preparing for 18**

*Cynthia Letsch, JD, CMP*