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PEAL'S 11TH ANNUAL INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

We All Have a Voice: When We Raise Them Together We Are Stronger

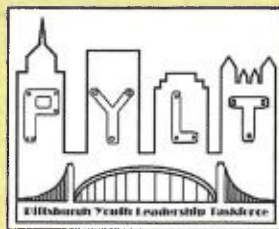
in conjunction with

State Representative Dan Miller's 4th Annual Children & Youth Disability & Mental Health Summit

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

March 22-24, 2017

Beth El Congregation, 1900 Cochran Rd, Pittsburgh, PA



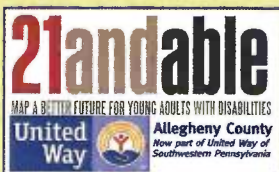
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Sue Swenson



Ted Dallas





# FEATURED SPEAKERS

## WEDNESDAY

Sue Swenson, *Inclusion International*

Sue Swenson is the volunteer president-elect of Inclusion International, the UN-recognized organization for children with disabilities, their families, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sue served as acting assistant secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the Obama administration and as commissioner for development disabilities in the Clinton administration. Her middle son Charlie had profound disabilities, was included in school, lived in the community, and loved his life. He died at age 30 in 2013.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## THURSDAY

Ted Dallas, *PA Department of Human Services (DHS)*

The DHS is the largest department in the state budget and covers a myriad of human service needs. Secretary Ted Dallas will give us an update on his efforts to lead DHS specifically in the areas of disability and mental health issues.



## WEDNESDAY

### Policy Panel

Join this panel to discuss the direction of the new administration in regard to Medical Assistance, employment, education, community living and transition.

- David Gates, Esq., PA Health Law Project
- Sue Swenson, Inclusion International
- Nancy A. Hubley, Esq., Education Law Center,
- Steve Suroviec, Rehabilitation & Community Providers Association
- Michael Stoehr, PaTTAN
- Amy Engbarth, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

### *I Go Home* Documentary Screening

Join Nancy Thaler, Deputy Secretary, PA Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, and Jim W. Conroy, PhD, Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance, to view *I Go Home*, the PBS documentary of the legacy of Pennhurst, the first American institution closed via Federal Courts order. The documentary is part of the Pennhurst History Traveling Exhibit: A Microcosm of the Disability Rights Movement in America.

# CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

## Wednesday, March 22nd

- 8:00–9:00 Registration
- 9:00–10:15 Keynote: What is Inclusion For?  
*Main Sanctuary*
- 10:30–12:00 Breakout Sessions  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Community Room*  
*Balk Chapel*  
*Sufrin Chapel*
1. National & State Policies Impacting Individuals with Disabilities\*
  2. I've Got It. Now What Can I Do With It?
  3. Friendship: Building a Good Life
  4. *I Go Home* Documentary Screening
- 11:00–2:00 Support Services Resource Fair
- 12:00–1:00 Lunch Buffet (only if pre-ordered)
- 1:15–2:45 Breakout Sessions  
*Community Room*  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Sufrin Chapel*  
*Balk Chapel*
5. Ensuring Successful Outcomes for Transition-Age Youth in PA
  6. Going Over the "Cliff"
  7. Law, Policy and Practice: Inclusion in Early Childhood Education\*
  8. *I Go Home* Documentary Screening
- 2:55–4:15 Breakout Sessions  
*Community Room*  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Sufrin Chapel*
9. For Youth, Families & Professionals: Youth Leadership, Self-Advocacy and Empowerment
  10. The Myth of IQ and Mental Age: Changing the Conversation
  11. Project MAX and the Statewide Parent Network

## Thursday, March 23rd

- 8:00–9:00 Registration
- 9:00–10:00 Keynote: PA Department of Human Services Update  
*Main Sanctuary*
- 10:15–11:15 Breakout Sessions  
*Community Room*  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Sufrin Chapel*
13. Eating Challenges and Resources
  14. Autism & Intellectual Disabilities Caucus Update\*
  15. Youth Stories of Strength & Success with RENEW
- 11:00–2:00 Support Services Resource Fair
- 11:30–12:30 Breakout Sessions  
*Sufrin Chapel*  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Community Room*
16. Early Intervention Supports
  17. ABLE Savings Accounts - Planning for the Future\*
  18. Mental Health Screens and SAP
- 12:00–1:00 Lunch Buffet (only if pre-ordered)
- 1:45–2:45 Breakout Sessions  
*Sufrin Chapel*  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Community Room*
19. Ten Things You Need to Know About Special Education\*
  20. Family Stress - Strategies for Coping
  21. Anxiety in the Classroom
- 3:00–4:00 Breakout Sessions  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Sufrin Chapel*  
*Community Room*
22. Autism & the Family: Thinking Outside the Box
  23. A Home of My Own
  24. Mental Health and Medications
- 3:00–5:00 Free IEP/504 Consultation (Must pre-register at check in)
- 4:15–5:15 Breakout Sessions  
*Main Sanctuary*  
*Sufrin Chapel*  
*Community Room*
25. Learning After High School
  26. Financial Planning\*
  27. Warning - Harmful for Health! Stigma & Stereotypes Blocking Us From Seeking Care
- 6:00–8:30 28. 3rd Annual Survival Guide to Life After High School, a 21 and Able Program  
*Community Room*

## Friday, March 24th

- 8:00–9:00 Registration
- 9:00–1:30 29. Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership and Transition (PYLT)  
*Community Room*  
*Transition-age students only*
- 9:00–10:00 30. Congressman Tim Murphy, What's Next For the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act\*  
*Main Sanctuary*
- 10:00–11:00 31. Senator Bob Casey's RISE Act, Helping Students with Disabilities Succeed in College\*  
*Main Sanctuary*
- 11:00–2:00 Employment and Transition Resource Fair
- 11:00–12:00 32. Promoting Independence for Students with Disabilities at Home and School  
*Main Sanctuary*
- 12:00–1:00 Lunch Buffet (only if pre-ordered)
- 1:00–3:00 33. Legislative Panel: State Policies on Disability & Mental Health\*  
*Main Sanctuary*

\* Session available for legal CLE credits



# PEAL INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, March 22nd  
9:00 - 10:15 Keynote

## What is Inclusion For?

Main Sanctuary

Sue Swenson, *Inclusion International*

This one is for your head and your heart.

Wednesday 10:30 - 12:00

## 1. National & State Policies Impacting Individuals with Disabilities\*

Main Sanctuary

David Gates, Esq., *PA Health Law Project*

Sue Swenson, *Inclusion International*

Nancy A. Hubley, Esq., *Education Law Center*

Steve Surovic, *Rehabilitation & Community Providers  
Association*

Michael Stoehr, *Educational Consultant Special Projects,  
PaTTAN*

Amy Engbarth, *Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist,  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Labor & Industry*

This panel of experts will discuss the direction of the new administration in regard to Medical Assistance (MA), employment, education, community living, and transition.

## 2. I've Got It. Now What Can I Do With It?

Community Room

Scott A. Dougherty, *Educational Consultant, PaTTAN*

This session will explore features of common operating systems, tablets, and word processing tools that can be used to differentiate reading and writing supports for all students. Come learn ways to make use of those "hidden gems" in Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Adobe Acrobat, and iOS devices.

## 3. Friendship: Building a Good Life

Balk Chapel

Cecelia Belasco, *Parent & Educator*

This session will introduce the latest resource from The PEAL Center. The booklet entitled **Friendships: Building a Good Life** presents strategies for families, peers, communities and schools to support the development of friendships for all including children with disabilities. Friendships play an important role in everyone's life. This toolkit is based on the guiding principles:

- 1) everyone has a role to play in the development of friendships
- 2) friendships are important to all
- 3) everyone benefits when we support friendship development for kids with disabilities.

Come join the conversation about building a good life for all.

## 4. I Go Home

### Documentary Screening

Sufrin Chapel

Nancy Thaler, *Deputy Secretary*

*for the Office of Developmental  
Programs, PA Department of Human Services*

Jim W. Conroy, PhD, *Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation  
Alliance*

For years, children with intellectual disabilities were not allowed in public schools and parents were told to send their children away to institutions. It was not until the late 1960s that a television exposé shed light on what was happening inside the walls of institutions. These facts fueled parents and the public to ignite change. Join Nancy Thaler and Jim Conroy in a viewing of *I Go Home*, the PBS documentary of the legacy of Pennhurst, the first American institution closed via Federal Courts orders. The documentary is part of the Pennhurst History Traveling Exhibit: A Microcosm of the Disability Rights Movement in America. After the screening, Nancy and Jim will respond to questions and engage in a discussion about disability rights in the United States.



Wednesday 1:15 - 2:45

## 5. Ensuring Successful Outcomes for Transition-Age Youth in PA

Community Room

Michael Stoehr, *Educational Consultant Special Projects,  
PaTTAN*

Amy Engbarth, *Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist,  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Labor & Industry*

During this session, learn about the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education's and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's secondary transition projects, programs, and activities designed to ensure successful post-secondary education, employment and independent living outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities.



## 6. Going Over the "Cliff"

Main Sanctuary

David Gates, Esq., *Senior Attorney, PA Health Law Project*

Youth often face a "cliff" when turning 21 as their eligibility for many of the services and supports they relied upon (such as special ed, wraparound and in-home nursing) comes to an end. This workshop will explain many of the support programs available to those age 21 and older. This will include information about eligibility for and services provided under all the waiver programs for adults as well as the many changes to those programs coming in the next 2 years.



KEY: Symbols identify the organizer for each session:



PEAL  
Center



Rep  
Dan Miller



Pittsburgh  
Youth  
Leadership  
Taskforce



21  
and  
Able



Allegheny  
Family  
Network



## 8. Law, Policy and Practice: Inclusion in Early Childhood Education\*

Sufrin Chapel

Nancy A. Hubley, Esq., *Pittsburgh Director, Education Law Center*

Through interactive discussion and activities, we will learn about the law and policies that govern inclusion and prohibit exclusionary discipline in early childhood education program.

## 8. I Go Home

Balk Chapel

This is a reprise showing of the PBS documentary *I Go Home*. For years, children with intellectual disability were not allowed in public schools. Parents were told to send their children with intellectual disability away to institutions. It was not until the late 1960s that a television exposé shed light on what was happening inside the walls of institutions. It was that knowledge that fueled parents and the public to ignite change. *I Go Home*, the PBS documentary on the legacy of Pennhurst, the first American institution closed via Federal Courts orders is part of the Pennhurst History Traveling Exhibit: A Microcosm of the Disability Rights Movement in America.

Wednesday 2:55 - 4:15

## 9. For Youth, Families & Professionals: Youth Leadership, Self-Advocacy and Empowerment

Community Room

Katie Smith, *Youth Leadership Coordinator, PEAL Center*

This session will help parents and professionals understand the importance of empowering youth with disabilities by promoting self-advocacy. The presenter will discuss the importance of presuming competence and utilization of strength-based vs. problem-centered approaches. The session will highlight ways that adults can support the development of self-awareness and self-acceptance by youth. We will review ways to effectively teach self-advocacy strategies and provide youth with the

opportunities to practice those skills. Finally, the session will show how promoting self-advocacy for youth with disabilities results in empowerment of youth to become leaders in their schools and communities.

## 10. The Myth of IQ and Mental Age: Changing the Conversation

Main Sanctuary

Pat Amos, *Trainer & Consultant*

Important decisions about a child's education, future, and quality of life are too often made on the basis of IQ and "mental age" (MA). These numbers may be used to "explain" a child's behavior and to predict what a child will or will not be capable of learning and doing. Yet this process of prediction is circular: the more it impacts what is said to and done with a child, the more our belief system itself increases the likelihood that the prediction will come true. The purpose of this presentation is to consider why IQ and MA are not meaningful planning tools, and to help parents and teachers move decisively away from using them. Instead, they will be encouraged to focus on communicating with, building a reciprocal relationship with, and interacting age-appropriately with the person they are supporting.

## 11. Project MAX and the Statewide Parent Network

Sufrin Chapel

Lorie Brew, *Project MAX Coordinator, East, PEAL Center*  
Tammi Morton, *Project MAX Coordinator, West, PEAL Center*  
Jeannine H. Brinkley, *Executive Director, PEAL Center*

Project MAX is an initiative that ensures that all students have access to the general education curriculum. Explore the principles of this project, its implementation, and the development of the Statewide Parent Network.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Lunch Buffet

- The Lunch Buffet is for individuals who have pre-ordered lunch. Individuals who pre-ordered lunch will receive a lunch ticket for each day which must be handed in at the lunch buffet.
- NO outside food is permitted inside the Synagogue as Beth El's catering department is providing lunch for the event and works under strict guidelines to ensure that all meals are certified kosher.
- If you did not pre-order lunch there are several local restaurant options. We ask that you finish your lunch before returning to the conference in respect of our hosts. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Lunch & Learn Wednesday, March 22nd

#### *Project MAX Statewide Parent Network*

Learn about the network and how it's raising awareness, empowering families and leading change. Look for the Parent Network banner to find our table during the lunch hour, and share experiences!

**Medical Home Initiative:** A Medical Home is an approach to healthcare where family and professionals work together as a team. If your child has special healthcare needs, is your pediatrician a member of the PA Medical Home Initiative? Stop by our table during the lunch break to learn more about how the Medical Home team can coordinate care and services.



# REP. DAN MILLER'S CHILDREN & YOUTH DISABILITY & MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT SESSIONS

Thursday, March 23rd  
9:00 - 10:00

## ★ 12. State Department of Human Services (DHS) Update *Main Sanctuary*

Secretary Ted Dallas, *PA Dept. Human Services*

The DHS is the largest department in the state budget and covers a myriad of human service needs. Dealing with such a complicated mission and providing services for such a diverse group of people is a challenging endeavor – especially in today's financial climate. Secretary Ted Dallas will join us to give us an update on his efforts to lead DHS specifically in the areas of disability and mental health issues.

Thursday 10:15 - 11:15

## ★ 13. Eating Challenges and Resources *Community Room*

Amy M. Morgan, *MS CCC-SLP, Aspire Pediatric Therapy, LLC*  
Christine Zundel, *OTR/L, Aspire Pediatric Therapy, LLC*

Getting kids to eat their vegetables and have variety in their meals is a time-tested parental challenge. However, when your child is diagnosed with sensory, motor, and/or oral difficulties, mealtimes can become a challenge. Food sensitivity issues can also isolate children from their peers at lunch, furthering the social divide for many. Join us for a discussion with certified therapists who will discuss underlying possible causes, suggest strategies to try at home and therapeutic possibilities that can ease stress and increase wellness.

## ★ 14. Autism & Intellectual Disabilities Caucus Update\* *Main Sanctuary*

State Representative Tom Murt  
State Representative Dan Miller

As co-chairs of the bipartisan legislative caucus in Harrisburg, Representatives Murt and Miller will give an update on recent bills, caucus activities, and the inner workings of Harrisburg in relation to disability issues in general.

## ★ 15. Youth Stories of Strength & Success with RENEW *Sufrin Chapel*

Michael Minor, *Educational Consultant at PaTTAN Pittsburgh*

This session will provide an overview and update on the Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural Supports, Education, and Work project (RENEW), which is an individualized intervention to support students academically,



emotionally, and socially as they enhance their achievement and prepare for post-secondary life. Participants will learn about person-centered planning, self-determination, student empowerment, and action planning centered around the growth and progress of our youth.

Thursday 11:30 - 12:30

## 16. Early Intervention Supports *Sufrin Chapel*

Heather Hoeke, *LCSW, Assistant Director of Outpatient Services, Wesley Spectrum Services*

Kim Eckel, *Young Child Wellness Coordinator, Project Launch*

Amy Sukay, *Preschool Service Coordinator, AIU*

Early intervention, whether for disabilities or mental health, is key to long-term success and growth. This session will discuss how evaluations are conducted, what early services are available, and what questions caregivers should ask in order to help create a supportive plan. We will also discuss the renewed and collaborative effort involving pediatric practices and how those services can be used as a hub of developmental support.

## 17. ABLE Savings Accounts – Planning for the Future\* *Main Sanctuary*

Kelly Davis, *Program Representative, PA Dept. of Treasury*

The PA Treasurer will give an update regarding the state's ABLE Act rollout, address issues for the future, and offer further insight as to how ABLE accounts can be used to help loved ones live in dignity and happiness.

## 18. Mental Health Screens and SAP *Community Room*

Emily Heim, *MA, Mental Health Therapist, Outreach Teen and Family Services*

Rosanne Levine, *CRNP, Pediatrics South*

Suzanne Lochie, *Director of Pupil Services, Keystone Oaks School District*

There are no blood draws to diagnose mental illness, however there are several screening tools that can be useful. Join us for a discussion on the types of mental health screens available, how they are administered, and what questions you should ask about them. We will also talk about the Student Assistant Programs (SAP) available in our schools and how they can help identify issues and provide assistance.

Thursday 1:45 - 2:45

## 19. Ten Things You Need to Know about Special Education\* *Sufrin Chapel*

Jeff Ruder, *Esq., Ruder Law*

IEPs and 504 plans can be confusing. With so many pages with so much data, it's easy for parents and self-advocates to get lost in the process. Ruder Law, which specializes in representing parents of students with disabilities in school matters, will share the keys to being a strong advocate. Free private consultations for parents about their child's IEP/504 will be offered after the session by appointment. Sign up for a private consultation at the registration area in the lobby.



## ★ 20. Family Stress – Strategies for Coping

Main Sanctuary

Carole Kunkle-Miller, PhD  
Raising an atypical child often leads to atypical stress in the family. Whether between siblings or between spouses, such challenging circumstances can take their toll on the best of relationships. In this session we will discuss how to prepare for and how to address such unique situations in a manner that supports the overall family structure.



## ★ 21. Anxiety in the Classroom

Community Room

Kevin Prince, *Psychologist, Keystone Oaks School District*  
Whitney Menarcheck, MS, LPC NCC, *Watson Institute*  
The impact of anxiety can be severe for adolescents and pre-teens alike. In this session we will discuss the common causes and symptoms of anxiety in students, as well as the possible lasting effects anxiety can have on those who go undiagnosed or untreated. We will also discuss what supportive strategies can be implemented at home and at school.

Thursday 3:00 - 4:00

## ★ 22. Autism & the Family: Thinking Outside the Box

Main Sanctuary

Alicia Logue, MA, BCBA, NCC, LPC  
Dennis Faló, *Director of Clinical Services, Every Child*  
Samantha Baillie, MA, *Family Based Supervisor, Every Child*

Beyond BHRS, evidence-based Family Based Therapy with Applied Behavioral Analysis can meet your child's autism treatment needs more holistically, while supporting the entire family. It is a community-based service that provides behavioral analysis and intervention, positive parenting practices, structural family therapy, advocacy, case management and 24/7 crisis response. We will address the benefits of this child-focused, family-driven approach to autism treatment and how it can be accessed.

## ★ 23. A Home of My Own

Sufrin Chapel

Michelle Stockunas, *Manager of ACHIEVA's "A Home of My Own"*

Do you know a person with an intellectual disability who may be interested in living in "A Home of My Own"? "A Home of My Own" is based on person-centered planning and offers people the choice of where and with whom to live. If so, we invite you to attend this presentation to learn about how this is different from traditional community living options, the funding resources, and how housing and support services are creatively combined to make it happen.

## 24. Mental Health and Medications

Community Room

Dr. Jessica Kettel, MD, PhD, *Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic*  
Dr. Dara Sakolsky, MD, PhD, *Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic*

Turning to medications for behavioral health needs can be a scary decision for many families and self-advocates. Turning away from them can even be more challenging. Doctors Kettel and Sakolsky will take us through some of the most common prescriptions used in behavioral health treatment and discuss their side effects, what questions people should ask, and what therapeutic support should be offered. We will also talk about strategies to improve medication adherence.

Thursday 4:15 - 5:15

## 25. Learning After High School

Main Sanctuary

Heather Conroy, LCSW, *Evolve Coaching*

Navigating post-secondary academic options can be challenging enough, but for students with a diagnosis there can be additional hurdles to success. For many students this transition is made even more difficult by the lack of structured supports they have grown accustomed to. In this session we will discuss how families and self-advocates can develop a support structure both on and off campus, how students can integrate into an environment with more freedom and choices, and what questions to ask when choosing learning opportunities.

## 26. Financial Planning\*

Sufrin Chapel

Michele Conti, J.D., LL.M, *Life Enrichment Trust*  
Nora Gieg Chatha, Esq., *Tucker Arensberg*  
Brittany R. Holzer, Esq., *Tucker Arensberg*

Planning for one's financial future is tough enough, but for people with a diagnosis it can be uniquely challenging. In this session we will review how tools such as powers of attorney, special needs trusts, and guardianships can be useful and how to get started on your plan.

## 27. Warning – Harmful for Health! Stigma and Stereotypes Blocking Us from Seeking Care

Community Room

Staff, *Allegheny Family Network*  
The Reverend Sally Jo Snyder, *Director of Advocacy and Consumer Engagement of the Consumer Health Coalition*

Informative presentation that incorporates poignant monologues sharing the personal sting of stigma associated with mental illness that led to isolation, silence and shame. Discuss the strategies on lessening stigma, raising public awareness and what we each can do to remove hurdles to health care for families and persons living with mental illness.



Thursday 6:00 - 8:30

**21 28. 3rd Annual Survival Guide to Life After High School**

Community Room

Michael J. Stoehr, Educational Consultant, Special Projects, PaTTAN

Jeannine H. Brinkley, Executive Director, PEAL Center Student and Family Panel

Mary Hartley, Lead Consultant, 21 and Able

Megan Grabski, 21 and Able Project Manager

A Program of 21 and Able, an Initiative of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Learn how to effectively engage with your school and community to get the most out of the transition process, ensuring a better bridge to adulthood for yourself or your son or daughter. Identify resources and support services for transition to adulthood. At this session, your individual questions will be answered and connections will be made to those who can help.

Friday, March 24th, 9:00 - 1:30

**29. Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership and Transition**

Community Room

Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Taskforce (PYLT)

This session is for transition-age students only. Keynote Speaker David Loshelder, Distinguished Mental Health Professional, Martial Arts Instructor and Author, will open the session with tips on how to address bullying. Students will then learn skills for how to become a leader of tomorrow, how to navigate disability support services through self-advocacy, how to interact with elected officials, and how to network with potential employers at the Employment and Transition Resource Fair. This program will culminate with the Legislative Panel. This session goes from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Friday 9:00 - 10:00

**30. What's Next for the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act\***

Main Sanctuary

Congressman Tim Murphy

Congressman Murphy, architect of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, will provide an update on its implementation, as well as his work as chair of the Oversight & Investigation Subcommittee on Energy & Commerce.

Friday 10:00 - 11:00

**31. Senator Bob Casey's RISE Act, Helping Students with Disabilities Succeed in College\***

Main Sanctuary

Office of Senator Bob Casey

Many young people with a diagnosis are testing and grading into our most prestigious universities. However, finding similar success without the right supportive environment can be very challenging. The RISE Act, introduced by Senator Bob Casey, is designed to help students with disabilities thrive in college. Join us for a conversation with the Senator's office about this important bill and the hurdles facing it as it navigates Washington.

Friday 11:00 - 12:00

**32. Promoting Independence for Students with Disabilities at Home and at School**

Main Sanctuary

Tina Tolkacevic, Inclusion Specialist, Mt. Lebanon School District

Lori Sutton, Director of Special Education, Bethel Park School District

Suzanne Lochie, Director of Pupil Services, Keystone Oaks School District

This session will explore supports and strategies to promote student independence in the home and school environments. Topics that will be covered are least restrictive environment, the continuum of supplementary aids and services such as paraprofessional support as well as other hot topics in special education such as executive functioning skills.

Friday 1:00 - 3:00

**33. Legislative Panel: State Policies on Disability & Mental Health\***

Main Sanctuary

Moderated by Representative Dan Miller

Representatives, Senators, and elected leaders from across the area will get together for a panel discussion to talk about state policies and legislative initiatives that need to advance in order to increase independence and opportunity for everyone.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Lunch Buffet**

- The Lunch Buffet is for individuals who have pre-ordered lunch. Individuals who pre-ordered lunch will receive a lunch ticket for each day which must be handed in at the lunch buffet.
- NO outside food is permitted inside the Synagogue as Beth El's catering department is providing lunch for the event and works under strict guidelines to ensure that all meals are certified kosher.
- If you did not pre-order lunch there are several local restaurant options. We ask that you finish your lunch before returning to the conference in respect of our hosts. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Resource Fairs**

Be sure to visit the resource fairs hosted by Rep. Dan Miller:

- Wednesday and Thursday -- Support Services Resources
- Friday -- Employment & Transition Resources

**FREE IEP/504 CLINIC - Hosted by Rep. Dan Miller**

**Thursday, March 23, 2017, 3 pm—5 pm**

Private, 15 minute appointments are available with Ruder Law, a Pittsburgh law firm that represents parents of students with disabilities in school matters throughout Western PA. Appointments are still available. Sign up at the registration area on Wednesday anytime or Thursday before 3:00 p.m.



# WELCOME AND THANK YOU



*On behalf of the PEAL Center and our conference presenters, we thank you for attending this year's Inclusive Communities Conference. We hope that you will be energized and inspired by the presentations – as well as gaining new ideas and strategies for maintaining and building inclusive schools and communities. Remember that when we raise our voices together, we are stronger!*

—Jeannine H. Brinkley, Executive Director, PEAL Center



*First let me thank all the members of our planning committee. They worked for months to develop sessions, secure continuing education credits, and ensure that we offer a program well-tailored to the issues of today. I would also like to thank our major programming partners - the PEAL Center, 21 & Able, Allegheny Family Network, and PYLT who have brought their expertise to the table to help us create the preeminent event in Western PA. Thank you to Joe Polk from Thirteen Ball who volunteered his time to update and manage our web presence. Special thanks to St. Clair Hospital who, for the third consecutive year, has covered our costs so that we can keep this event free for everyone. Of course there would be no event without the fantastic support of the Beth El Congregation. Our hosts open their doors to us all and spend months helping to make this event special. There can be no doubt that all of these people and organizations helped my office to help others, and I am truly grateful for everyone's efforts.*

—Dan Miller, State Representative, 42nd Legislative District, Pennsylvania



**BETH EL CONGREGATION  
OF THE SOUTH HILLS**

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION: ACT 48, CLE AND CEU

**Continuing Education Credits:** You must check in at the Continuing Education Registration Table if you wish to receive a certificate.

**Act 48 Credits for Educators:** Up to nineteen (19) Act 48 credits are offered at this event. To ensure that Act 48 hours are correctly reported to PDE, you must provide your 7 digit PPID on the documentation form that you will use to indicate which sessions you attend. There is no cost to obtain these credits.

**CEU Credits for Social Workers:** This program is offered for up to 18 hours of social work (minimum of 2.0 hours) continuing education through co-sponsorship of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, a Council on Social Work Education-accredited school and, therefore, a PA pre-approved provider of social work continuing education. These credit hours satisfy requirements for LSW/LCSW, LPC, and LMFT biennial license renewal. You must provide a check in the amount of \$10 payable to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work along with your completed forms prior to leaving the conference.

**CLE Credit for Lawyers:** This program is offered for up to 11 hours of substantive CLE credit. Individuals will receive forms for each session they attend and must complete and mail all forms, along with the appropriate fee payable to PACLE (Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board). The certification fee is \$1.50/credit hour or partial credit hour. Only the sessions noted in this program with the \* symbol are available for legal credit.



### Cover artwork by Ann Altman

Born and raised in Boston, artist Ann Altman has pursued a career in art since graduating from college. Locally her artwork is seen promoting various non-profit agencies. She was chosen first citizen of her town because of her commitment to using art for good. Issues of peace and justice are recurring themes. She currently resides in Portland, OR with her husband.

[www.annaltman.com](http://www.annaltman.com)