

Driving Change Session 4

Navigating Change by Identifying Needed Supports for Successful Community Living

Presenter Bios

Amy Hewitt, Ph.D.

Institute on Community Integration, Minneapolis, MN

Amy Hewitt, PhD has an extensive background and work history in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities and has worked in various positions over the past 30+ years to improve community inclusion and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families. At the University of Minnesota she is the Director of the Research and Training Center on Community Living where she directs several federal and state research, evaluation and demonstration projects in the area of community services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism. She currently has research projects that focus on community living, autism, direct support workforce development, person centered planning/thinking and positive behavior support. She has authored and co-authored numerous journal articles, curriculum, technical reports, and she co-authored a book entitled, Staff Recruitment, Retention and Training. Dr. Hewitt is on the editorial board of Inclusion and an associate editor of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities both journals of the AAIDD. She is currently a Past President of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and is on the Board of Directors for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and Arc Minnesota. Dr. Hewitt earned a BS in political science and psychology at Indiana University; a Masters degree in social work at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis; and a PhD in social work at the University of Minnesota.

Rachel Patterson, MPA

Health Management Associates

Rachel Patterson is a health and disability advocate in DC. She has worked with the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation and Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and is currently a consultant with Health Management Associates. She also serves on the board of the Sibling Leadership Network. Rachel's work focuses on health, long-term services & supports, and family support policy. She is originally from Washington State and has a sister with intellectual and developmental disabilities who lives in the Seattle area.

Matthew Wangeman, MCP

Institute for Human Development, Flagstaff, AZ

Matthew Wangeman has been a disability advocate for over 30 years at the local, state and national levels. He has a B.S. in Business Administration and a Master's in City Planning from the University of California at Berkeley. Matthew has been invited to speak at various National and State conferences about leadership and he is a leader in promoting disability rights in Arizona. Matthew assisted in the development and implementation of the Disability Studies Minor at NAU which happens to be the only minor in Arizona of its kind. Matthew was the chairperson for the Arizona DD Council several years ago and he was also a board member for the Protection & Advocacy Agency in his state. He is especially proud of his fourteen year old Son who he loves and admires!

Matthew currently works at the Institute for Human Development as a researcher and an instructor in the Disability Studies Minor at Northern Arizona University

Christina Espinosa, MRC

Human Development Institute, Lexington, KY

Christina Espinosa Bard is the Community Education Director for the Human Development Institute (HDI) at the University of Kentucky (UK). She has worked at HDI since completing her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) in 2007. Other roles at HDI include Distance Learning Coordinator, Chair of the Underserved Populations Engagement Committee, Function Director, and Leadership teams. She represents HDI across the University of Kentucky through participation with the Unconscious Bias Initiative, University Equal Opportunity Committee, Living Home Initiative, and Universal Design Community of Practice. Christina has been assessing and overseeing home modifications to help people return to community living across the state since 2009, and recently received funding for a pilot project in Rural Clinic Accessibility. She is committed to the work of growing inclusive communities for all to live, work, and play.