



Trainee Networking Session Panelists



Lauren Beller

Lauren Beller became a Self-Advocate Leader after joining the Pennsylvania for All Coalition (PEAC) in 2012, and helped in the formation of the Self-Advocate Network (SAN). She enjoys being able to use her degree in Elementary and Special Education from Temple University as well as her experiences as a person with both seen and unseen disabilities to help families and individuals with disabilities. While attending Temple, she worked part-time at Pennsylvania's University Center for

Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) called the Institute on Disabilities (IOD), and this position was a driving factor in her growth as a self-advocate as well as helping to determine her future professional projectory. She has proudly completed her fellowship as the inaugural Self Advocate Fellow in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program organized by the Association of University Centers for Disability (AUCD). Lauren is currently working towards becoming a National Special Education Advocacy Institute (NSEAI) Board Certified Education Advocate (BCEA). After her attendance at AUCD's 2017 Disability Policy Seminar, she was empowered to explore a wider range of advocacy outlets, including a desire to develop her expertise in disability policy and educating our elected officials on Capitol Hill. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to attend another AUCD conference and hopes to form new professional and personal relationships while attending.



Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick, PhD, MSW

Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick is an assistant professor in the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work and a Principal Investigator and LEND social work faculty liaison at the Waisman Center. She received two years of LEND training while completing her PhD and MSW at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Bishop-Fitzpatrick's NIH-funded research focuses on helping adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) achieve better health and quality of life as they age. She is also the project lead on an AUCD-funded multi-site study examining the impact of LEND training on attitudes, knowledge, and skills related to the core competencies of LEND training in a cohort of LEND trainees and matched controls who completed their LEND training in 2015. Her social work practice experience includes

roles as a school counselor and as a social skills group leader for children and adolescents with autism. Dr. Bishop-Fitzpatrick is also broadly interested in identifying strategies to strengthen the social work workforce that provides care to individuals with developmental disabilities in the community.



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Jacy Farkas, MA

Jacy Farkas is a former Sonoran UCEDD trainee. She completed her traineeship with a project focusing on information accessibility and the disability community while pursuing her master's in information resources and library science. Since joining the Sonoran UCEDD staff in 2007, her role has progressed to UCEDD Manager and Project Director. She oversees the Center's outreach/info dissemination efforts and federal data reporting. She directs the Sonoran UCEDD's Person-Centered Initiative which includes leading projects completing plans for transitioning youth with DD and developing community tools. Ms. Farkas' interests lie in information accessibility, youth transition and person-centered practices; intersectionality of disability, race/ethnicity, and culture in terms of community inclusion and successful adult

living, and diversity and cultural/linguistic competency. She serves on AUCD's Multicultural Council, and is completing her doctorate in Family Studies & Human Development at the University of Arizona.



Sandhya Iyengar, MD

Sandhya is a second-year fellow in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She completed Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) training last year and is currently a Masters in Public Health (MPH) candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. Sandhya is a board-certified pediatrician and completed residency in Pediatrics at Albany Medical Center. Her research examines adverse childhood experiences in children with developmental disabilities. Her other interests are transition to adulthood for young adults with Trisomy 21 and Intellectual Disability and advocacy around improving access to care for disadvantaged communities.