

Upcoming Webinar

Preventing Suicide Through Empowerment of Youth with Disabilities

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020
2:00-3:00 PM Eastern

Webinar Presenters:



Kara Ayers, PhD, is the Associate Director and an Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD). She is Director of the newly formed Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities and also a co-founder of the Disabled Parenting Project. Dr. Ayers' interests include disability identity/culture, bioethics, community inclusion, and the use of media to teach, empower, and reduce stigma. She serves on multiple task forces and national and state coalitions related to improving outcomes for people with disabilities and infuses the mantra, "Nothing about us without us," into all of her scholarly and community-based pursuits.



Leah Smith, MPA, is currently the Project Coordinator for the Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities at the University of Cincinnati's Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Immediately prior to this, Leah managed the #LiveOn campaign, which is an anti-suicide campaign aimed specifically towards people with disabilities. Leah has also served two terms as the Director of Public Relations for Little People of America (LPA), spearheading many efforts to destigmatize dwarfism in media representation and empower Little People in their everyday lives. Finally, Leah has co-facilitated Her Power! for a number of years, which is a program aimed at helping disabled high school girls dismantle the stereotypes that the media places on disabled women.

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Webinar Content:

According to recent reports from the CDC, suicide rates among our nation's youth have increased 56% since 2007. Further reports shows that youth with disabilities are 4 times more likely to have suicidal ideation than their nondisabled peers. In an effort to address this at-risk but underserved population, we have developed curriculum that will give young people the tools to navigate the ableism and stigma they experience as a person with a disability.



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