



The Arc of Illinois

Living with Autism Conference

Tuesday, October 5, 2021
Virtual



9:00-10:30 a.m. - “From Disability to Possibility”

presented by Patrick Schwarz, Ph. D.

Using real life stories — from womb to tomb — of individuals with possibilities, Dr. Patrick Schwarz will illustrate what supports are successful and what else is needed for effectiveness in education and human services for all people. These compelling examples will motivate participants to re-imagine and support individuals in new and inventive ways. Be prepared for something fun and different!

10:30 - 11:00 a.m. - *BREAK*

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - “Addressing Adventuresome Behavior While Keeping the Dignity of All Intact”

presented by Patrick Schwarz, Ph. D.

Both a person-centered, authentic, functional approach to assess behavior and a problem-solving process will be applied to combine components of the very best user-proven behavioral support strategies. This approach will be illustrated and then applied to real-life classroom and learning situations identified by participants.

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. - *BREAK FOR LUNCH*

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. - “Presuming Competence”

presented by Max Barrows, Green Mountain Self-Advocates

Fulfilling the promise of equal opportunity centers on the people in my life not making assumptions about what I can or cannot do.

1:45 - 2:00 p.m. - *BREAK*

2:00 - 2:45 p.m. - Division of Rehabilitation Services

presented by Director Rahnee Patrick

Hear from Director Patrick from the Division of Rehabilitation Services of different options and alternative waivers available for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. This session will help you understand the different programs and services.

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. - *BREAK*

ALL BIOS

Please see The Arc of Illinois special Event Page for the Living with Autism Conference at <https://www.thearcofil.org/living-with-autism-2021-conference/>

3:00 - 3:45 p.m. - BREAKOUTS - Choose 1

You will receive three Zoom links after you register for the conference. One link will be all the Keynote Speakers and the Breakout Sessions 1 and 3. The second link will have the Breakout Session 2 and the third link will have Breakout Session 4. If you would like to see 2 or 4, you just go to the other link.

Breakout Session 1

Parent/Caregiver and Siblings of a Loved One with a Disability Expectations and Assumptions: What are we REALLY thinking?

Presented by a Panel of Parents and Siblings

Facilitated by Nora Fox Handler and Kimberly L. Johnson

One of the hardest conversations to have is between a parent/caregiver & sibling(s) of their loved one living with a disability and often times the discussion **NEVER** happens leaving the one person that everyone wants to protect at a disadvantage when the parent/caregiver dies. This panel discussion will share thoughts and experiences of parents/caregivers and siblings and provide tips on how to start those conversations including resources for support of parents/caregivers and siblings.

Breakout Session 2

"Creating Community - The Importance of Community for Autistic adults and their Families"

Presented by Liza Pereira Curiel, LULA, Unique Sweets

Creating a community for Autistic individuals and families has never been more important. We all know that belonging to a group or community we can identify with helps us develop a stronger sense of personal and collective identity. It can also give a boost to our self-esteem and to our willingness to take on the world and make our dreams happen. A brief discussion on the efforts Unique Sweets is doing to create that community.

3:45 - 4:00 p.m. - BREAK

4:00 - 4:45 p.m. - BREAKOUTS - Choose 1

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Breakout Session 3

"Going 'Full-Circle': Reflections of a Personal Journey from Service Recipient to Service Provider"

Presented by Russel Houser, UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago

When Russel was first diagnosed on the autism spectrum at three years old, his parents made sure that he had access to the same opportunities as his peers in school. Although Russel had soon overcome many initial challenges that were associated with his diagnosis, his journey with autism was just beginning. From learning about autism to developing self-acceptance (and later embracing his identity on the spectrum), Russel will discuss the lessons he has learned along the way, and their implications for people who have a connection with autism. Whether you know someone on the autism spectrum, or have the diagnosis yourself, this presentation is for you!

Breakout Session 4

"Illinois Autism Task Force Adult Services Subcommittee: A Resource for IDHS"

Presented by Sherry Healey, Subcommittee Chairperson

The Illinois Autism Task Force is an advisory body to and administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The IATF Adult Services Subcommittee was created in 2021 to be a resource, share best practices, and collaborate with IDHS regarding service needs of adults on the autism spectrum. Initial efforts are focused on employer engagement and meeting diverse day service funding needs.

Cost & Registration

October 5, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

This Conference will be held VIRTUALLY using Zoom Webinar.

Registration Fees for Participants are:

Members of The Arc of Illinois:

Professional.....\$ 90.00
Consumer/Family Member.....\$ 50.00

Non Members of The Arc of Illinois:

Professional.....\$150.00
Consumer/Family Member.....\$ 80.00

Please complete the attached registration form, fax it to 815-464-5292, then mail the hard copy along with your check to:

The Arc of Illinois
9980 190th Street, Suite C
Mokena, IL 60448
815-464-1832

You can also register at

<https://www.thearcofil.org/living-with-autism-2021-conference/>

CONSUMER STIPENDS: If financial restrictions prevent you from paying full registration, consumer stipends for self-advocates and families are available through funding from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities by contacting The Arc of Illinois at 815-464-1832.

Groups of more than 7 from one agency are entitled to a 10% discount. If you have any special needs, please contact Becca Schroeder at 815-464-1832. Notice of any special accommodations are required TWO WEEKS prior to the event. **Please indicate on the registration form if you need a vegetarian meal.**

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Participants canceling their registration 72 hours in advance will be entitled to a credit or refund, less a \$50.00 administrative cost. No refund or credit will be given for cancellation less than 72 hours before the conference.

The Living with Autism 2021
Conference will be held
VIRTUALLY, using Zoom
Webinar.

Registration Form

3392

Living With Autism Conference
Thursday, October 5, 2021

One form per person, please print legibly.

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

AMOUNT PAID: _____

You can also register at <https://www.thearcofil.org/living-with-autism-2021-conference/>

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

____ Fax form to 815-464-5292 and send check to
The Arc of Illinois

____ Check enclosed payable to The Arc of Illinois

____ P.O. or State Voucher #

____ Charge to my Visa, Mastercard, Discover or
American Express

Name as it appears on credit card:

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV Code: _____

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**Don't miss this exciting
Virtual
Autism Conference!**

**Visit the Exhibit Hall!
And Fun Silent Auction!**

[https://www.thearcofil.org/
living-with-autism-2021-
conference/](https://www.thearcofil.org/living-with-autism-2021-conference/)

All donations from the Silent
Auction will benefit the
Assistive Technology Fund!

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

2021 Living with Autism Conference

- Dr. Patrick Schwarz is a dynamic and engaging professor, author, motivational speaker and leader in Education and Educational Leadership for all students. He is the author of From Disability to Possibility®, You're Welcome, Just Give Him the Whale, Pedro's Whale and From Possibility to Success. Patrick's professional mission is to promote education and human services that advance the status of people of all ages with diverse support needs. This will enable individuals to be successfully engaged, find meaning and be respected members of their learning, working and living communities.
- Max Barrows from the Green Mountain Self-Advocates will address how fulfilling the promise of equal opportunity centers on the people in his life not making assumptions about what he can or cannot do.
- Director Rahnee Patrick will discuss the different programs and services which may positively impact someone with autism.
- There will also be 4 Breakout Sessions this year!
- **Earn 6 CEUs** for QIDPs, Social Workers, Nursing Home Administrators, LCPC, Licensed Professional Counselors, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists.

Keynote Sponsor:



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