

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) Organizational Application for Funding

Agency/Organization Name: South Dakota Parent Connection

Organizational Contact Person: Carla Miller

Address: 3701 West 49th Street, Suite 102

City, State, Zip Code: Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Daytime Telephone Number: (605) 361-3171

Email Address: cmiller@sdparent.org

Preferred Method of Contact: x phone number x email mail

Check one of the following:

_____ Public agency, which provides vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities.

<u>X</u>	Disability related organization, which provides technical information or other assistance for individuals with disabilities.
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Other, please identify: _____

This project/event falls under which of the following appropriate uses of available funds:

_____ Marketing and outreach

 X Sponsorship of an event

_____ Studies and analysis

_____ Emerging project training

Title of Project/Event: Lighting The Way Autism Conference: Transitions Across
the Lifespan (LTW)

Date of Event: June 7 & 8, 2023 Location: Sioux Falls, SD

How your project/event will promote vocational rehabilitation opportunities for individuals with disabilities in South Dakota? (Response limited to two full pages)

Attendees will learn skills and strategies that will support individuals with ASD to achieve successful and meaningful employment, education, health, independent living and community integration outcomes. Attendees will learn of valuable community supports, including Vocational Rehabilitation Services available to South Dakota youth and adults with ASD.

Please explain the purpose of the project or activity:

Lighting the Way is an opportunity for parents, family members, caregivers, educators, social workers, counselors, employers, therapists, adult service providers and business and community members to gain training, resources, and connections all focused on effective strategies and techniques that can be used in educational settings, as employment supports, to improve family dynamics, and to support successful transitions throughout the life course.

Please specify how funds will be utilized (i.e., speaker fees/mileage; meeting room costs); or identify the specific activities for which the funds are requested:

BVR sponsorship funds will be used for presenter fees and related travel expenses. This year the conference will feature nationally recognized keynote speakers Dr. Christine Reeve on day one and Dr. Franne Sippel & Becky Kuch on the second day. The breakout sessions include local, regional, and statewide presenters covering a wide variety of topics. Funding has also been approved by the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities, and registration fees of \$100 per person will generate a balance of needed funds. The Sioux Falls School District is providing the conference space and technology at no cost.

Who is the target audience, including the number of people involved or impacted?

Lighting the Way is designed to be relevant for those who support individuals with an autism spectrum disorder, including VR counselors, transition specialists, educators, adult service professionals, social workers, therapists, parents / caregivers, employers, psychologists, community members, and self-advocates. The audience typically ranges from 150-250 people.

Please provide a brief description of the expected benefits to the attendees:

Attendees have opportunities to attend sessions that provide information & training on current best-practices, learn new skills and techniques, connect with professionals, visit with experts in the field, learn about community supports and resources, and network with other families. The conference features informational booths on the second day, which allows attendees to connect with local and statewide resources that are available to them. There is also adequate time allowed between sessions and during lunch both days to network with others attending the conference.

Have you received assistance from the BVR before? X Yes _____ No

If yes, when did you last receive assistance? 2022 LTW Conference

Amount received \$ 2,000

By signing below, I verify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of authorized person/contact of agency or organization:

Carla Miller _____ Date: 07/01/2023

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Follow-Up Report (Page 1 of 2)

Agency/Organization Name: South Dakota Parent Connection

Address: 3701 West 49th Street, Suite 102

City, State, Zip Code: Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Daytime Telephone Number: (605) 361-3171

Email Address: cmiller@sdparent.org

Title of Project/Event: Lighting The Way Autism Conference

Date & Location of Event: June 7 & 8, 2023 / Sioux Falls, SD, Memorial Middle School

Please specify how funds were utilized (i.e., speaker fees/mileage; meeting room costs, stipend assistance).

BVR sponsorship funds will be used for presenter fees and related travel expenses. This year the conference will feature nationally recognized keynote speakers Dr. Christine Reeve on day one and Dr. Franne Sippel & Becky Kuch on the second day. The breakout sessions include local, regional, and statewide presenters covering a wide variety of topics. Funding has also been approved by the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities, and registration fees of \$100 per person will generate a balance of needed funds. The Sioux Falls School District is providing the conference space and technology at no cost.

What was offered through the training sessions or conference, in general (i.e., examples of sessions, breakout sessions)?

For a complete list of the training sessions, see the attached schedule at the end of this report.

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Follow-Up Report - Page 2

How did your project/event promote vocational rehabilitation opportunities for individuals with disabilities in South Dakota?

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in sessions that provided information on self-empowerment / advocacy, accessing community resources and services, and multiple sessions incorporated life trajectory tools and information on transitioning to adulthood and steps to begin to prepare for to help make that phase more successful.

Please describe audience makeup if applicable (number of individuals with disabilities, family members, providers, others).

There were 154 attendees this year. Approximately half of those in attendance were parents (38%), family members (11%), self-advocates (7%), and the remainder consisted of educators/administrators (44%), service providers (17%).

If you have evaluation results from attendees, please provide a summary of findings:

100% of those who completed the survey responded that agree/strongly agree that Dr. Christine Reeve was knowledgeable and engaging and that the information was relevant and useful. Here are some comments on her presentations:

- *"Great presenter. Explains well."*
- *"Dr Reeve provided valuable information."*
- *"Some practical suggestions for teachers looked good."*

100% of those who completed the survey responded that agree/strongly agree that Dr. Franne Sippel & Becky Kuch were knowledgeable and engaging and that the information was relevant and useful. Here are some comments on her presentations:

- *"Fabulous message and reminder to educators about the struggles faced outside of school."*
- *"The presentation was engaging because humor was added to it."*
- *"Bring them back! Love to laugh – content was effective for anyone in the audience."*

Please identify any other information that you would like to share about your event.

This year marked the 15th annual Lighting The Way Autism conference. This year a new breakout for all school administrators across the state was presented, well attended, and very well received. The school administrators who attended were from Dell Rapids, Deubrook Area, Flandreau, Gayville, Harrisburg, Lake Preston, Sioux Falls, Tea, and Mitchell. They were invited to a closed breakout session entitled, "Supporting You so You Can Support Your Staff" and included open discussion to identify their core beliefs and how they impact response for students with Autism. The link between Autism and how factors related to the disease can lead to problem behavior. The importance of gauging your staff's understanding of the disability and their own response and planning for the unexpected. 100% of those who completed the survey reported the presenters were knowledgeable and engaging and the information was relevant and useful.

Conference Session Schedule at a Glance

DAY 1 – Wednesday, June 7th

7:15 – 8:00 Lobby & Cafeteria	Conference Check In / Graduate Credit Registration / Snacks				
8:00 – 8:15 Auditorium	Welcome				
8:15 – 9:45 Auditorium	Supporting Transitions (and transitions) Across the Autism Lifespan Keynote: Dr. Christine Reeve				
9:45 – 10:15 Cafeteria	Networking Break with Snacks				
10:15 – 11:45 Auditorium	That's Why They Do That, Now What Do I Do? Quick Tips for Behavior Challenges Keynote: Dr. Christine Reeve				
11:45 – 12:45 Cafeteria	Complimentary Lunch and Networking *Final opportunity to register for Augustana University Graduate Credit in the Lobby				
12:45 – 2:15 Green House Classrooms & Library	Room H101	Room H102	Room H103	Room H104	Library
	Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders Emily Meier	Preparing for the Future: Understanding Guardianship and Alternatives John Hamilton & Julie Johnson-Dresbach	Moving On Up! Strategies for Successful Navigation of the Transition from Middle School to High School Dr Kristy Feden & Nicole Freeman	Art Therapy for Caregivers Lisa Brunick	Our Journey to Self-Advocacy Panel Betsy Drew/Panel
2:15 – 2:30 Cafeteria	Networking Break with Snacks				
2:30 – 4:00 Green House Classrooms & Library	Room H101	Room H102	Room H103	Room H104	Library
	My Child is Turning 3! Transitioning from an IFSP to an IEP Kris Sellers & Jamie Butler	Viewing of the "Unseen" Caregiver Documentary SD Council on Developmental Disabilities	The Power of Trust During Transitions to Adulthood Dr. Nikki Whiting & Nate Alfson	What am I Missing? Seeing Behaviors Through a Different Lens Brittany Schmidt	Planning Your Good Life: A Session for Young Adults / Self-Advocates Elaine Roberts, MA

Conference Session Schedule at a Glance

DAY 2 – Thursday, June 8th

7:30 – 8:00 Lobby/Cafeteria	Conference Check In / Visit Vendors			
8:00 – 8:15 Auditorium	Welcome Back / Announcements			
8:15 – 9:15 Auditorium	Advocating YOU in Transitions Keynote: Dr. Franne Sippel, Ed.D. and Becky Kuch, NCC, LPC-MH			
9:15 – 9:45 Cafeteria	Visit Vendor Exhibits / Networking Break with Snacks			
9:45 – 10:45 Auditorium	Caregiver Stress: We ALL Get It Keynote: Dr. Franne Sippel, Ed.D. and Becky Kuch, NCC, LPC-MH			
10:45 – 12:15 Green House Classrooms & Library	Room H101	Room H102	Room H103	Library
	Executive Function Delays: Impact on Behavior Dr. Carla Miller	Mindful Skills and Strategies Aaron & Kathy Dang	Successful Integration of Augmentative & Adaptive Communication Across Environments Dani Moe & Heather Hinners	Yoga for Caregivers Jennifer Abel
12:15 – 1:00 Cafeteria	Complimentary Lunch and Networking / Visit Vendor Exhibits			
1:00 – 2:30 Green House Classrooms	Room H101	Room H102	Room H103	Room H104
	Modifications and Accommodations: High School and Post Secondary Jeff Merkle	Planning for the Future Doesn't Start at Age 16 Dr. Carla Miller	Addressing the Needs of the Whole Family: When Transition to Adulthood Stalls Jessica Lamb & Betsy Drew	Parents & Professionals: Partnering for Successful Transitions Dr. Barb Avery-Sterud & Valerie Peters
2:30 – 2:45 Cafeteria	Networking Break / Visit Vendor Exhibits with Snacks			
2:45 – 4:00 Green House Classrooms & Library	Room H101	Room H102	Room H103	Library
	Building Independence at School and Home Sioux Falls School District Autism Team	We Have to Transition in Healthcare Too?! Emily Meier	I See You: Meeting a Child Where They Are at Using a Relationship and Sensory- Based Approach Kristin Wittmayer, MS, OTR/L	Community Resources for Employment and Independent Living Panel Laura Schmit & Panel

