

**SD COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
GRANT APPLICATION - - TITLE PAGE**

Applicant Organization University of South Dakota

Address 414 E Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069

Telephone 605-677-5370 Federal ID Number 46-6000364

Project Director Eric Kurtz

Address/Telephone 1400 W 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105 (605-357-1462)

Email Address: Eric.Kurtz@usd.edu

Type of Organization State University Tax Exempt? YES

Under "Type of Organization" indicate all of the following that apply:  
State, county, municipality, or other public institution; nonprofit or profit  
private institution. If "nonprofit" and/or "tax exempt", proof of status  
may be requested.

Title of Project South Dakota Developmental Disabilities Conference

Project Begins 08/01/2023 Project Ends 06/30/2024

Total Council Funds Requested 40,423 Total Project Budget \$160,423

Dr. Dan Engebretson  
Authorizing Official (please type name)

DocuSigned by:  
Daniel Engebretson  
C297C081745F4F3...  
Signature

VP, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Title and address, if different from Project Director listed above.

Description	(A) Requested DD Council Funds	(B) Allowable Match from Applicant **	(C) Allowable Match from Other Agencies **	(D) Total Contract Grant Budget (A + B + C)	(E) Un-allowable Match from Applicant & Other Agencies	(F) Total Project Budget (D + E)
<b>PERSONNEL</b>						
<b>TRAVEL</b>						
<b>CONTRACTUAL</b>						
Keynote Speakers			\$20,000	\$20,000		\$20,000
			20,000			
<b>OPERATING</b>						
Printing	\$1,050			\$1,050		\$1,050
Name Tags and Lanyards	800					
	250					
<b>OTHER</b>						
DD Conference Venue Rental	\$37,448			\$37,448		\$37,448
	7,000					
DD Conference Equipment Rental	7,500					
Food & Beverage	22,948					
<b>INDIRECTS</b>						
Indirects - 5%	\$38,498			\$38,498		\$38,498
	1,925					
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$40,423		\$20,000	\$60,423		\$60,423

\*\* Be sure the Budget Narrative specifies the type of allowable match (in-kind, cash, etc.) and the source of the matching funds. Utilize the formulas found in the instructions to compute the percentages of Council funds and matching funds.

## **ASSURANCES**

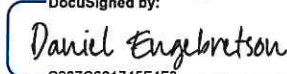
1. The applicant assures that grant funds made available under the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities will not be used to supplant state or local funds, but will be used to increase the amounts of such funds that would be made available for other similar activities.
2. The applicant assures that grant funds made available under the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities will be used to complement and augment rather than duplicate or replace services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who are eligible for Federal assistance under other state programs.
3. The applicant assures that fund accounting, auditing, monitoring and such evaluation procedures as may be necessary to keep such records as the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities shall prescribe will be provided to assure fiscal control, proper management, and efficient disbursement of funds received through the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities.
4. A clear audit trail must be maintained for each source of funding. Receipts, expenditures and disbursements must be individually accounted for from each source of funds.
5. The applicant agrees to submit reports indicating activities undertaken, expenditures, match provided, program income and general progress of the project. Projects are required to submit a final report at the end of the grant funding period.
6. The applicant certifies that the program contained in its application meets all the requirements, that all the information is correct, that there has been appropriate coordination with affected agencies, and that the applicant will comply with all provisions of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities and all other applicable laws.
7. The applicant understands that although an effort will be made to continue the funding of projects of proven effectiveness or with a record of proven success, each project must stand on its own merit each year. No project will be guaranteed continued funding. NOTE: Projects/programs must re-apply annually for funding.
8. This agreement depends upon the continued availability of federal funds and expenditure authority from the Legislature for this purpose. This agreement will be terminated by the State if the Legislature fails to appropriate funds or



grant expenditure authority. Termination for this reason is not a default by the State nor does it give rise to a claim against the State.

9. The applicant also understands and agrees: 1) that funds received are to be expended only for the purpose and activities covered by the applicant's approved application and budget, and 2) that the grant may be terminated at any time by the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities if the applicant fails to comply with the provisions of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities, legislation or any of the certified assurances listed above and in the grant agreement.

CERTIFICATION - I certify that I have read and reviewed the above assurances and will comply with all provisions of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities legislation and all other applicable federal and state laws.

DocuSigned by:  
  
6287C684746F4F3...6/28/2023

---

Signature of Authorizing OfficialDate

Dr. Dan Engebretson, VP Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
Typed Name and Title

414 E Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069  
Address

605-658-3760  
Telephone Number

**South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities**  
**Grant Proposal**  
**July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023**  
**Requested Amount of Award: \$40,423**

**PROJECT NARRATIVE**

This proposal seeks funding to support the 2023 South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities. In 2021, the Center for Disabilities at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine partnered with the South Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities, the South Dakota Developmental Disabilities Council, and over a dozen additional state and community agencies and organizations developed the South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities. Participants included people with disabilities, their families, and professionals from disciplines across healthcare, human services, mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation, and direct service professionals, among others. While this event takes a conference form, this robust collaboration of planning partners offers a platform to develop relationships and collaborations, and to discover new approaches to solve complex issues. This convening of people and organizations from a broad range of perspectives coming together to partner on these issues has been powerful, and has focused on topics and issues that our stakeholders have communicated are critical. Key areas including mental health, trauma-informed care, Native American health and disability issues, technology, leadership development and self-advocacy, along with many other important topics have been featured. Over 200 participants attended this event in 2021. This proposal intends to build on this momentum and success in establishing a tradition of convening around critical issues across the field of developmental disabilities.

Statement of Need:

People with disabilities experience significant disparities in their care across settings and providers. Factors contributing to these disparities include inadequate knowledge about disabilities and related conditions, insufficient best-practices and evidence to guide care for people with disabilities, and inaccessible environments. Another possible contributor to disparities are misunderstandings and false beliefs regarding the values and expectations of people with disabilities and lack of inclusion within the community. This lack of awareness and understanding points to the need for cultural competence required to care effectively for people with disabilities. Cultural competence is defined as the “ability of providers and organizations to effectively deliver services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of patients” <sup>[1]</sup>.

*Demographics.* The overall percentage of persons who identified themselves as having a disability was 12.6% which is not significantly different than the national rate of disability<sup>[3]</sup>. The percentage of citizens below the age of 65 with a disability is 7.1%. Approximately, one percent of persons with disabilities were reported to be age 17 or younger. The prevalence of developmental disabilities (DD) in children ages 3-17 is reported to be approximately 18%<sup>[4]</sup>. According to the most recent estimates, approximately 13,188 people with DD reside in SD and over 3,000 adults and children with DD receive services through the CHOICES and Family Support 360 waivers administered by the SD Department of Human Services<sup>[5]</sup>. As of February

2021, a total of 21,664 South Dakota students with disabilities received special education services<sup>[6]</sup>. This represented 15.6% of the total Fall 2020 student census<sup>[7]</sup>.

*Health Care Shortage.* A recent special report published states, “Access to health care remains a serious challenge in much of rural South Dakota, where federal data show that residents tend to have greater rates of serious illness and death from diseases and far less access to doctors, nurses and dentists than in the state’s few urban areas”<sup>[9]</sup>. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation. The South Dakota Department of Health reported that of 66 counties, 19 experienced shortages in low-income areas and 31 in areas due to geographic distance from primary medical care<sup>[10]</sup>. Six counties reported shortages related to geographic factors in portions of the county. Only nine counties reported no shortage. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (2021), as of July 2021, 11 areas have been designated as mental health care shortage areas<sup>[11]</sup>.

*Mental Health.* In 2020, it was reported that 112,000 persons in SD experienced mental illness, with approximately 30,000 experiencing serious mental illness<sup>[12]</sup>. More than half of people with a mental health condition in the U.S. did not receive treatment in the last year. It is also reported that 47.5% of South Dakotans age 12–17 with diagnosed depression did not receive any care in the last year<sup>[12]</sup>. SD was ranked 34<sup>th</sup> with respect to the prevalence of mental illness and rates of access to care for adults and 24<sup>th</sup> for youth<sup>[13]</sup>. Additionally, in 2020, suicide was the leading cause of death in SD for youth ages 10 to 19<sup>[14]</sup>. It was also reported that SD had the 8th highest suicide rate in the United States and the American Indian suicide rate was 2.5 times higher than the White suicide rate for 2011-2020<sup>[14]</sup>.

*Income and Poverty.* SD has great economic diversity and disparity. The median per capita personal income is \$59,533<sup>[1]</sup>. The overall percentage of South Dakotans who live below the poverty line is 11.6%<sup>[15]</sup>. Two South Dakota counties, Ziebach and Buffalo, had the second and third-lowest per capita income of all US counties. Four additional counties including, Oglala Lakota, Todd, Corson, and Jackson, were in the lowest per capita income counties in the US. Ziebach and Todd counties had the highest poverty rates of all 3,198 US counties and parishes. Corson, Oglala Lakota, and Buffalo Counties had the fourth, fifth and seventh highest poverty rates in the nation, respectively. Ziebach and Corson Counties have the highest and fourth-highest poverty rates for children age 0-17 in the country. The poverty rates of all six counties for children age 0-17 range from 43-63%<sup>[15]</sup>, and are all home to Native American reservations.

*Aging.* The median age in South Dakota is 37.7 years. More than a third (36%) of the South Dakota population is age 50 or older<sup>[1]</sup>. This is impacted by the increased migration of young people out of the state upon completion of secondary education to reside in surrounding states where wages are higher and a greater variety of opportunities abound. Within the state, citizens are also migrating to larger communities which in turn increases the burden on support and health care services in frontier communities. In short, the population of SD is aging which will increase the scope and need for services and supports within every community of SD.

*Summary.* People with disabilities are impacted exponentially by the issues presented above, and there is a significant need in to improve access and the quality of care for South Dakotans with disabilities. This project proposes to help address those needs through capacity building efforts

that meets individuals with disabilities, their family, as well as providers and professionals where they are in an accessible, effective, and sustainable manner.

#### Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan:

The **Primary Goal** of this initiative is to develop and implement the 2023 South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities for providers and organizations across South Dakota. Outcomes will include an increase in knowledge, skills, strategies, ensuring cultural responsiveness in service provision, and understanding the positive contributions of individuals with disabilities and their families on communities.

The theme of this year's conference is Leading Change Together and will focus on developing partnerships to improve the well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities in South Dakota.

The conference will include over 25 sessions covering a variety of topics including:

- Apps and software to help people with disabilities live more independently
- Using Charting the LifeCourse Tools to build a Good Life
- Sensory processing
- Intersectionality of disability and abuse/assault
- Division of Developmental Disabilities services
- Understanding guardianship and alternatives to guardianship
- Supporting families through the transition process
- Providing culturally responsive services
- Assistive technology

Please see attachments for session descriptions, keynote presenter information, and a draft schedule.

The conference is open to all and intended for people with disabilities, family members, professionals in the field of developmental disabilities (healthcare, education, mental health), state, community and agency providers. Additional emphasis is also placed on reaching underserved and underrepresented populations across the state with representation from Tribal members, agencies, and communities to ensure a true statewide approach.

#### Organization and Staff Qualifications:

The Center for Disabilities has served as the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) for the state of South Dakota since 1971. Over the course of 50 years, we have partnered with numerous healthcare, education, human service, employment, and community-based organizations to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. We have a strong track record of successful capacity building efforts through community education, clinical services, interdisciplinary training, technical assistance, research, information dissemination, and policy/advocacy. It is through this diverse range of initiatives and partnerships the Center for Disabilities pursues progress on its mission to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families with a vision that all people can achieve



independence, self-determination, productivity, and community inclusion. We commit to leveraging these relationships to support this project as well.

The Center for Disabilities is a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders (LEND) site. For the past 30 years, the Center for Disabilities has been a leader in the state and nation in providing the highest quality interdisciplinary, culturally competent, family-centered care. SD LEND has successfully prepared hundreds of healthcare and related professionals to assume leadership roles and has also provided ongoing continuing education and technical assistance for thousands of practicing professionals in South Dakota. Funding comes from the Autism CARES Act through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Health Resources and Services Administration.

The Center for Disabilities will also leverage our relationships with tribal communities through the Oyate' Circle, a sub-center at the USD Center for Disabilities. The Oyate' Circle is a resource, education, outreach, and training program that serves Tribal communities. Named in Lakota for "the people" the Oyate' Circle focuses on the needs of tribal members and their families. We also provide technical assistance and training for tribal communities and non-tribal communities and agencies. These efforts have been critical in building bridges, relationships, and collaboration to ensure the most underserved and underrepresented populations in the country have a voice on matters important to them. The relationships fostered by Oyate' Circle have allowed the Center for Disabilities to expand its services which ensure inclusion and representation across the region.

#### Evaluation and Consumer Satisfaction Information:

Evaluation surveys will be conducted to measure consumer satisfaction, and the effectiveness of each individual session, as well as the conference as a whole. We will gain demographic information about the attendees, as well as learn about emerging needs and concerns that may be addressed by future conferences. These evaluations will be used to make improvements or modifications. This feedback will also be used to: a) prioritize material components; b) determine training activities given; c) include areas overlooked; and d) modify content areas.

This information will also be utilized to provide progress on performance measures required by the grant.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Agarinnik, N., Campbell, E.G., Iezzoni, L.I., Exploring Issues Relating to Disability Cultural Competence Among Practicing Physicians. (2019) *Disability and Health Journal*. July 12(3): 403-410.
- [2] South Dakota Department of Health. (2020). *Health Data & Statistics*. <https://doh.sd.gov/>
- [3] US Census Bureau. (2021a). US Census Bureau (2021b).  
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0400000US46>.  
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=United%20States&g=0100000US>.



- [4] Zablotsky, B, Black, L. I., Maenner, M. J., Schieve, L. A., Danielson, M. L., Bitsko, R. H., Blumberg, S. J., Kogan, M. D., and Boyle, C. A. (2019). Prevalence and trends of developmental disabilities among children in the United States: 2009–2017. *Pediatrics*, 144(4).
- [5] South Dakota Department of Human Services (2021), Division of Developmental Disabilities CHOICES 1915(c) Waiver Rate Study.
- [6] South Dakota Department of Education (2021a). *Special Education December Child Count - by Disability*. <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/data-childcount.aspx>.
- [7] South Dakota Department of Education (2021b). 2020 Fall Census Enrollment, Public - by District, by Grade. <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/enrollment.aspx>.
- [8] US Census Bureau (2021c). 2019 Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance Data. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2019/econ/school-finances/secondary-education-finance.html>.
- [9] Pfankuch, B. (2020). *Special Report: Pandemic threatens fragile rural health-care system in South Dakota*. <https://www.sdnewswatch.org/stories/small-towns-big-challenges-pandemic-burdens-fragile-rural-healthcare-system-in-sd/>.
- [10] South Dakota Department of Health (2021) Federally Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas. <https://doh.sd.gov/providers/ruralhealth/shortage.aspx>.
- [11] Health Resources & Services Administration (2021). *Health Workforce Shortage areas*. <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>.
- [12] National Alliance on Mental Illness (2021). State fact sheets. <https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/State-Fact-Sheets>.
- [13] Mental Health America (2021). *Ranking the states*. <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/ranking-states#four>.
- [14] South Dakota Suicide Prevention (2021). Facts and stats. <https://sdsuicideprevention.org/about-suicide/facts-stats/>.
- [15] U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2021). *Personal income by county and metropolitan area, 2019*. <https://www.bea.gov/data/income-saving/personal-income-county-metro-and-other-areas>

June 22, 2023

Arlene Poncelet, Director  
South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Council Members,

This letter is in support of the Center for Disabilities grant proposal for the South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities. I was part of the conference planning committee for the initial Conference in 2021 and I am part of the committee for the upcoming Conference in September 2023.

It was a great experience for me to be part of the planning portion of the conference, I feel that I am part of the team that can bring a self-advocates view to the planning process. The conference team is composed of a variety of members, and I can gather information not only about the conference but good sources of people who are knowledgeable in the area of developmental disabilities.

Additionally, in 2021 I was part of a presentation, which was a session regarding my current programming through Shared Living. The breakout sessions that I attended provided information regarding State agencies and I was able to connect with others from across South Dakota that I can reach out to for information and ideas.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming conference as I will be attending the event and will also be presenting for several break-out sessions. I urge you to give this grant proposal your highest consideration when reviewing the submission.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Tohi Feist

Tohi Feist, St. Onge, SD



# LEADING CHANGE TOGETHER

## DRAFT - AGENDA AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

Time	Activity				
7:00-8:00 am (Ballroom A)	Vendor Booth Set up				
7:30-8:30 am (Lobby & Ballroom A)	Registration Opens/Visit Booths Light Breakfast				
8:30-9:00 am (Exhibit Hall 2)	Welcome and Opening Comments Welcome from Shawnie Rechtenbaugh				
9:00-10:30 am (Exhibit Hall 2)	General Session Steve Gilliland –Moving Forward with Purpose				
10:30-10:45 am (Ballroom A)	Break/Visit Booths				
10:45-11:45 am	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>				
	Ballroom B	Rooms 6 & 7	Rooms 9 & 10	Rooms 11 & 12	Rooms 13 & 14
	DDD 101 – Overview of Developmental Disabilities Services – DDD Staff	The Positive Behavior Support Bag of Tricks – Dan Baker and Jennifer Walker	Title TBD – Bev Peterson, Transition Services Liaison Project	Title TBD about Sensory Processing – Kristin Wittmayer, Move U	Dementia Assessment for People with IDD – Lisa Tschetter, Division of DD
11:45-12:45 (Exhibit Hall 2)	Lunch Panel of DHS, DRSD, CFD				
12:45 – 1:45 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>				
	Ballroom B	Rooms 6 & 7	Rooms 9 & 10	Rooms 11 & 12	Rooms 13 & 14
	Family Support 360 Waiver – DDD Staff	Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Building Social Emotional Skills through Digital Curriculum to Support Students & Educators – Kirsten Biersbach	Oyáte Circle Community Outreach and Indigenous Perspectives of Disability – Jim Warne, Oyate Circle, USD Center for Disabilities	On Track & On Time – Brittany Schmidt, USD Center for Disabilities	Imperfect Best Day to Day resilience – Jason Freeman
1:45 – 2 pm	Break/Visit Booths				
2:00 – 3:00 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>				
	Ballroom B	Rooms 6 & 7	Rooms 9 & 10	Rooms 11 & 12	Rooms 13 & 14
	CHOICES Waiver – DDD Staff	Assessment of Services for People with IDD & MH challenges – Arlene	Guardianship – An Advocates Perspective – South Dakota Advocates	Supporting Families Through the Transition Process – Betsy Drew, SD	Intersectionality of Disability & Abuse/Assault – Devon Labee



		Poncelet & Aimee Deliramich	for Change	Parent Connection	Darling, Disability Rights SD
3 – 3:15 pm	Break/Visit Booths (Booth tear down after 3:15pm)				
3:15-4:45pm (Exhibit Hall 2)	General Session Dan Baker – Mental Wellness for People with Developmental Disabilities				
4:45-5:00pm (Exhibit Hall 2)	Announcements/Wrap-up/Recap				

## Thursday, September 7, 2023

Time	Activity				
7:30–8:30 (Exhibit Hall 2)	Networking Breakfast Buffet				
8:30-10:00am (Exhibit Hall 2)	General Session Panel of self-advocates and family members				
10:00-10:15am	Break				
10:15-11:15am	Breakout Sessions				
	Ballroom B	Rooms 6 & 7	Rooms 9 & 10	Rooms 11 & 12	Rooms 13 & 14
	Preparing for the Future: Understanding Guardianship & Alternatives to Guardianship, Julie Dresbach Johnson & John Hamilton, DRSD	Creating Culturally Responsive Caregiver Training – Anissa Jepsen & Britt Farley, K-Now Behavioral Solutions	Caring For Each Other, It's About More Than Self-Care – Aimee Deliramich, USD Center for Disabilities	DSU's AdapT Lab - Accessibility Via Tech – Dakota State University	Building Their Good Life, Teri Bukowski, Jay Hill and Ashley DeBlauw, Benchmark Human Services
11:30-1:00pm (Exhibit Hall 2)	Awards Luncheon				
1:00-1:15pm	Break				
1:15-2:15pm	Breakout Sessions				
	Ballroom B	Rooms 6 & 7	Rooms 9 & 10	Rooms 11 & 12	Rooms 13 & 14

	Unseen, the Documentary about Family Caregiving – South Dakota DD Network	Title TBD – Valerie Wicker, Multi-Cultural Center	Transition ... The Rest of the Story – South Dakota Advocates for Change	OPEN	Charting the Life Course
2:15-2:30pm	Break				
2:30-4:00pm (Exhibit Hall 2)	General Session Chris Nikic – title and description				
4:00-4:15pm (Exhibit Hall 2)	Closing Remarks/Reflection/Wrap-Up				

**Weds. Sept. 6 at 8:30 a.m.**

**Opening Remarks  
Shawnie Rechtenbaugh**

Shawnie Rechtenbaugh is the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Human Services. Shawnie has been with the State of SD for 18 years serving in a variety of roles. Prior to rejoining DHS in 2019, she served in the Department of Public Safety as the Interim Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and the State 9-1-1 Coordinator. While serving as the State 9-1-1 Coordinator she was honored to receive the "2016 Government Leader Award" from the NG 9-1-1 Institute in Washington, DC for her work to move SD to a statewide 9-1-1 platform.

Before coming to State Government Shawnie worked in the private sector in the human services field as a mental health case manager, an alcohol/tobacco/other drug prevention educator, she worked in the developmental disabilities service system, as well as in her hometown nursing home. Shawnie has a degree in psychology and her State Government Leadership Excellence Certificate from the University of South Dakota. In 2019 she was chosen as a Henry Toll Fellow, which is one of the nation's premier leadership development programs for state government officials.

Shawnie and her husband, Scott, have 2 daughters who are busy with middle and high school. Like many within the Human Services field, Shawnie has had her life touched by disability and this has led her to a life of service and helping others.

**Weds. Sept. 6 from 10:45-11:45 a.m.**

**DD 101**

***Division of Developmental Disabilities***

*Arlene's Description: A general overview of ALL the programs and services provided through DDD. Including the new intake process, eligibility, respite care, Strengthening Families program, waivers (basics with more detail in the other sessions - shared living, residential, day services, employment), community training services, who are the providers for services, is there a wait list and how does it work, grievance process, sign up for the listserv, participate in Family & Self Advocate Conversations, ARSD updates. Could be anything and everything DDD.*

*Speaker Info: Julie Hand is the Assistant Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and oversees the day-to-day functions within DDD. Julie has 19 years of experience as a professional in the developmental disabilities field as well as life-long experience as a family member of a person with intellectual and developmental disability. She is a certified Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) Trainer, Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Ambassador, and Certified Quality Analyst and has been fortunate to be at the forefront of efforts to sustain knowledge and skills in both PCT and CtLC since*



*2008. Prior to her career with DDD, Julie worked as a residential Direct Support Professional, job coach, and service coordinator.*

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.**

**The Positive Behavior Support Bag of Tricks**

**Dan Baker, Ph.D., NADD-CC, CCEP, Minnesota Department of Human Services and Jennifer Walker, MSW, LCSW, ACT, QMHP, Linking the Gap Counseling**

Description: Care providers supporting people who experience IDD often struggle to find effective interventions for challenging behaviors. Of course, the first step is always to understand why a problem behavior is occurring, but this presentation will focus on what to do next and detail a wide variety of Positive Support intervention strategies. We will draw on many different perspectives on how to support people, including person centered thinking, mental health supports, wellness approaches, instructional strategies, and applied behavior analysis. Examples: exercises (including balancing issues of supervision and rights) and case studies are included in this interactive presentation.

Original Speaker Info: Dr. Baker is with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and has a clinical focus on community support and mental health services. Dr. Baker is the Past President of NADD and has written clinical textbooks and trained in more than 35 states and provinces. Jennifer Walker is a private practice owner and mental health clinical who focuses on individual treatment of co-occurring diagnoses.

**Weds. Sept. 6 from 10:45 – 11:45**

**Title – Tackling Transitioning to Adulthood Together  
Transition Services Liaison Project**

**Description:**

The transition to adulthood process (school to post-school life) can be intimidating for any high school student, and for students who have a disability, it can seem quite overwhelming. Transition planning for students during high school includes setting goals regarding what type of employment they want, where they will live, and identifying what support they need to achieve these goals. If the student transitions to an adult community service provider, they could benefit from learning what worked well for the student while in high school, what goals they worked on, and recommendations about ways to help meet post-secondary goals, to name just a few. Come and share in the discussion of how to make the transition from school to post-school as smooth as possible for young adults with disabilities, as well as answer questions you may have regarding the transition process.

Speaker Info: Bev Petersen, Dan Rounds, Cate Diede and Miah Gillen with the Transition Services Liaison Project will be presenting.

**Weds. Sept. 6 from 10:45-11:45**

**Title –Sensory Processing Challenges Throughout the Lifespan: What does it look like, and how do we help?**

**Kristin Wittmayer, MS, OTR/L, Move U**

**Description:** Sensory processing challenges impact behavior, learning, motor development, attention, emotional regulation, and the ability to engage and relate to others. This presentation will promote understanding of sensory processing challenges as it may impact participation and development within infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood while also touching on generalized sensory and relationship-based recommendations to support performance.

**Speaker Info:** Kristin is the Director of Move U and a Pediatric Occupational Therapist specializing in the treatment of children with sensory processing and integration disorders. She has 16 years of pediatric experience and is the only one in the region with her level of specialty certificate in the evaluation and treatment of sensory processing disorders.

**Wednesday, September 6 from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.**

**Dementia Assessment for People with IDD - Early detection screen for dementia in people with IDD**

**Description:** The National Task Group Early Detection Screen for Dementia (NTG-EDSD) is an informant-based rating tool for use with adults with intellectual and developmental disability who are suspected of having changes in thinking, behavior, and adaptive skills suggestive of mild cognitive impairment or dementia. It is considered an administrative, and not a clinical assessment, tool. We will review this tool and how to use it as an important beginning piece of information to use as dialogue with health care professionals.

**Original Speaker Info:** Lisa Tschetter is a Nurse Consultant for DHS-DDD. She is a Certified Developmental Disability Nurse (CDDN). Ms. Tschetter is also a National Task Group certified trainer on IDD and Dementia as well as a Certified Dementia Practitioner through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. She also has family experience with Dementia/Alzheimer's as both of her parents have been diagnosed.

**Weds. Sept 6 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**Panel Discussion – What's New and what are your questions?**

**Speakers – Joey Younie, Division of Developmental Disabilities**

**Cole Uecker, Disability Rights South Dakota**

**Eric Kurtz, Center for Disabilities**

Joey Younie is the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities with the South Dakota Department of Human Services. Mrs. Younie has spent most of her career in

state government, working within the executive branch at the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). She has nearly 20 years of experience in the DD field where she has focused on increasing partnerships and engagement with participants and families, enhancing services to better support participants with dual diagnoses, implementing service quality, and most recently focusing heavily on systems transformation. Joey has been in her role as the State Director in South Dakota since August 2020. During this time, DDD has prioritized stakeholder partnerships, implemented consistent quality management practices, and lead key initiatives around rate methodology, capacity building, and Home and Community Based Services.

**Weds. Sept. 6 from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Family Support 360**

**Staff, Division of Developmental Disabilities**

*Arlene's Description: Start to finish what is it, who is eligible, what services are covered, how to apply, grievance process, how the programs are run by local providers, legislative study, could be anything and everything about Family Support 360. I think there have been several changes and people (parents, people served, providers, therapists) need to know the basics and be able to ask questions.*

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Building Social Emotional Skills Through Digital Curriculum to Support Students and Educators**

**Kirsten Biersbach**

Description: This presentation analyzes current trends in digital curricula concerning students with emotional and behavioral issues and the current use of evidence and data-driven practices. Current research emphasizes social-emotional learning and strategies for promoting behavior regulation through game-based learning and inclusive environments.

The 21st-century educational climate evolves continuously to ensure the needs of all students are met. As a result, digital curricula that use both hands-on materials and technology-based programs are growing nationwide. Although school districts put countless time and energy into ensuring that these new digital technologies provide better student academic success, research in the digital curriculum is still a growing trend. In recent years, special education and digital curricula professionals have been coming together to formulate differing social-emotional learning (SEL) curricula to assist students with strong emotions or other behavioral issues to improve specific behavioral needs/goals. More specifically, varying game-based learning curricula will be presented and discussed in regard to outcomes, benefits, and data-driven results.

Digital curricula have been a trending topic in education but have yet to be taken to their full potential regarding interventions in special education. Digital curricula that



have been evidence-based and data-driven offers an opportunity for schools to create a more inclusive learning environment. Seizing the opportunity to implement social-emotional curricula in schools creates the opportunity to explore innovative ways to teach students who struggle with behavioral concerns. Sharing the current and future progress among other educational professionals offers a sea of new knowledge for growth and research into the world of digital curricula and social-emotional learning (SEL).

The presentation should concern all educators, administrators, curriculum specialists, guardians, parents, and students due to the improved life satisfaction that online social-emotional learning (SEL) programs offer to students with emotional and behavioral issues. School districts that invest in school-wide initiatives to support educators' well-being, student success, and overall improved school culture should be looking at a curriculum improvement plan within the SEL curriculum. Focusing on digital SEL curricula offers a more consistent basis for qualitative and quantitative data collection. Additionally, digital curricula provide digital and supplemental tools to assist all teaching styles. Most importantly, digital curricula offer educators more time in their busy schedules to help with other areas of need in the classroom. This informative presentation provides research to show that implementing SEL curricula can assist with school-wide social-emotional and behavioral issues, especially targeting students receiving special education services and at-risk youth.

Speaker Info: Ms. Biersbach has a Master of Arts in Advanced Disabilities, Bachelor of Science (BS) in Special Education, BS degree in Secondary English, and a minor in Native Studies. She is currently a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of South Dakota while obtaining her Ed. D in Curriculum and Instruction. She was a Special Education/Behavior Teacher at the Yankton School District for two years. She has provided respite and companion care for people with disabilities since starting her undergraduate degree in 2015.

**Wednesday, September 6 from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Oyáte Circle Community Outreach and Indigenous Perspectives of Disability  
Jim Warne, USD Center for Disabilities**

Description:

Oyáte Circle will provide an update of our community engagement and outreach activities at the nine Tribal communities (reservations) in South Dakota. We also have updates regarding our partnerships with other universities, USD departments, community service programs and national impacts and training. We will conclude with a discussion of Indigenous Perspectives of Disability and how Oyáte Circle incorporates these perspectives to better serve our indigenous communities.

Speaker Info:

Jim E. Warne is a member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation. Currently, Jim is the Community Engagement & Diversity Director at University of South Dakota (USD)

Center for Disabilities, Oyáte Circle Sanford School of Medicine and an Instructor for USD Pediatrics. Jim wrote several grants for University of South Dakota to establish the Oyáte Circle that include partnerships with various state/federal agencies, universities, and organizations. Jim is President of Warrior Society Development, LLC. He consults for various government agencies, organizations, Tribal Nations, academia. Jim's WSD Productions Film Division produced "7<sup>th</sup> Generation" an Award-Winning Documentary. His Emmy nominated short film, "Oyáte un Itówapi - Pictures of my People" was featured on Fox NFL Pregame Show, Thanksgiving 2020 and FOX "Voices" on MLK Day 2021. His new production is "Remember the Children" (2022).

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.**

**On Track and On Time**

**Brittany Schmidt, MA-CCC/SLP, Center for Disabilities**

Description: Challenges with Executive Functioning impact us all. This session will highlight using the Get Ready, Do, Done, approach for improving time management for greater success with task completion.

Original Speaker Info: Brittany Schmidt is a Speech Language Pathologist with over 30 years of experience working in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Imperfect Best Day to Day Resilience**

**Jason W Freeman, LLC**

Description: Caregivers often deal with things not going as planned. Complications and mistakes happen. Jason's presentation provides caregivers the opportunity to think about the ways they currently deal with frustrations that arise and also offers insights to consider from an "imperfect best" perspective. Some of the elements of the imperfect best perspective include: 1) accepting that missteps are part of every human's experience; 2) striving to deal with the emotional energy that arises when frustrations are encountered; 3) concentrating on finding ways to move forward when mistakes occur; 4) seeking to learn something from each imperfection experienced 5) realizing that patience and gentleness with oneself is of value in this challenging process.

Speaker Info: Jason Freeman presents to audiences around the country on creating opportunities out of challenges and coping with mistakes, uncertainties and frustrations. He has undergraduate degrees in Social Work and English, and an MFA in Poetry. He has written a book called "Awkwardly Awesome: Embracing My Imperfect Best" and has delivered a TEDx Talk. Mr. Freeman has a special interest in offering programs to staff providing disability services and to healthcare providers. He serves as a faculty member of USD Sanford School of Medicine where he is a clinical instructor in the Section of Ethics and Humanities. As the result of a birth injury, he has a lifetime of

experience navigating the challenges and opportunities that come with having a pronounced speech impediment.

**Weds. Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.**

**CHOICES Waiver**

**Staff, Division of Developmental Disabilities**

*Arlene's Description: Start to finish what is it, who is eligible, what services are covered, how to apply, grievance process, how the programs are run by local providers, legislative study of shared living, could be anything and everything about the CHOICES Waiver. I think there have been several changes and people (parents, people served, providers, therapists) need to know the basics and be able to ask questions.*

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 2 – 3 p.m.**

**Assessment of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Challenges**

**Arlene Poncelet, SD Council on Developmental Disabilities and Aimee Deliramich, USD Center for Disabilities**

Description: This session will provide preliminary findings from an assessment completed by the University of New Hampshire's National Center for START Services related to current available services in South Dakota for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. The assessment was completed in spring/summer of 2023, with the final report coming later in the winter of 2023.

Speaker Info: **Arlene Poncelet** has worked for the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities for 30 years – the last 26 as the Executive Director through a contract with Teachwell Solutions. She is a graduate of Dakota State University. She had cousins who lived at the SD Developmental Center before moving to communities and two nieces with cognitive disabilities.

**Aimee Deliramich, PhD** Dr. Deliramich is a licensed clinical psychologist and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of South Dakota, Center for Disabilities, in Sioux Falls, SD. In her role at the Center for Disabilities, Dr. Deliramich evaluates children and adults as part of an interdisciplinary diagnostic team within the Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinic and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Clinic. These training clinics allow LEND (Leadership, Education, and Excellence in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) graduate students across 12 disciplines to observe and participate under the direction, supervision, and mentorship of Dr. Deliramich. As a member of the LEND clinical faculty, Dr. Deliramich teaches courses related to mental health and disabilities, evidence-based treatments, and community resources. She is also part of the outreach education team working in partnership with South Dakota's Department of Education, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health



creating continuing education and graduate level course opportunities for educators, mental and healthcare providers, community members, etc. within the areas of disabilities, mental health, and evidence-based treatment. Dr. Deliramich was the project co-coordinator for a new ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) series focusing on disability cultural competence within a community of practice and was selected as a 2022-2023 AUCD/CDC Childhood Mental Health Champion. Dr. Deliramich received her bachelor's degree in psychology from University of Wyoming, her master's degree in counseling psychology from University of Hawaii, Hilo, and her doctorate degree in clinical psychology from University of South Dakota. Dr. Deliramich completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Kansas Medical Center and her post-doctoral training at LifeScape, an organization serving children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities, in Sioux Falls, SD.

***Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.***  
***Guardianship – An Advocates Perspective***  
***South Dakota Advocates for Change***

*Description:*

*Speaker Info:*

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.**  
**Supporting Families Through the Transition Process**  
**Betsy Drew, South Dakota Parent Connection**

Description: In this session participants will discuss parent's understanding of the transition process during IEP meetings and how school teams can enhance parent and student participation.

Speaker Info: Betsy Drew is a former public-school principal. She has worked at SD Parent Connection as an Outreach Specialist for 3 years. She has completed Ambassador training with Charting the Life Course and has presented to youth and families about transition services and supports.

**Wednesday, September 6 from 2 to 3 p.m.**  
**Intersectionality of Disability & Abuse/Assault**

**Description:** Discusses the role of Bridging South Dakota (BSD) and the effort to close the gap between disability and sexual assault services. BSD is working to create a coordinated response for victims and survivors of sexual violence who have disabilities and/or who are deaf or hard of hearing in South Dakota. Explore the barriers, statistics, and ways you can serve victims with disabilities.

**Original Speaker Info:**



Devin graduated from South Dakota State University (SDSU) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with a Minor in Criminal Justice. She joined Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD) at the Sioux Falls office, in 2021. Her current roles include Sexual Assault Disability Liaison with Bridging South Dakota (BSD), Program Director for the Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR) program, and an Advocacy Services Representative (ASR).

As part of the DRSD team Devin conducts trainings on self-advocacy, sexual assault/disability intersection, trauma informed care, disability rights. Prior to joining the DRSD Devin was an accounting assistant for University of South Dakota – Sioux Falls. Devin has two children. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, volunteering with Junior Achievement (JA), and having adventures with her kids. She is also a Veteran of the United States Air Force.

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 3:15 – 4:45**

**KEYNOTE: Mental Wellness for People with Disabilities**

**Dan Baker, Ph.D., NADD-CC, CCEP, Minnesota Department of Human Services**

Description: When we think about how to support people with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who are having a difficult time, we often look at how well a person's life matches their interests, or we look at what support to use to make things better. For people with challenging behavior, we often consider why the person has difficulties. Sometimes we miss asking whether people are "well." We think about the difficulties a person has. We think about how the disability impacts the person's life, but are we thinking about how to support the person in engaging in a healthy lifestyle that will promote mental wellness and having a good life.

Think about this in our lives. When we are not feeling ourselves or feeling stressed, we may have many ways of coping. We also have our own ways of living a life that is meaningful to us. Taking a new and better job, having time for a relaxing bath, or the time and money to engage in our favorite hobby are activities that are available to us when we want or need them. This is how we take care of our own mental wellness, but we tend to forget this important dimension when we start to plan behavior interventions. In this Tip Sheet, we will review concepts in mental wellness, and show how mental wellness is an important part of a positive supports framework. While there are different ways to think about wellness, we will consider the research-based framework of wellness developed by JoAnn Cannon, Ph.D. Her research is described in her book "Embracing the Good" (2005, Inward Bound Ventures).

Bio: Dr. Dan Baker is with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, where he serves as the Positive Supports Compliance Specialist with Quality Assurance and Disability Compliance Services. Dr. Baker also provides clinical supervision for the Successful Life Project. Dr. Baker is involved with the design, development, and monitoring of treatment and intervention programs to align with the Positive Supports

and a person-centered culture. Dr. Baker's clinical focus is on positive behavior support, models of community and educational support, transition services, and mental health services for persons with disabilities. Dr. Baker has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota and is a NADD Certified Clinician.

**Thursday, Sept. 7 from 8:30 – 10 a.m.**

**Panel of self-advocates and family members**

Self-advocates - Dillon Haug (independent living), Toni Feist (shared living), and ...  
Parents – Beth Haug, Marlys Feist

This session needs a description and someone to develop the questions to share with the individuals so they can be prepared.

**Thursday, Sept. 7 from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Preparing for the Future: Understanding Guardianship and Alternatives to Guardianship**

**Julie Johnson Dresbach and John Hamilton, Disability Rights South Dakota**

Description: In this session, presenters will discuss guardianship and alternatives to guardianship using the new guide created by SD Parent Connection and Disability Rights SD. The guide will be available for participants and on each agency's website and booths.

Julie Johnson Dresbach is a former Resource Coordinator/Program Specialist with the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Julie has numerous years of experience working in the field of developmental disabilities, including working with families and providers to find and maintain appropriate services. Julie has been a strong advocate through her career in state government, for people seeking and/or receiving services and the providers; and has worked on multiple initiatives for the betterment of all SD communities. Julie holds substantial knowledge in all aspects of human services and continues to serve her community through board positions, consulting, and mentoring.

**John Hamilton** has a B.S. in Business Administration, USD, J.D., USD School of Law, and MBA, USD School of Business. He began working for Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD) in 1986. He is the Legal Director and works in the Sioux Falls field office. John has been part of the Minnehaha County JDAI Partnership Committee since 2013 and served as Co-Team Lead of the Minnehaha County JDAI Facility Inspection Team in both 2012 and 2022. He received the Governor's Distinguished Service Award in 2022. He received SD Voices for Children's Champion for Children Award in 2009 and was a South Dakota Parent Connection Board of Director member from 2000 – 2006 (President 2001 – 03). John served on the Liberty Center/Here4YOUth Board of Directors, 1999 – 2008, 2009 – 2014 (President 2003 – 07), and South Dakota Advisory

Panel for Children with Disabilities, 1988 – 1994 (Chairman 1992 – 93). John has also been involved in many significant court cases over the years. John is married and has 1 daughter and 3 dogs. He enjoys playing softball, gardening, photography, and golf. He enjoys singing with the Singing Legionnaires (Post 15) and spending time with his family.

**Thursday, September 7 from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Creating Culturally Responsive Caregiver Training**

**Anissa Jepsen, EdD, BCBA and Taylor Jepsen, K-Now Behavioral Solutions, LLC**

Description: Identify cultural barriers practitioners may face when delivering caregiver training. Adapt best practices for current caregiver training materials to meet a family's cultural expectations. Develop motivational interviewing techniques that can be individualized to meet the diverse needs of caregivers.

Speaker Info: Anissa Jepsen, EdD, BCBA, is a board-certified behavior analyst with over 20 years of experience in organizational development focusing on youth and adult learning. She currently works with organizations focusing on providing early intervention services for children with autism. Britt Farley, BCBA-D, LBA is a board-certified behavior analyst with over 10 years in the field focusing on telehealth and serving military, rural and underserved audiences, focusing on children with autism.

Taylor Jepsen is a Social Worker with the Iowa Department of Human Services and working on her MSW. She also works at K-Now Behavioral Solutions.

**Thursday, September 7 from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Title: Caring For Each Other, It's About More Than Self-Care**

Description:

"Self-care." We all hear about it and how we should be doing it! But how in the world do we fit self-care into our already hectic lives when there is so much going on, so many needs to be met, and just not enough time? This session will explore the buzzword, "self-care." Join this session to discuss this topic and the notion that we often need to think outside the box and get creative when it comes to our self-care. Be ready to redefine what self-care means for each of us and how we can care for one another. This session is for everyone, including family caregivers, providers, and self-advocates.

Speaker Info:

**Aimee Deliramich, PhD** Dr. Deliramich is a licensed clinical psychologist and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of South Dakota, Center for Disabilities, in Sioux Falls, SD. In her role at the Center for Disabilities, Dr. Deliramich evaluates children and adults as part of an interdisciplinary diagnostic team within the Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinic and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Clinic. These training clinics allow LEND (Leadership, Education, and Excellence in

Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) graduate students across 12 disciplines to observe and participate under the direction, supervision, and mentorship of Dr. Deliramich. As a member of the LEND clinical faculty, Dr. Deliramich teaches courses related to mental health and disabilities, evidence-based treatments, and community resources. She is also part of the outreach education team working in partnership with South Dakota's Department of Education, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health creating continuing education and graduate level course opportunities for educators, mental and healthcare providers, community members, etc. within the areas of disabilities, mental health, and evidence-based treatment. Dr. Deliramich was the project co-coordinator for a new ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) series focusing on disability cultural competence within a community of practice and was selected as a 2022-2023 AUCD/CDC Childhood Mental Health Champion. Dr. Deliramich received her bachelor's degree in psychology from University of Wyoming, her master's degree in counseling psychology from University of Hawaii, Hilo, and her doctorate degree in clinical psychology from University of South Dakota. Dr. Deliramich completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Kansas Medical Center and her post-doctoral training at LifeScape, an organization serving children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities, in Sioux Falls, SD.

**Thursday, Sept. 7 from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.**  
**DSU's AdapT Lab Accessibility Via Tech**  
**Dr. Justin Blessinger**

Description: Dr. Justin Blessinger offers a "remote tour" of the facilities and recent projects of the AdapT Lab at Dakota State University, which is devoted to using technology to remove or minimize barriers to accessibility. Projects include using modern earbuds as emergency hearing aids, customizations for powered wheelchairs, rethinking personal protective gear for support staff, broadcasting directory info using Bluetooth devices, and a device that allows users to charge their phones from their powered wheelchair.

*Speaker Info:*

**Thursday, Sept. 7 from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.**  
**Individuals and Families Building Their Good Life in Partnership with Family Support 360**  
**Teri Bukowski, Jay Hill and Ashley DeBlauw**

Description: This presentation will highlight the success of how the Individual/Families are working and establishing Good Life plans through their relationships with their Family Support Coordinators. Individuals/families will present how they worked together and give examples of real-life stories.

Ashley DeBlauw has been a Family Support Coordinator for over 10 years in the field of human services and is a parent of son with a disability.



Jaren at her ISP last year said she had a dream to go to a concert. Due to mobility limitations, there was some concern, but we were able to help with that and she was able to go to a concert. Jaren and her sister will share their experience.

Teri Bukowski has a degree in Human Services, has worked in the field if ID/DD for over 20 years and is a parent of two adult sons who have ID/DD.

Mike Sass lives in Milbank, he moved back to his hometown about two years ago, lives on his own and has two jobs in Milbank at Running and Taco Johns.

Alex Sass lives in Milbank and like his brother Mike he moved back to his hometown a few years ago, lives on his own and keeps busy with his job at the Cenex gas station and spending time with his dog Tommy.

Jay Hill has been a Family Support Coordinator for over 10 years and is a parent of an adult daughter with a disability.

**Thursday, Sept. 7 from 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.**

**“Unseen”, a documentary about family caregiving  
South Dakota Developmental Disabilities Network**

Description: This is a 46-minute documentary that gives an unfiltered, honest glimpse into the lives of families who are caring for and supporting a loved one with disabilities. In sharing this documentary, we want to promote awareness and discussion about the critical role of families in the care and support of their family member with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD). Regardless of how old an individual with I/DD is and where they live, they are part of families who are critical to supporting, advocating, and ensuring that each family member can live an interdependent life, as independently as possible, with positive relationships and meaningful days. For those who do not bear these responsibilities, the film offers a rare peek inside the daily struggles of their friends, co-workers, or neighbors. For caregivers in the trenches, “Unseen” allows them to be “seen.”

Speaker Info: The South Dakota Developmental Disabilities network, also known as the DD Network includes the USD Center for Disabilities, Disability Rights South Dakota, and the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities. The DD Network works to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. A small workgroup of DD Council members and staff from the three DD Network agencies have been presenting screenings and leading discussions since April 2023.

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.**

**Title TBD**

***Val Wicker, Multi-Cultural Center***

*Description:*

*Speaker Info:*

***Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.***  
***Transitions***  
***South Dakota Advocates for Change***

*Description:*

*Speaker Info:*

***Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.***  
***OPEN***

*Description:*

*Speaker Info:*

***Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 2-3 p.m.***  
***OPEN – Charting the LifeCourse***

*Description:*

*Speaker Info:*