



## ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE 7/27/17

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### 1. [FEATURED WEBINAR & RELATED RESOURCES:](#)

**Illinois ABLE Accounts Webinar (7/31/17 from 1-2:30) with Robert Baron, Senior Advisor in the office of Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs**

*Section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, passed by Congress in 2014, allows for states to establish tax-advantaged savings vehicles to assist persons with blindness or disability save for the future without putting their federal means-tested benefits at risk.*

*The Illinois State Treasurer is the administrator of Illinois' 529A program, called Illinois ABLE, which is a partnership of 15 states to provide the most robust ABLE services at the lowest cost to beneficiaries. This multi-state partnership is called the National ABLE Alliance and represents roughly one quarter of the US disability population.*

*The program is flexible to users who wish to invest or simply to save their money free from putting their federal benefits in danger, with six simple-to-use investment options and one banking product.*

#### [Join WebEx meeting](#)

Meeting number (access code): 803 332 613

Meeting password: 8e2GdkTG

Join from a video system or application

Dial [803332613@illinois.webex.com](mailto:803332613@illinois.webex.com)

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0002 US Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#)

[Can't join the meeting?](#)

- **LEAD Focuses on the Connection between the ABLE Act and Employment**

This past quarter, the LEAD Center conducted substantial work to educate disability-related stakeholders about how having an ABLE account can assist a person with obtaining and maintaining competitive integrated employment.

[Continue reading "LEAD Focuses on the Connection between the ABLE Act and Employment "](#)

- **LEAD PARTNER: ABLE National Resource Center**

To celebrate The ABLE National Resource Center (ANRC) is a collaborative that brings together the investment, support, and resources of some of the country's most influential national disability organizations to accelerate the design and availability of ABLE accounts. Founded and managed by National Disability Institute (NDI), ANRC's goal is to provide consistent, reliable information concerning the benefits of an ABLE account. ABLE accounts, created as a result of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 (ABLE Act), are tax-advantaged savings accounts for eligible individuals with disabilities.

[Continue reading "LEAD PARTNER: ABLE National Resource Center "](#)

- [The ABLE Act and Employment: Strategies for Maximizing the Effectiveness of the Achieving a Better Life Experience \(ABLE\) Act as a Tool for Financial Stability and Employment Outcomes of People with Disabilities](#)

## **2. WEBINARS:**

- **Webinar: Exploring and Involving a Person's Circle of Support to Improve Their Health and Recovery**



July 26, 2017

3:00 - 4:30 PM EDT

## Presenters

- **Tony Salerno**, PhD, National Council for Behavioral Health
- **Barbara Green**, PSA Behavioral Health Agency

Register for free at: [https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1152858&tp\\_key=40d982793b](https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1152858&tp_key=40d982793b)

Exploring and involving a member of a client or patient's social network requires skills that are often not taught in school. Join the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions for a webinar on July 26, 2017 that will provide an overview of the steps involved in the 'Consumer Centered Family Consultation (CCFC)' approach and the tools available to support staff.

CCFC, which is rooted in principles of recovery, is an easy to use approach that assists staff to engage consumers in identifying:

- Who they would like to assist them with achieving a specific recovery or wellness goal
- How to reach out and invite the family or another person in the consumer's network to a session
- How to successfully facilitate a session with the consumer, the identified support person and the staff person.

In this webinar, participants will:

1. Recall why family support is important
2. Identify the 3 phases of the Consumer Centered Family Consultation (CCFC) approach
3. Identify their next steps to implement a consumer's circle of support

*Please note the following:*

- *Registration is free and closed captioning is available upon request.*
- *The audio for this webcast is via computer speakers and not telephone. We recommend using external speakers for desktop computers to ensure best audio quality. [Test your system here >>](#)*
- *The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions does not provide certificates of attendance or continuing education credits for webinar attendance.*

- **Peer Support – Then and Now**

**Friday, July 28**

*(12:00 ET | 11:00 CT | 10:00 MT | 9:00 PT)*



*Beth Filson: iNAPS Executive Consultant*

Beth Filson joins iNAPS as Executive Consultant this year. Her experience developing the peer work force spans nearly sixteen years. In this webinar, she will provide a long-distance view from the early days of peer support work when Georgia was the first state to win Medicaid approval for peer services, to the present day proliferation and recognition of peer support on the international stage. Peer support continues to evolve and grow, and with it, a new understanding of what makes peer support unique, and its power to aid in healing.

[Click here to join the Webinar on Friday, July 28](#)

(12 Noon Eastern | 11 CT | 10 MT | 9 PT)

Meeting number: 318 791 587

Meeting password: optum

(No pre-registration required)

- **The Role of Lived Experience in Dismantling Collateral Consequences Caused by Incarceration**

Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 | 1:00 to 2:30 PM CDT



When programs and policymakers include the voices of those whom they serve and directly impact, their decision-making processes and policies are more inclusive, comprehensive, and impactful. Our upcoming webinar will lift up how different organizations are partnering with and learning from people with lived experience to drive policy and systems change in criminal justice reforms related to employment, housing, and other collateral consequences of incarceration.

[Register Here >>](#)

- **ADA Live! Emergencies: How to Prepare for Them and What to Do Afterwards**

The NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webcast, [Emergencies: How to Prepare for Them and What to Do Afterwards](#), August 2nd, 1-1:30pm ET, the latest episode in the ADA Live! series. Presenters will discuss what anyone should do in an emergency, and specifically what people with disabilities should do before, during, and after an emergency. No registration is required and [questions may be submitted in advance](#).

- **Diversity & Inclusion in Faith Communities**

### Meeting Description:

Is there a need to consider diversity and inclusion strategies in the faith community? Diversity and inclusion has increasingly become a focal point for businesses, educational institutions and service organizations.

During this webinar we will discuss the following:

- How diversity represents the various combinations of human difference, e.g., learning styles, life experiences, race/ethnicity, gender, political, national origin and other factors.
- The importance of inclusion in faith communities which includes the active, intentional on going engagement with diversity, i.e., employment, service, other systems.

Regardless of the definition of faith community – denomination, church, synagogue, mosque or some other format or expression of faith – diversity and inclusion factors play a critical role.

Organizations are made up of a diverse group of individuals from different cultural backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, educational levels, abilities, etc. The spiritual leader of the organization along with other leaders/workers and the individual members of the organization carry a set of conscious and unconscious biases, thoughts and feelings about others within the group and outside of the group. This can impact the organization as well as the life experiences of individuals within that faith community in a positive and or negative manner.

**Diversity and inclusion is an important element in the success and experiences of all faith communities.**

Rev. Deborah Burris, M. Div.  
Diversity Consultant

[Register Now](#)

### Details

**Date:** Wed, Aug 9, 2017

**Time:** 10:30 AM CDT

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Host(s):** Jermine Alberty

### Presenter Information

#### Rev. Deborah Burris, M. Div.



#### About Rev. Deborah Burris, M. Div.

Rev. Deborah J. Burris earned her Master Divinity from Eden Seminary and is the Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

In this capacity, she provides administrative leadership for equal opportunity and diversity for UMSL and counsels the chancellor, senior administrators, faculty, staff and students concerning equal opportunity issues.

She brings to her position over 30 years of higher education experience working in student development, human resources and equal opportunity/diversity administration. Advancing opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups has been at the core of her career.

She currently serves as co-chair of the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Council. Ms. Burris earned a Master of Education in Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri Columbia and an undergraduate degree from St. Louis University in Organizational Development.

[or click here to register](#)

- **[PEAT Talks: Making Tech Fields Accessible](#)**

**Thursday, August 17, 2pm-3pm ET WEBINAR**

[EvoX Labs](#) founder Ather Sharif will discuss his experiences in making tech-focused workplaces more inclusive, from building technology solutions to how and why EvoX Labs developed a partnership with [Access Computing at UW](#) that connects students with disabilities with mentors and internships in tech.

[Register Now](#)

- **[Evidence-Based Strategies for Serving Jobseekers and Workers with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions](#)**

[Register Now](#)

Human services and workforce development programs have a critical role to play in supporting work for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Fortunately, there are many evidence-based strategies for helping these clients prepare for, attain, and retain employment. [This webinar](#) will highlight three such strategies being implemented in Washington and North Carolina.

The Washington Department of Social and Health Services is piloting a Supported Employment program which assists individuals with mental illness in choosing, acquiring, and maintaining competitive employment. Because this pilot uses braided funding of both TANF and non-TANF, job coaches can continue to support the client after the job has started - for as long as they are needed. Researchers at the University of North Carolina have partnered with local human services agencies to show how public health nursing interventions can improve employment outcomes for job seekers and low-wage workers with chronic health conditions.

North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services has implemented Project SEARCH, a strong evidence-based model for transitioning youth with disabilities into competitive employment, within its own department.

***Presenters:***

**Tarimah Williams**, *TANF/WorkFirst Program Manager*

*Economic Services Administration's Community Service Division (CSD)*

*Washington Department of Social and Health Services*

**Melodie Pazolt**, *Recovery Support Services Supervisor*

*Behavioral Health Administration*

*Washington Department of Social and Health Services*

**Alice Farrar**, *Interim Chief of Employment Services and Program Development*

*North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*

**Shawn Kneipp**, *Associate Professor*

*UNC at Chapel Hill's School of Nursing*



Thursday, August 24th  
3:00 - 4:30 pm ET

**REGISTER NOW**

Brought to you by:  
The American Public Human Services Association



- **Thursday, September 14, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET**

**Webinar: Creating Inclusive Higher Education Work Environments for People with Mental Health Disabilities**

In the higher education workplace environment, policies and practices that support success for faculty and staff with mental health conditions are also sound management practices that benefit all workers and employers. During this webinar, hosted by EARN in collaboration with the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC), a panel of experts will explore this issue in depth. While geared toward higher education, the content that will be shared is widely applicable, and employers in all industries are encouraged to participate. [Register for the September 14 webinar.](#)

**ARCHIVED:**

- **Diversity Partners June 29, 2017 webinar archive available now.**  
**“INCLUDING JOB SEEKERS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM:  
IMPLEMENTING SECTION 188”**

**[LISTEN TO THE WEBINAR HERE](#)**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has presented a new challenge to workforce development professionals: affirmatively recruit and offer services to more job seekers with disabilities. This webinar highlights information from the Diversity Partners online modules that can help workforce development professionals achieve greater inclusion of job seekers with disabilities. Listen to the requirements of Section 188, and review strategies for building a more inclusive workforce

**Learn more about Diversity Partners**  
at [www.buildingdiversitypartners.org](http://www.buildingdiversitypartners.org)

The contents of this project were developed under a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this presentation do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Copyright © 2016 Cornell University.

- **EFLMP Communications and Branding Strategies For Transition to CIE.**

If you were unable to join, you can view it [here](#). Meeting materials can be downloaded from the webinar recording. The unofficial transcript can be found [here](#).

- **The CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO), in collaboration with The Lewin Group and SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS), is excited to announce an upcoming webinar:**

***Tools to Support Clients with Self-Management***

Goal-setting through action planning, a key element of self-management support (SMS), includes working with clients and their natural supports to formulate short-term objectives for their health and develop specific steps for crisis management.

This webinar will explore how behavioral health organizations and providers can implement SMS with their clients using action planning. Participants will review Resources for Integrated Care's [Action Plan Selection Guide](#) along with other tools and models for supporting self-management. Following this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Define the key elements of action planning with clients to promote self-management;
2. Identify different evidence-based self-management tools, including the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) and the Whole Health Action Management (WHAM) program; and
3. Support conversations with clients on the self-management of chronic conditions and mental illness using RIC client handouts.

**Featured Speakers:**

- Larry Fricks, Deputy Director, SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions
- Matthew Federici, WRAP Facilitator, Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery
- Ellen Hochberg, CRSS, WRAP Facilitator, Thresholds, Inc.
- Alexis Estomin, Resources for Integrated Care, The Lewin Group

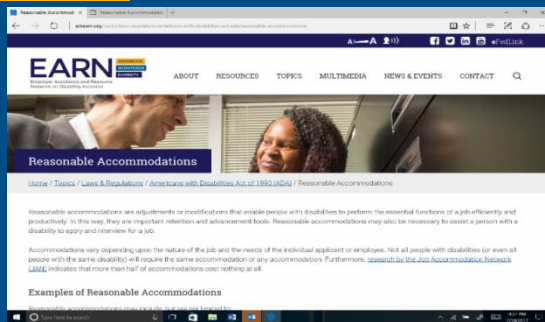
*Recordings of the webinar will be available for online streaming or download at <https://www.resourcesforintegratedcare.com>. The Resources for Integrated Care website also features additional resources and tools for providers and health plans.*

**Please contact [RIC@lewin.com](mailto:RIC@lewin.com) with any questions**

**3. EMPLOYER FOCUSED RESOURCES:**



## ASKEARN.ORG SPOTLIGHT



### **Reasonable Accommodations**

A key component of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – passed 27 years ago this week – is the concept of reasonable workplace accommodations. These are adjustments or modifications that enable qualified people with disabilities to perform the essential functions of a job. They may also be necessary to assist a person to apply and interview for a job. To help employers learn more, EARN offers a webpage on the basics of reasonable accommodations, with links to more in-depth resources.

[READ MORE](#)

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



### **Kellogg's**

To help deliver on its commitment to creating a welcoming environment for current and future employees with disabilities and their supporters, Kellogg's has an employee resource group called "Kapable." In collaboration with company leadership, Kapable seeks to foster a more disability-inclusive culture through events and other initiatives to increase understanding and encourage dialogue, both internally and within employees' local communities.

[READ MORE.](#)

- [Take the ADA Pledge!](#)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network offers a toolkit of resources that businesses and other organizations can use to observe the ADA anniversary, during July and all year round. In addition to a listing of featured events, a media kit with downloadable materials, and other resources, the ADA Anniversary Toolkit offers employers the opportunity to sign a proclamation to become part of the nationwide celebration and recommitment to the ADA. Those who take the pledge are publicly recognized on the website by state. [Visit the ADA Anniversary Toolkit.](#)

- [CEO Action on Diversity and Inclusion](#)

Last month, CEOs from more than 150 of the world's largest corporations collectively committed to advancing workforce diversity and inclusion and encouraging open discussion about related issues within their companies. The initiative, called "CEO Action for Diversity and Inclusion," entails a pledge and a database of member company's efforts around workplace diversity and inclusion, including those

related to people with disabilities. The coalition also plans to hold a summit in the fall to share best practices and welcome other companies who have joined the effort. [Learn more about CEO Action for Diversity and Inclusion.](#)

- **[PEAT Talks: Making Tech Fields Accessible](#)**

**Thursday, August 17, 2pm-3pm ET WEBINAR**

[EvoXLabs](#) founder Ather Sharif will discuss his experiences in making tech-focused workplaces more inclusive, from building technology solutions to how and why EvoXLabs developed a partnership with [Access Computing at UW](#) that connects students with disabilities with mentors and internships in tech.

[Register Now](#)

- **[US Business Leadership Network Conference \(USBLN\)](#)**

**August 21-24 in Orlando, FL CONFERENCE**

The annual USBLN conference focuses on sharing and developing proven strategies for including people with disabilities in the workplace, supply chain, and marketplace. This year's theme "Disability: A Catalyst for Innovation" will celebrate how people and corporations are driving innovation through disability inclusion, including several technology-related breakout sessions.

- **[UpSkilling Playbook for Employers, Is Upskilling Right for Your Company?](#)**



What advantages could upskilling bring to your company? Chapter 5 of the [UpSkilling Playbook for Employers, Is Upskilling Right for Your Company?](#), offers employers several key factors to consider when assessing whether to implement an upskilling program. Turnover and retention rates, recruitment costs, and mission are just a few factors for employers to consider when assessing the benefits an upskilling program could offer.

For more information, [read the chapter](#). Check out the [full playbook](#) for more examples of employers that have pursued upskilling strategies, investing in economic opportunities for workers while benefitting their companies at the same time.

## Is Upskilling Right for Your Company?

### 4. GENERAL RESOURCES:

- **NLS Debuts New Website and Pilot Programs**

The [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped \(NLS\)](#) at the Library of Congress recently [debuted their new website](#) - a gateway to the network of library services for people who are blind, have low vision, or have physical disabilities. The new website has been designed for users with and without visual disabilities, and includes tools to adjust the layout for a range of visual needs. In a recent blog post, [NLS Director Karen Keninger also detailed four new programs currently being piloted at NLS network libraries](#): duplication on demand, wireless download, synthetic speech, and Braille e-readers.

- **New Research Briefs from the RRTC on Advancing Employment for Individuals with IDD**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Advancing Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(IDD\)](#) has published two new research briefs on findings from the National Core Indicators Adult Consumer Survey of 2012-2013. [How is Guardianship Status Related to Employment Status for People with IDD?](#) explores whether having a legal guardian can impact the paid employment of people with IDD. [What is the Relationship Between Gender and Employment Status for Individuals with IDD?](#) describes some of the demographic differences among people with IDD who responded to the survey.

- **2017 Facts and Figures Factsheets for SCI, TBI, and Burn Injury**

The NIDILRR-funded [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#) has published the 2017 factsheets for spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and burn injury, produced with the NIDILRR-funded Model Systems data centers. [SCI Facts and Figures at a Glance](#) (PDF) was produced with the National SCI Statistical Center. [National Database: 2017 Profile of People Within the TBI Model Systems](#) (PDF) was produced with the TBI Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center. [National Database: 2017 Profile of Adults Included in the Burn Injury Model Systems](#) (PDF) and [National Database: 2017 Profile of Children Included in the Burn Injury Model Systems](#) (PDF) were produced with the Burn Model Systems Data and Statistical Center.

- **Advocacy Skill Building Toolkit**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities \(RTC: Rural\)](#) has released an [Advocacy Skill Building Toolkit](#), a new set of resources to conduct workshops that helps develop the advocacy skills of emerging independent living leaders and youth with disabilities. The toolkit describes how to introduce advocacy through the facilitation of discussions and unique activities like improvisation, identifying issues of importance, and putting advocacy skills into practice.

- **It's Loud Out There: Hearing Health Across the Lifespan**

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) have posted video and slides from [It's Loud Out There: Hearing Health Across the Lifespan](#), the June session of the Public Health Grand Rounds webcast series. Experts discussed the problem of hearing loss, its causes, prevention

strategies, and public health solutions. In a companion video, Beyond the Data, presenters discussed the growth of hearing loss in the US and how it affects younger and older people alike, and shared tips and resources to protect hearing health in an increasingly noisy world.

- **A Guided Career Planning Program May Help Young Adults with Mental Health Challenges Achieve Their Goals**

For young adults with mental health challenges, the right career planning program may help put them on the path to achieving their life goals, this week's [Research In Focus](#) finds.

- **AAC Study Highlighted on WKRC**

The NIDILRR-funded project on [Improving Outcomes Using Aided Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\) for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#) was featured in [Giving children a voice: Children's Hospital enrolling for language intervention study](#) on [WKRC Cincinnati](#). Principal Investigator Jareen Meinzen-Derr, PhD, described the study and how the children who participated in the program have improved in language, comprehension, and social skills. The video includes demonstration of the AAC technology in action.

- **Facts for Features: Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act: July 26**

The [US Census Bureau](#) has published a collection of resources, [Facts for Features: Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act: July 26](#), which provides a demographic snapshot of the US population with disabilities and examines various services available to support full participation of people with disabilities in the community. Facts and figures are gathered from several Census Bureau surveys and census reports and cover differing periods of time. The collection includes downloadable graphics and other resources.

- **On-line Resources on Technology Related Aspects of WIOA**

In honor of the 27th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) has enhanced its [suite of online resources](#) on the technology-related aspects of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Among other provisions, WIOA requires American Job Centers (AJCs) and affiliated sites to use information and communications technologies (ICT) that are accessible to individuals with disabilities. PEAT's WIOA tools help AJCs understand their tech-related responsibilities under WIOA, along with the nuts and bolts of making their ICT accessible to customers.

Newly added resources include:

- A [fact sheet](#) on the tech-related implications of WIOA
- A [digital accessibility checklist](#) for AJCs
- A [ready-to-share presentation deck](#) to train AJC staff on WIOA and accessible technology best practices.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, PEAT fosters collaboration and action around accessible technology in the workplace. To access PEAT's full suite of WIOA resources, visit <https://www.peatworks.org/content/wioa>.

- **Release of Guided Group Discovery Materials as a Universal Design to Promote Employment Outcomes**

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the LEAD Center recently released materials and resources for use by workforce professionals to implement Guided Group Discovery (GGD), most effectively used through cross-system partnerships. Guided Group Discovery is a set of strategies that can benefit any job seeker who faces barriers to employment. GGD is a universal design approach used

in public and private workforce development programs (e.g., American Job Centers, community rehabilitation providers, schools, etc.) to enable youth and adults with disabilities, and others, to secure and maintain employment.

[Continue reading "Release of Guided Group Discovery Materials as a Universal Design to Promote Employment Outcomes "](#)

- [Guided Group Discovery Introduction and Course](#)
- [Guided Group Discovery Participant Workbook](#)
- [Guided Group Discovery Facilitator Guide](#)
- **Suicide Prevention Resources-On average, one person in Illinois dies by suicide every six hours-help is available**
  - 800.273.8255 – Suicide Prevention Lifeline
  - 741741 – Crisis Text Line
  - 866.359.7953 – Warm Line
  - #helpjustone
- **Supporting the Unique Needs of the LGBTQ Community**



## SAMHSA-HRSA CENTER FOR INTEGRATED HEALTH SOLUTIONS



As you provide care for your clients in an integrated setting, it is imperative to consider the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) clients. Many LGBTQ individuals face daily challenges such as a lack of supportive communities, financial resources, stable housing, and affirmative workplaces. These disparities can lead to increased rates of mental illness, HIV/AIDS, suicide, substance use, certain cancers, and other negative health outcomes.

The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) can support providers at all organizational levels in building knowledge of LGBTQ sensitive topics. From preventive best practices to innovations in treatment, CIHS is here to help you navigate the continuum of care with free [1:1 consults](#) by subject matter experts, [webinars](#), [products](#), and [resources](#).

Wherever you fall on the integrated care continuum, consider how many of the following steps your organization has taken:

- Using the Joint Commission’s [field guide](#) on communicating patient- and family-centered care for the LGBTQ community as a roadmap to examine current practices and promote cultural inclusivity.
- Informing staff webinars trainings, such as National Council’s webinar, “[Behavioral Health Services for Sexual and Gender Minority Adults: Where Data and Practice Intersect](#),” and those available from the [SAMHSA-funded YMSM+LGBT Center of Excellence](#).
- Preparing staff to provide sensitive and informed care by utilizing “[LGBT Training Curricula for Behavioral Health and Primary Care Practitioners](#)” and learning modules and guides available from [The National LGBT Health Education Center](#).
- Reviewing practice guidelines for [trauma-informed approaches](#) for working with LGBTQ teens and young adults, and best practices for engaging parents and caregivers in the care of LGBTQ youth with SAMHSA’s [resource guide](#).
- Ensuring your substance use disorder treatment and prevention approaches are sensitive to LGBTQ clients by using the clinician and program administrator resources in [SAMHSA’s LGBT Treatment Guide](#).
- Recognizing that race, ethnicity, culture, language, and beliefs are components of identity, and committing to validating and expanding knowledge of the experiences of [LGBTQ persons of color](#).
- Assessing current [policies and practices](#) to ensure your organization scores well on the Healthcare Equality Index (HEI).

Keep in mind that each distinct population within the LGBTQ community faces its own challenges and health issues. Here are a few additional resources that can help you understand some of these unique challenges:

- [Top Health Issues for LGBT Populations](#)
- [Top 10 Things Lesbians Should Discuss with Their Healthcare Provider](#)
- [Top 10 Things Gay Men Should Discuss with Their Healthcare Provider](#)
- [Understanding Issues Facing Bisexual Americans](#)
- [Center of Excellence for Transgender Health](#)

For the most updated information from SAMHSA and HRSA, check the following websites on a regular basis:

- [SAMHSA’s LGBT Page](#)
- [HRSA’s LGBT Page](#)

Whether you have questions about where to start, want to connect with other organizations at similar stages of integration, or are looking for a specific tool to help move your organization along, contact CIHS at [Integration@TheNationalCouncil.org](mailto:Integration@TheNationalCouncil.org) to learn more about support available to your team.

## **5. OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE:**



- **Planning for the Future, August 10, 2017, 10:30 a.m. – noon, 3003 W Touhy Ave in Chicago**

**Presented By Scott Nixon, Executive Director of Life's Plan Incorporated**

Learn about the variety of estate planning tools that are important for the families of adults with disabilities with special focus on Pooled Trust for People with Disabilities. Also reviewing other planning issues including:

- . Special Needs Trust Administration
- . What is an Able Account?
- . The importance of the Trust Administrator
- . Expenses allowed by the Trust

- **Search Strategies to Find Affordable and , Accessible Housing Options for Seniors and, People with Disabilities, September 14, 2017, 10:30 a.m. – noon**

**Presented by Christie Norrick, Manager Consumer Assistance, CJE SeniorLife**

This program will provide information about how to search for different housing options. Presenter will explain how to search using the internet and resource list, describing what to expect at each point in the moving process.

**To register or to request special accommodations, please contact Mariana Sanchez, Linkages Coordinator, at 773.508.1106 or [linkages@cje.net](mailto:linkages@cje.net)**

- **Support the Field: Take our Survey on CDBG-Funded Employment Services**





If you're an employment services provider funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), we'd like to [hear more](#) about your work. We're curious to learn how CDBG is being leveraged in your community to support employment services, and your [feedback](#) will shape our thinking about how CDBG can best increase access to employment and economic opportunity for low-income individuals.

If you're not funded through CDBG to do this work but know of providers who are, we'd really appreciate if you'd forward along this survey.

[Take our survey \(or share it!\) >>](#)

- **Minority Mental Health Month**

July is Minority Mental Health Month, and our social media campaign using *#notacharacterflaw* is fully underway. We are encouraging minority communities to openly discuss mental illness and the fact that mental illness is oftentimes seen as a character flaw among many communities of color. If you are interested in supporting the effort and aren't doing so yet, you can access a range of shareable images via the following link:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gjxrpqnun0760li/AADySEbv17tJJHWt901Yh\\_Cra?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gjxrpqnun0760li/AADySEbv17tJJHWt901Yh_Cra?dl=0).



You can also follow our [Chiming In Blog](#) to read guest posts from some of our partners that hone in on the issues addressing mental health in minority communities. The first guest blog post featured “Fable the Poet,” and touches on his work to help increase mental health awareness by using spoken word. Access the blog [here](#).

**6. FOOD FOR THOUGHT-DISABILITY AND POVERTY, TRAUMA INFORMED CARE IN EMPLOYMENT & COMMUNITY INCLUSION**

- **Disable Poverty**-It's been one year since NDI launched **DISABLE POVERTY** – the campaign to increase awareness about disability and poverty in America. At National Disability Institute, we believe that no one with a disability should live in poverty, and we dedicate ourselves to this mission each day.

**Today, as we celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we're excited to share a new DISABLE POVERTY outreach video.**

We hope that you will share this with your friends, family, coworkers and more, and encourage others to take the DISABLE POVERTY pledge!



- **From the Blog: Trauma-Informed Care Matters in Employment Services**

Incorporating trauma-informed care into employment services for people facing barriers to work is essential—and our new blog features ideas and practical tips for doing so.

<https://nationalinitiatives.wordpress.com/2017/07/14/ideas-for-incorporating-trauma-informed-care-into-employment-services/>

[Learn more >>](#)



**All People Are Able To Live In Integrated Environments**

Integrated Environments involve where people receiving supports live, work, and spend their leisure time, along with how they interact and connect to those spaces and the people in them. This component of quality of life goes beyond just physical integration, and explores opportunities for people to build social capital, alongside people both with and without disabilities.

CQL's data system, PORTAL, reveals only 41.6% of people with disabilities in our sample of approximately 1,400 people live in integrated environments. In [this article](#), we share data collected and analyzed within PORTAL, to evaluate factors that influence the presence of the Personal Outcome Measures® indicator, *People Live In Integrated Environments*.

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