

YOU ARE THE EXPERT CONFERENCE 2008
Celebrating Families and Professionals: The Heart of Success
Agenda

Saturday, April 5, 2008

8:00 am — Continental Breakfast and

“You Make a Difference” Awards

8:45 am - 10:15 am – Keynote Presentation:

The State of the State of Washington by Josh L. Brothers

An update of legislation, litigation, and other changes from around the state which affects the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. The focus will be on individual's ability to effectuate change in the system and empowering audience to seek this change.

The audience will benefit from the information about changes around the state and will encourage people to seek systemic change through individual advocacy.

10:30 am – Noon — Breakout sessions

1. ***Starting a New Journey-Transition to Preschool Special Education Services*** by Andrea Sheehan

Information will be shared on what should happen during the transition process from a birth- to-three agency to pre-school special education services. There will be time for a question and answer session. Participants will learn the timelines in the transition process, what to expect during transition meetings and how to follow up to meetings. By becoming more knowledgeable about the special education process parents are better able to participate in meetings, be a more confident advocate for their child and will be more effective communication with the school district and other providers.

2. ***Working with Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Effects, and Autism Spectrum Disorders*** by Diane Davis, MA

This workshop will offer specific hands on strategies for working successfully with children with FAS/FAE and autism spectrum disorder. Topics will include: The similarities between FAS/FAE and ASD, home and classroom setup, behavior management, teaching social skills, treatments available, and how to best support their parents.

Participants will understand the similarities between FAS/FAE and ASD. They will learn how to set up their homes and classrooms for meeting the environmental needs of children with FAS/FAE and ASD. They will also learn strategies for managing behaviors. They will become aware of various

treatments available. They will learn positive ways to support parents. They will learn how to teach social skills.

3. ***Transition under IDEA 2004: Can We Expect Better Outcomes?*** By *Tricia and Cal Luker*

The session will primarily focus on the procedural and substantive transition provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. The participants will learn how the transition provisions of the Act can be applied to successfully advocate for employment opportunities, independent living, academic postsecondary opportunities, and transition planning for youth with disabilities. This session will also discuss salient administrative and court decisions on transition planning and services.

4. ***Washington Virtual Academy—Meeting the Needs of Students in the 21st Century*** by *Kris Hirschmann and Mark Conley*

An overview of educational options through the Washington Virtual Academy (K-12) will be provided to participants with a discussion of how students with special needs are provided their IEP services. The overview will focus on: The advantages of the “Choice Law” that offers families options for enrollment to meet the educational needs of their child; and the unique curriculum design of the K-12 curriculum used by WAVA.

Participants will have a better understanding of how virtual education can benefit students who have special needs.