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2021 Make Your Mark! Conference
Be a Game Changer!

September 15-16, 2021

#BeAGameChanger

West Des Moines Marriott
West Des Moines, IA

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

TIME	SESSION NAME	SPEAKER	ROOM
8:30 AM – 9:45 AM	REGISTRATION BREAKFAST EXHIBITOR FAIR		
8:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Your Rights to Equal Access to Health Care	Catherine Johnson	
9:45 AM – 11:00 AM	GENERAL SESSION Come to Your Senses	Michael Kutcher	Concord A/B
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK		
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	Talent Bank	Monica Stone	Salon A
	How to Be a Parent Advocate and Changing Spaces Iowa	Amanda Milham	Salon B
	How We Changed Our Game!	Tammie Amsbaugh	Salon C
	How We Won: Direct Action and the Disability Rights Movement	Emmanuel Smith	Concord C/D
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH		Concord A/B
	Grab Lunch (12:30 PM – 12:45 PM)		
	Mia Peterson Self-Advocacy Award Presentation (12:45 PM – 1:00 PM)		
	Updates with Director Kelly Garcia (1:00 PM – 1:30PM)		
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK		
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	GENERAL SESSION Going 'All In' on the Hand You Were Dealt	Alex Watters	Concord A/B
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK		

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

TIME	SESSION NAME	SPEAKER	ROOM
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS		
	How to Get Adaptive Sports Started in Your Community	Hannah Lundeen	Salon B
	Harkin Institute: Update on Advocacy Initiatives	Emily Schettler	Salon C
	Upgrade Medicaid Advocacy Group	Jenn Wolff Tucker Cassidy	Concord C/D
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM	EXHIBITOR FAIR		
5:30 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN		
7:45 PM – 8:30 PM	INTERACTIVE GAMES WITH ADAPTIVE SPORTS IOWA		Concord A/B

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION BREAKFAST		Concord A/B
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	WELCOME GENERAL SESSION	Dave Price	Concord A/B
	Panel of Advocates: Jenn Wolff, Tucker Cassidy, Brady Werger, Rob Roozeboom, Robert Fisher		
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	BREAK		
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	GENERAL SESSION	Dave Price	Concord A/B
	Panel of Legislators: Senator Brad Zaun, Representative Eddie Andrews, Senator Sarah Trone Garriott, Representative Marti Anderson		
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	LUNCH CLOSING		Concord A/B

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

ROOM: CONCORD A/B

Come to Your Senses

★ Michael Kutcher ★

Michael's story of perseverance and overcoming obstacles offers a new perspective on life and how we approach the everyday lives and the people we encounter. Michael's story is profound. He has lived the successes and reached life milestones that many didn't think he ever could. His experiences and perspective on cerebral palsy have led him to work directly with Reaching for the Stars, A Foundation of Hope for Children with Cerebral Palsy as an advocate and public speaker.

Michael's message is one of inspiration, hope, and appreciation. Having overcome unthinkable challenges against extraordinary odds, Michael is living proof that perseverance and unwavering positivity can surmount even seemingly impossible obstacles.

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

ROOM: SALON A

Talent Bank

★ Monica Stone ★

Have you ever wanted to be a government leader? The Iowa Talent Bank is for you. The Iowa Talent Bank is a new technology tool

that matches your skills and interests with leadership opportunities in state and local government. Members of Iowa's appointed boards and commissions make decisions that impact our lives every day — and the Iowa Talent Bank is your access to being a decision-maker. In this session, you will learn:

1. Why is it important to have a voice in all areas of government?
2. What is the Iowa Talent Bank and how can I be a part of it?
3. How do I develop my profile and share my interests?
4. How can I find a mentor to enhance my skills to serve on a board or commission?
5. How can serving in government help me achieve other leadership goals?

If you want to have a voice in how Iowa manages the environment, health care, jobs, transportation, planning, accessibility, history, education, buildings, the arts, and much more, this session will show you how to get started.

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

ROOM: SALON B

How to Be a Parent Advocate and Changing Spaces Iowa

★ Amanda Milham ★

One of the most unnoticed issues while out in public is the lack of accommodations for special needs changing tables. The lack of

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

adult changing tables is often not noticed to be an issue unless you face it daily. Standard public restrooms do not meet the needs of children, teenagers, and adults who have grown well beyond the maximum weight limit to safely use a typical wall-mounted infant changing table. In these situations, the options available to us in public are limited to a few undesirable choices. Rather there needs to be an area that is safe, private and accommodating for families with disabilities.

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM
ROOM: SALON C

How We Changed Our Game!

★ Tammie Amsbaugh and Community Ambassadors ★

This panel-style presentation will feature the Community Living Ambassadors and be presented in a Panel style. There are currently 11 ambassadors and two parents/guardians who tell their stories of moving into the communities of their choice from institutions, ICFs, or nursing homes. These Ambassadors look forward to sharing about their life before and after moving into the community. You will hear about the rewards and challenges of community living and learn about the options for housing, services, jobs, and benefits.

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM
ROOM: CONCORD C/D

How We Won: Direct Action and the Disability Rights Movement

★ Emmanuel Smith ★

The history of the disability rights movement is bursting with incredible stories of impassioned advocates and civil rights leaders who wanted to make a difference. Fighting for their very lives, members of the disability community have often taken extreme but nonviolent steps to bring attention to disability issues and put pressure on the institutions that shape our lives.

From the 504 sit-in of 1977 to the partnerships with the Black Panthers or the more confrontational tactics of ADAPT, leaders in the disability community have never shied away from any strategy that will improve the lives of disabled people. Our presentation will give examples of these strategies used throughout our history, explaining their importance and impact using accessible, straightforward language. Then we will help the group identify a problem they care about and explore how similar tactics could be used to address it.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

2:00 – 3:15 PM

ROOM: CONCORD A/B

Going 'All In' on the Hand You Were Dealt

★ Alex Watters ★

Life can truly deal some pretty challenging hands, but unless we are willing to go 'all in' we may never realize our true ability to be a change-maker. Advocating for ourselves and others can be intimidating. This will be a discussion on where to start, why it's important, and what can be achieved when we decide to go all in.

3:45 – 5:00 PM

ROOM: SALON B

How to Get Adaptive Sports Started in Your Community

★ Hannah Lundeen ★

Adaptive Sports Iowa was officially launched on March 8, 2011, at the Adaptive Sports Iowa Summit. The summit brought together leaders and advocates of individuals with disabilities. Since 2011, Adaptive Sports Iowa has been acquiring equipment and providing opportunities for all physical disabilities. Programs offered include: airgun, beep baseball, bowling, cycling, goalball, power soccer, snow skiing, sled hockey, track and field, and wheelchair basketball.

Adaptive Sports Iowa and the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau have hosted four national events: the 2012 and 2016 National Beep Baseball World Series, the 2014 National Junior Disability Championships, and the 2014 National Goalball Championships.

ASI manages and supports the only recognized adaptive RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) team. ASI provided ADA lodging and rider support for the seven-day ride across Iowa. Iowa was the first state in the nation to offer wheelchair events at the state high school track & field championships.

Since ASI began in 2011, the number of participants at the state meet has more than doubled due to the equipment loaner program offered by Adaptive Sports Iowa.

3:45 – 5:00 PM

ROOM: SALON C

Harkin Institute: Updates on Advocacy Initiatives

★ Emily Schettler ★

As a young senator, Tom Harkin was tapped by Senator Ted Kennedy to craft legislation to protect the civil rights of the millions of Americans with physical and mental disabilities. Senator Harkin knew firsthand about the challenges facing people with disabilities from his brother Frank, who

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

had been deaf since an early age. What emerged from that process would later become one of the senator's most important legislative achievements: The Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement works tirelessly every day to advance Senator Harkin's legacy within the realm of disability rights and employment. Much of this focus has been on advancing opportunities for those with disabilities in the international community. The annual Harkin International Disability Employment Summit, which began in 2016, brings together individuals from various sectors and across the globe to identify and create strategies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

3:45 – 5:00 PM
ROOM: CONCORD C/D

Upgrade Medicaid Advocacy Group

★ Jenn Wolff and Tucker Cassidy ★

Jenn Wolff and Tucker Cassidy are two of the founding members of Upgrade Medicaid, a statewide advocacy group that is led by individuals with disabilities. Many Iowans with disabilities are fed up with Medicaid privatization because it has made life MUCH HARDER. Through the group's efforts, Upgrade Medicaid has grown considerably, with new folks joining all the time! The panel will share how they began and discuss some

of the numerous advocacy activities they have engaged in over the past two years.

They will provide tips and ideas on advocacy strategies that have worked well for them. These include lessons learned in accessibility, insights on outreach, and the importance of taking the time to celebrate the small things AND each other. Join us in learning how to organize for change from these highly passionate disability rights advocates.



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SPEAKERS

CATHERINE JOHNSON



Catherine E. Johnson, executive director, Disability Rights Iowa, received her Bachelor of Business Administration, Juris Doctor, and Master in Higher Education degrees from the University of Iowa.

Before joining the great team at Disability Rights Iowa (DRI), Catherine served as the assistant dean of students at St. Louis University School of Law, the director of student legal services at the University of Iowa, and a disability rights attorney at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas.

Before becoming the executive director of DRI, she was the director of the ADA Resource Center for Equity and Accessibility at the University of Kansas.

Catherine has devoted her career to impactful civil rights work on behalf of individuals with disabilities. She is honored and excited to be selected as the next executive director of Disability Rights Iowa.

MICHAEL KUTCHER



From the moment of birth, Michael Kutcher has overcome challenges and conquered obstacles that most people never even catch a glimpse of. Born an unexpected and underweight

twin, Michael faced the first of several life-threatening circumstances before he took his first breath. Thanks to both outstanding medical care and his indomitable instinct to survive, Michael survived his first days and weeks, although not without lasting adverse effects. Due to irreversible neurological deficiencies, Michael was diagnosed with cerebral palsy before entering Kindergarten.

Throughout his childhood, Michael's innate desire to thrive helped him overcome issues with eyesight, speech, and motor skill development. Michael grew up in a loving and supportive family that taught him the value of the health he did have and to make the best of his circumstances. A second close brush with death at a very young age helped open Michael's eyes to the fragility of life and inspired him to take control of the future he once thought he'd never have.

Michael's story is profound. He has lived the successes and reached life milestones that many didn't think he ever could. His

SPEAKERS

experiences and perspective on cerebral palsy have led him to work directly with Reaching for the Stars, A Foundation of Hope for Children with Cerebral Palsy as an advocate and public speaker.

Michael's message is one of inspiration, hope, and appreciation. Having overcome unthinkable challenges against extraordinary odds, Michael is living proof that perseverance and unwavering positivity can surmount even seemingly impossible obstacles.

MONICA STONE



When we throw open the doors for opportunity, we build pathways to success. As the deputy director at the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Monica Stone leads a tremendous team

to improve access to government so that every lowan can be at the starting line for achieving their goals. To accomplish this aim, Monica engages her experience as a change agent and innovator. Her time at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Pacific Gas and Electric Utility, the Iowa Office of Energy Independence and in growing a thriving consultancy allowed her to help people discover the value of investing in

stewardship as our natural capital. This work contributed to Iowa's leadership in renewable energy, energy efficiency, economic development, and environmental sustainability. Now, at the Department of Human Rights, she is helping people recognize the value of investing in our human capital. This work contributes to our state's commitment to building prosperity, enhancing access to government, improving civic engagement, strengthening youth, and creating meaningful connections among people from diverse backgrounds. Woven together, these experiences have allowed Monica the great pleasure of a career focused on one result — helping lowans flourish.

AMANDA MILHAM



Hello everyone, I am Amanda Milham. I am a stay-at-home mom with four children. My connection to the special needs world started when I had my second child, Adalynn. Adalynn is nine years old.

She has been diagnosed with two rare chromosome deletions, seizures, autism, and intellectual disability. With my connection to the special needs world, I have been able to become the director of development for Facing Autism, Inc. in Fort Dodge. I am also

SPEAKERS

the head coordinator for Changing Spaces Iowa, advocating at the state level and in communities for adult changing tables.

TAMMIE AMSBAUGH



Tammie Amsbaugh graduated from Drake University. Her early career was in human resources roles. In 2005, she joined the University of Iowa's Center for Disabilities and Development, which

is Iowa's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Her work focuses on employment and community inclusion projects for persons with disabilities. Tammie is the program manager for the Community Ambassadors.

BRADY WERGER



Brady Werger was at several children's facilities in Iowa, in out-of-state institutions, and at Glenwood Resource Center before moving to a small rural Iowa community. Brady lives in a home

and community-based services home with daily supported community living services from family support and outreach. Brady is employed full time and he is on the Executive Committee of the Iowa DD Council.

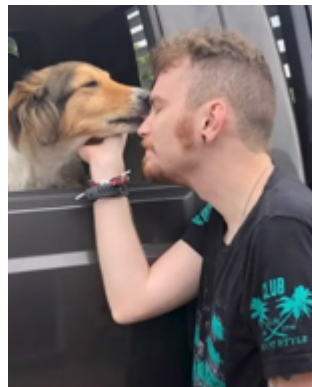
JESSICA ROSE WILLIAMS



Jessica Williams is on the intellectual disability waiver and moved from an intermediate care facility to a home and community-based services waiver home and then to a Mosaic host home in

Urbandale. She also works in the community and takes classes at a local community college to become a daycare/teaching assistant. She receives daily supported community living services.

MICHAEL GILLETTE



Michael Gillette is a survivor of a traumatic brain injury currently living in his own apartment. He completed rehabilitation at On With Life and lived in a nursing facility

SPEAKERS

before his move into the community. He is on the brain injury waiver and receives hourly supported community living services.

MARI BRANNAMAN



Mari Brannaman is 18 years old and recently moved out of an intermediate care facility to Iowa City. She is on the intellectual disability waiver and lives in a home and community-

based services waiver home in Iowa City. She receives daily supported community living services from the Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program. She enjoys many community-oriented social activities, such as singing in a choir, taekwondo, Zumba, and dancing.

ERIC MULLINS



Eric Mullins was in many children's institutions and Woodward State Resource Center before moving to a home and community-based services community

setting. Eric says that he learned a lot of skills at Woodward that helped prepare him to move to the community. He lives in Cedar Falls and receives daily supported community living services in his REM waiver home.

EMMANUEL SMITH



Emmanuel Smith attended Drake University, where they completed their bachelor's in political science. Born with osteogenesis imperfecta, they have held a lifelong interest in disability

and political action to improve the rights of disabled people everywhere. Their work at Disability Rights Iowa focuses on barriers to employment, disability discrimination in the workplace, and advocacy for effective employment services for people with disabilities. Emmanuel is an advocate of PABSS, the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program, because they believe that employment offers security and purpose that all people with disabilities deserve. For Emmanuel, the disabled experience is a privilege, one that prompts endless discovery.

SPEAKERS

KELLY GARCIA



Praised for transformative leadership, Kelly Kennedy Garcia serves as the director of the Iowa Department of Human Services. Governor Kim Reynolds appointed

Kelly to oversee the state's health and social services agency in November 2019. She was unanimously confirmed by the Iowa Senate on February 26, 2020. On June 30, 2020, it was announced that Kelly would take on the role of interim director at the Iowa Department of Public Health effective August 1, 2020.

Kelly previously directed the Office of Transformation, Policy, and Performance, where she played a leading role in the consolidation of the Texas health and human services system. She also headed the health and human services commission's government relations division, where she successfully shepherded the confirmation of the health and human services executive commissioner.

Throughout her career, Kelly led improvements in organizational structure, program management, and policy development to large health care systems. She also brings to the role a commitment to

building successful teams that will help Iowa families succeed.

Kelly is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and received her Master of Public Administration degree at The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. She was a member of the Governor's Executive Development Program sponsored by the LBJ School of Public Affairs. She is married to attorney Dan Garcia, and they have two children.

ALEX WATTERS



After graduating from Okoboji High School in 2004, Alex Watters was excited to begin the next stage of his life by attending Morningside University. However, in September 2004 Alex had an accident

that fractured his C5 vertebrae, leaving him paralyzed from the chest down.

In the fall of 2005, Alex returned to Morningside University and studied political science before pursuing his master's in negotiation and dispute resolution from Creighton University. Following that, he interned in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Department of Education in conjunction with the American Association of People with Disabilities as a part of the communication

SPEAKERS

and outreach team. After returning to Iowa, he worked for Organizing for America, the reelection organization for President Barack Obama.

In 2014 he ran for Woodbury County Board of Supervisors but lost. In 2016 there became a vacancy on the city council and through an appointment and interview process, Alex was appointed in February 2017. He went on to win an election outright in November 2017 and has held that office since.

In addition to his public service, Alex has worked at Morningside University since 2013. Throughout his tenure, at Morningside, he has taught an introductory course on negotiation and dispute resolution, coached a mediation team, worked as a first-year advisor, and currently serves as the director of talent and community engagement.

HANNAH LUNDEEN



Hannah Lundeen is the director of Adaptive Sports Iowa. She has been with the organization for 3.5 years. Hannah graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and is a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. She loves

to create new opportunities for people with disabilities especially when it comes to recreational activities. In her spare time she enjoys riding her horses, gardening, and traveling.

EMILY SCHETTLER



Emily Schettler is the communications manager at The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement, a nonpartisan organization at Drake University that serves as a venue and

catalyst for nonpartisan research, learning, and outreach around policy issues to which Senator Tom Harkin devoted his career.

At the Institute, Emily is responsible for all internal and external communications, event planning and scholarship programs. Before joining The Harkin Institute in 2017, Emily oversaw communications for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry for three years. She began her career as a journalist, working as a reporter at multiple newspapers, including the Des Moines Register, the Iowa City Press-Citizen, and USA TODAY.

Emily has developed a passion for creating accessible communications and helping

SPEAKERS

organizations make their materials and programming more inclusive. She serves on the Iowa PBS Disability Coalition Committee and the Tomorrow Plan Speaker Series Planning Committee. In her free time, Emily volunteers for local political campaigns and enjoys biking and camping.

Emily graduated from Simpson College in 2010 with degrees in journalism and mass communication and political science. She is pursuing her master's of public administration at Drake University and will graduate in fall 2021.

JENN WOLFF



Jenn Wolff is a disabled occupational therapist and organizer. She has dealt with depression for most of her life and has been physically disabled since 2003 after a surgery to remove

a tumor in her spinal cord. Her passion for advocacy started when insurance refused to pay for a new wheelchair.

She worked with UsersFirst and then with United Spinal Association in grassroots advocacy. Jenn is currently the National Council on Independent Living Region VII representative, on the Council for the North American Spinal Cord Injury Association

Consortium, and involved with Embrace: Celebrating Diversity.

TUCKER CASSIDY



Tucker Cassidy is a self-employed webmaster and disability advocate in both political and grassroots realms. He sustained a spinal cord injury in 1994 at the age of 18 from an accidental gunshot to

the neck, resulting in quadriplegia.

Tucker's advocacy began after experiencing the systemic injustices that exist for people with disabilities by insurance companies, Medicaid, and home and community-based services. He served on the board of Access 2 Independence, a center for independent living in the Iowa City area, and became involved in the Iowa Democratic Party with his advocacy efforts. Tucker currently serves in multiple capacities for the Iowa Democratic Party Disability Caucus, sits on the board of OPE! PAC, is a committee member of his city's ADA Compliance Commission, and is also on the advocacy committee for the Iowa chapter of United Spinal.

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS

During the legislative session (January - April), legislators live in Des Moines from Monday - Thursday. Contact them here:

SENATORS:

(515) 281-3371

(515) 281-3789 (TDD)

REPRESENTATIVES:

(515) 281-3221

(515) 281-8455 (TDD)

Senator _____
State Senate
Iowa Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Representative _____
State House of Representatives
Iowa Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Emails for senators and representatives can be found online at:
www.legis.iowa.gov.

When legislators are not at the Capitol (May - December), you can call them at their home or office. To find those phone numbers, go to www.infonetiowa.org.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSPERSON OR THE PRESIDENT (ALL YEAR)

U.S. Senate Operator(202) 224-3121

U.S. House Operator(202) 225-3121

White House Switchboard(202) 456-1414

White House Comment Line(202) 456-1111

Congressional Websites

Sen. Joni Ernst ernst.senate.gov

Sen. Charles Grassley grassley.senate.gov

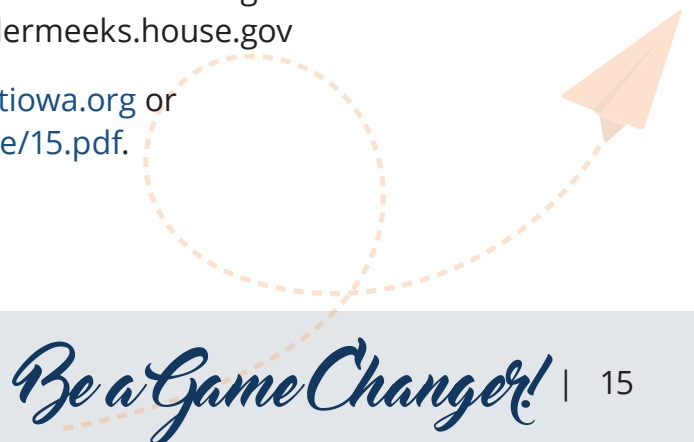
Rep. Cynthia Axne axne.house.gov

Rep. Randy Feenstra feenstra.house.gov

Rep. Ashley Hinson hinson.house.gov

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks . . . millermeeks.house.gov

For more resources, visit: www.infonetiowa.org or
www.idaction.org/documents/resource/15.pdf.



EXHIBITORS

AMERIGROUP

Amerigroup Iowa, one of the managed care organizations providing benefits and services to members enrolled in Iowa's Medicaid programs: IA Health Link, Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, and Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa.

COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Community Living Ambassadors, Center for Disabilities and Development.

DISABILITY RIGHTS IOWA

Disability Rights IOWA aims to defend and promote the human and legal rights of Iowans who have disabilities and mental illness. We promote safety, opportunity, access, and self-determination for all Iowans through a program of:

- Self-advocacy education, information, and referral
- Nonlegal advocacy
- Legal and systems advocacy

Our legal and systems advocacy aims to resolve major issues called priorities.

EASTERSEALS IOWA

Easterseals Iowa provides exceptional services to ensure all people with disabilities or special needs, and their families, have equal opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in their communities. Easterseals Iowa provides a wide range of services for children and adults with disabilities.

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

The mission of the Epilepsy Foundation is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. Our work includes providing seizure education programs for school nurses, school personnel, and the general public.

INFONET

infoNET is an advocacy forum created by the Iowa DD Council to give advocates with disabilities the information, tools, resources, and opportunities they need to take action on the issues important to them.

EXHIBITORS

IOWA COMPASS & COVID RECOVERY IOWA

Iowa Compass connects people with disabilities and complex health-related needs to services and supports in their communities throughout Iowa.

COVID Recovery Iowa, a new program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through a contract with the Iowa Department of Human Services, offers free counseling, virtual activities, and help to find resources. This program can help Iowans learn creative strategies for coping with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

University of Iowa Health Care's Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD) works with COVID Recovery Iowa and provides FREE, confidential virtual counseling specifically to Iowans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Counselors at the CDD have training and expertise in supporting individuals with disabilities, their families, and providers by offering these services:

- Counseling through a one-time session or ongoing basis
- Online group activities and events to increase social interactions
- Education about COVID-19
- Access to community resources

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

Lutheran Services in Iowa's Services for People with Disabilities provides several programs to help support children and adults with disabilities and mental health concerns as well as their caregivers. This support can range from a few hours a month up to 24/7 care.

RELAY IOWA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS IOWA

Relay Iowa and Telecommunications Access Iowa are two programs available in Iowa that provide barrier-free access to communication over the telephone via relay services and specialized telecommunications equipment for little to no cost for those with speech or hearing difficulty.



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www.idaction.org

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