

I Hotel & Illinois Conference Center | July 24-25, 2025

THURSDAY MORNING

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Check-in** | Coffee, tea and pastries provided.
- 9:00 – 9:15** **Welcome**
Rahnee Patrick, M.S., Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
- 9:15 – 10:15** **Year in Review**
David Kuriniec, J.D., Chief, Bureau of Home and Community-Based Supports, Illinois
Department of Human Services and Director, Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project
- 10:15 – 10:45** **“Progress in Provider and Family Training: An Update from Illinois Tech”**
Nicole Ditchman, Ph.D., CRC, LCPC, CVE
Professor of Psychology, Illinois Institute of Technology

Eun-Jeong Lee, Ph.D., CRC, LCPC, APA Fellow
Professor of Psychology, Illinois Institute of Technology

Lindsay Sheehan, Ph.D., CRC, LCPC
Assistant Professor of Psychology, Illinois Institute of Technology
- 10:45 – 11:00** **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:00** **“Pathways to Partnerships Data Review: Performance for the Pilot Year,
Accomplishments and Progress, and Next Steps for Assessing Key Outcomes”**
Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research Evaluation Team
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Bryan Austin, Ph.D., LPC, CRC, CVE, Director of Evaluation
John Kosciulek, Ph.D., Senior Research Evaluator
Chun-Lung Lee, Ph.D., Research Evaluation Specialist and Biostatistician
Stuart Rumrill, Ph.D., LPC, CRC, Research Evaluation Specialist
David G. Strauser, Ph.D., Research Evaluation Specialist
- 12:00 – 1:30** **Lunch Break**



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THURSDAY AFTERNOON

1:30 – 2:30

Breakout Sessions

School Breakout Session: Transfr

Location | Honors Room

Mitch Dicky, State Workforce Manager, Transfr

Gracie Sanchez, M.Ed., Customer Success Manager, Transfr

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Breakout Session: Curriculum Review

Location | Heritage Hall 1 + 4

Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research

Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Team, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Michele Schutz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education

Christina Muri Irland, M.A., Community Support Specialist

2:30 – 2:40

Break | Refreshments provided.

2:40 – 3:40

“Know More, Connect Better: Discovery and Business Relationships that Work”

Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

Crystal L.C. Hence, M.Ed., Training and Technical Assistance Associate

Austin Miller, M.S.W., Supported Employment Specialist

3:40 – 4:00

Wrap up + Reminders

Jim Knauf, Director of Field Operations, Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and Employment Research, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The contents of this agenda were developed under grant H421E230010 from the U.S. Department of Education (Department). The Department does not mandate or prescribe practices, models, or other activities described or discussed in this document. The contents of this agenda may contain examples of, adaptations of, and links to resources created and maintained by another public or private organization. The Department does not control or guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of this outside information. The content of this agenda does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department. This publication is not intended to represent the views or policy of or be an endorsement of any views expressed or materials provided by any Federal agency. (EDGAR 75.620)



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FRIDAY MORNING

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Check-in** | Coffee, tea and pastries provided.
- 9:00 – 9:15** **Welcome**
LaMetric Lane, Ed.S., NCSP, Special Education Programmatic Support,
Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education
- 9:15 – 9:30** **Advisory Board Updates**
Aimee Julian, Ph.D., Director, Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support,
Illinois State University
- 9:30 – 10:30** **Postsecondary Panel**
Mckenzie David, Blackburn and Beyond Paraprofessional and LBSI candidate,
Blackburn College

Stephanie Davingman, CADC, LCSW, LMFT, Dean of Counseling Services, Parkland College

Jamie Emmons, M.S., Director of Blackburn & Beyond, Blackburn College

Paige Lindahl-Lewis, Ph.D., Associate Director of Beckwith Residential Support Services,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Brian Siemann, Ed.M., Senior Access Specialist, Disability Resources and Educational
Services (DRES), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Break** | Refreshments provided.
- 10:45 – 11:45** **Moving Forward: Strategic Planning for School Year 25-26**
Jim Knauf, Director of Field Operations, Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation and
Employment Research, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 11:45 – 12:00** **Wrap Up + Adjournment**
David Kuriniec, J.D., Chief, Bureau of Home and Community-Based Supports, Illinois
Department of Human Services and Director, Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project

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