

Reframing the Disability Lens to Increase the Economic Stability Of Youth and Families

Webinar 2:

Creating Opportunities through Work Incentives and Benefits Counseling

Presenters Bio's

Jade Ann Gingerich Bio

Jade Ann Gingerich has over two decades of state policy making, starting as Executive Director of the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and most recently as Director of Employment Policy for the Maryland Department of Disabilities, the nation's only Cabinet level cross disability Department. An expert in state level interagency coordination and collaboration, working with a broad array of state agency partners and key stakeholders, she has presented widely on the topic of employment of persons with disabilities, testified before the state legislature and served as an expert on national advisory boards related to employment policy.

Accomplishments include co leading Maryland's earliest Employment First efforts, creation of the Employed Individuals with Disabilities program, Maryland's Medicaid Buy In, leading the Maryland Medicaid Infrastructure grant and co-founding the Maryland's Youth Leadership Forum. In addition to her policy work, Mrs. Gingerich serves as Project Director for Maryland PROMISE grant, a 5-year research grant awarded to Maryland in October 2013 by the US Department of Education. PROMISE, a cross agency partnership, is intended to increase education and employment outcomes for youth between the ages of 14 and 16 on SSI and their families. She has a Master of Science in Special Education with a specialization in Transition Services from The Johns Hopkins University.





Carol Ruddell
Administrator, Utah Crisis and Suicide Prevention Programs

Carol is currently the Administrator of Crisis and Suicide Prevention Programs for the state of Utah. Prior to this, she was the Project Director of ASPIRE (Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness in Education and Employment), a US Department of Education PROMISE Initiative. ASPIRE is a consortium of six states – Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah. Previous experience includes directing Utah’s Medicaid Infrastructure Grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She has been a teacher for 22 years, working primarily with deaf and blind students in three states. For twelve years she worked as the Transition Specialist at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind where she coordinated with agencies, local business and community resources to serve transition-aged youth in school districts across the state of Utah.