

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

Webinar 3: The Power of Education to Move the Needle & Family Engagement 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.



Ellie Hartman, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Ellie Hartman received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Special Education, at the University of Minnesota and her Bachelor's in Psychology, Behavior Analysis, at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. Dr. Hartman is also a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctorate (BCBA-D). For over twelve years, Dr. Hartman worked through the University of Wisconsin System in partnership with Wisconsin state agencies. Dr. Hartman implemented research grants and coordinated data collection and analyses with the aim to improve the competitive integrated employment (CIE) of Wisconsin residents with disabilities receiving Wisconsin public services through schools, vocational rehabilitation, long term care, mental health programs, Medicaid, and/or child welfare. These research projects have explored policy changes such as changing benefit rules to better incentivize work for individuals receiving social security disability insurance (SSDI), Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP), and transition age youth receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families.

As project manager for Wisconsin PROMISE, Dr. Hartman's leadership helped ensure youth and their families enrolled and engaged in Wisconsin PROMISE employment services and supports, field staff implemented treatment with fidelity, project benchmarks were met, and youth and family employment rates increased. As the project evaluator of Wisconsin's Let's Get to Work Grant, Dr. Hartman created measurement tools, trained project staff and participating schools and teachers in data collection procedures and disseminated the translation of research findings into practice. With the passage of Wisconsin's Act 178, aimed to increase CIE of working age individuals with disabilities, Dr. Hartman provided consultation in the development of an inter-agency plan and the implementation of inter-agency data reporting, sharing, and analysis to meet the law's requirements. More recently, Dr. Hartman is utilizing her experience and expertise to help build the Department of Workforce Development's (DWD's) Workforce Data Integration System (WDIS).