

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

Webinar 4: Non-Obvious Disabilities Disclosure 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.

Brent Thomas Williams Bio

Brent Thomas Williams is currently the Rehabilitation Counseling Concentration Coordinator for the Counselor Education and Supervision Program and is an assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation, Human Resources, and Communication Disorders at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Dr. Williams is the principal investigator of the Arkansas PROMISE Model Demonstration Project as well as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Career Counseling, Information and Referral



Services Project and is currently conducting the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services' WIOA Systems Evaluation. Dr. Williams also serves as president of the board of Sources, the Community Independent Living Center serving Northwest Arkansas. Over his thirty year career Dr. Williams has authored or coauthored journal articles and book chapters and has made scholarly presentations on a broad array of disability topics, more recently his interest have focused on the transition from school to work for youth with disabilities, the nexus of poverty and disability, and the systems change requisite within the existent infrastructure to realize inclusion and equity