



RUTGERS HEALTH

The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series



FALL 2026 WEBINARS



Friday, October 2, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Unlocking Solutions: Meeting the Real-World Needs of People with Co-Occurring Conditions



Stacy Nonnemacher, PhD

Director of Cross-Systems Strategies
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
Alexandria, VA

Friday, October 16, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Exploring the NADSP Revised 2026 Code of Ethics



Joseph M. Macbeth

President and Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP)
Albany, NY



John Raffaele, MSW

Director of Educational Services
National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP)
Albany, NY

Friday, October 23, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Beyond The Transition: Two Journeys of Success



Shelbi Davenport, MS

Speaker
College Station, TX



Travis Davis, MS

Speaker
Albuquerque, NM

Friday, November 6, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Road Less Traveled: The Intersection of Quality Culture and Person Centered Practice



Mary Lou Bourne

CEO, Person Centered Consulting
Annapolis, MD

Friday, October 2, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Webinar

Unlocking Solutions: Meeting the Real-World Needs of People with Co-Occurring Conditions

Across the nation, state systems are grappling with how to meaningfully support people with co-occurring I/DD and mental health needs. This session will provide a high-level overview of how states are addressing these needs and share key takeaways, policy trends, and lessons learned through the national work of The Link Center. Attendees will gain actionable insights into national systems change initiatives and effective cross-system knowledge-building strategies designed to break down traditional silos, enhance workforce capacity, and deliver holistic, person-centered supports.

Stacy Nonnemacher, PhD

Director of Cross-Systems Strategies
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
Alexandria, VA



Stacy Nonnemacher is the Director of Cross-Systems Strategies for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). She is responsible for leading NASDDDS's efforts to support states in developing a continuum of positive supports for people with dual diagnosis, medical complexity, multi-system involvement (including law enforcement and judiciary), and other populations with complex support needs. Capitalizing on almost thirty years of experience in the field, her current role involves collaborating with the entire NASDDDS team to infuse principles of trauma-informed systems and support into all policy and practice initiatives, and ensuring that existing priorities are reflected in all facets of this body of work. In her role as the Director of Cross-System Strategies, she serves as a key team member for The Link Center, a Project of National Significance funded by the Administration of Community Living.

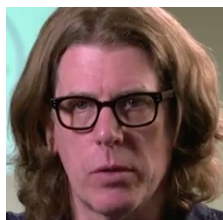
Friday, October 16, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Webinar

Exploring the NADSP Revised 2026 Code of Ethics

The NADSP Code of Ethics serves as a practical guide for direct support professionals as they navigate complex decisions, honor the preferences and rights of the people they support, and strengthen professional practice. Participants will be introduced to the 2026 revised Code of Ethics and will be invited to consider how its principles connect to real-world direct support scenarios. The session will also preview key themes and learning activities from the full NADSP Code of Ethics Curriculum, giving participants a meaningful introduction to deeper ethical reflection, discussion, and application.

Joseph M. Macbeth

President and Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP)
Albany, NY



Joseph M. Macbeth is the Chief Executive Officer and President of NADSP and has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for 43 years, beginning as a direct support professional. He is an international leader in the advocacy and movement to recognize direct support as a profession, and a highly sought-after contributor on the workforce challenges affecting

the intellectual and developmental disability service system. After working for a New York trade association for more than a decade, where he helped the state lead the nation in direct support workforce initiatives, he was hired as the NADSP's first employee. He has built a membership of more than 250 service provider organizations representing nearly 60,000 direct support professionals, partnered with other national organizations to influence public policy reform, and created the first national certification program using a digital badge platform, where thousands of direct support professionals currently receive recognition for the demonstration and objective review of their skills.

John Raffaele, MSW

Director of Educational Services
National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP)
Albany, NY



John Raffaele, MSW, is the Director of Educational Services at NADSP. His career spans four decades, practicing direct support, facilitating community organizing, and training direct support professionals and the people they support. Between 2001 and 2012, John worked as a Director of Training and Education for a major developmental disabilities service provider in New

York. John founded his own international direct support professional consulting company in 2012, and over the last decade, developed many exciting and informative training programs and helped propel the NADSP into national prominence. John became NADSP's Director of Educational Services in December of 2016. John has educated tens of thousands of people in the NADSP Code of Ethics and Competencies, and he works tirelessly to elevate the status, role, and expectations of the North American direct support professional workforce.

Friday, October 23, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Webinar

Beyond The Transition: Two Journeys of Success

In this engaging and personal presentation, Shelbi Davenport and Travis Davis will share their individual journeys through education, employment, self-advocacy, and adulthood. Through their lived experiences, Shelbi and Travis will explore the importance of setting high expectations, developing self-advocacy skills, finding the right supports, and recognizing each person's unique strengths and abilities. They will also share practical strategies for helping individuals with disabilities navigate post-secondary opportunities, prepare for meaningful employment, and become more independent.

Shelbi Davenport, MS

Speaker, College Station, TX



Shelbi Davenport graduated from Texas A&M University after many struggles and victories. Most recently, she received her Master's degree in Mental Health and Wellness from Grand Canyon University. Being awarded the first Peer-to-Peer training certification in Texas in 2017 was one of her greatest achievements. Shelbi's passion is to change lives by teaching people to advocate for

themselves and to dream big! Shelbi also desires to advocate for them and be the voice they cannot be. Shelbi played a big part in advocating for HB 2081, a bill that would provide universities with more funding for post-secondary programs, which passed not long ago. Since graduating, Shelbi has applied her leadership skills in many areas, including serving as the HOPS Program Coordinator at Texas A&M University. Her "WHY," is to strive to make everyone that she meets feel included and valued. Growing up as a person with a disability, she doesn't want anyone to feel the hurt she did, so it is her mission to create a welcoming environment. Shelbi gives keynote talks to organizations and hosts "The Shelbi Show."

Travis Davis, MS

Speaker, Albuquerque, NM



Travis Davis is a two-time TEDx speaker, Disrupt HR speaker, disability inclusion strategist, entrepreneur, and storyteller who helps organizations rethink accessibility, belonging, and the hidden barriers that shape the human experience. Living with cerebral palsy since birth, Travis transforms his lived experience into practical strategies that challenge assumptions

and inspire leaders to build workplaces and communities where everyone can thrive. Through keynote presentations, workshops, consulting, and content creation, Travis partners with organizations to move accessibility beyond compliance and toward genuine belonging. Travis is also the creator and host of the Off The Crutch podcast, featuring conversations with leaders, innovators, advocates, and changemakers working to create a more inclusive world. His interviews explore leadership, disability, innovation, and the power of authentic human connection. Travis has worked with or spoken at UNM, CSUCB, APSE, Abilities Expo, and independent schools.

Friday, November 6, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Webinar

The Road Less Traveled: The Intersection of Quality Culture and Person Centered Practice

Robert Frost's famous poem ends with the revelation that the narrator took "the road less traveled by. And that has made all the difference." While Frost's exact meaning is debated, it offers keen insight into the courage and leadership needed by organizations demonstrating person centered practice. High quality service delivery in developmental disability systems means far more than meeting minimum compliance standards. It requires an organizational culture that expects high quality engagement with people served, families, and the workforce. High quality person centered practices include day to day interactions demonstrating the core values of respect, trust, and dignity. This presentation will explore the opportunities to demonstrate person centered practice through a culture of quality, and the critical role of leadership.

Mary Lou Bourne

CEO, Person Centered Consulting
Annapolis, MD



Mary Lou Bourne is a long-term service and supports system consultant. Mary Lou has dedicated her career to transforming service systems by designing and implementing high-quality, person centered services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She currently consults with government and private agencies as they evolve into person-centered systems in which every person's aspirations are pursued, their voices respected, and their personal identity honored. During her tenure as Chief Quality and Innovation Officer for NASDDDS, Mary Lou was the Director of National Core Indicators and directed the evolution of the Workforce Stability survey utilized across 28 states. While there, she also established a Culture of Quality project for State Disability Agencies interested in changing from an exclusively compliance-based quality model to performance driven quality improvement models. Mary Lou's work with state long-term care agencies addresses the implementation of person centered planning and practice policies, grounded in her support for establishing a continuous learning environment where ingenuity and innovation drive change.

Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series



FALL 2026 WEBINARS



The Boggs Center's Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series is a community and continuing education program provided for professionals, policymakers, individuals with disabilities, and family members to enhance their knowledge and skills in innovative approaches and state of the art practices for people with developmental disabilities. Nationally known speakers with expertise in their field serve as faculty for the program. Eight sessions of the Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series are held each year, four in the Fall, and four in the Spring.

Funding for the Series is provided by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Human Services, State of New Jersey and the Administration on Disabilities, US Department of Health and Human Services.

REGISTRATION

The Fall 2026 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series will be held on the Zoom Webinar platform.

To access the webinars, you must register in advance on The Boggs Center Online Registration System at: <https://boggscenterregistration.rwjms.rutgers.edu/index.php/event/lecture>

The webinars are free of charge. Space is limited for each of the sessions. Open to people who live or work in New Jersey.

For additional information about DDLS Webinars, including system requirements, please view [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE

As part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, The Boggs Center offers this program for general social work continuing education credit per NJAC 13:44G6.4.c(5). The Boggs Center is a registered NJ Department of Education Professional Development Provider. The Fall 2026 sessions have been submitted to the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) for continuing education program approval.

Each session is eligible for 2 hours of continuing education recognition. **To demonstrate completion and receive a Certificate, you must be logged into the webinar from start to finish and complete a survey at the webinar's completion.** Certificates of Attendance will be emailed to all participants who meet these eligibility requirements the week following the event.



RUTGERS HEALTH

**The Boggs Center
on Disability and Human Development**

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Department of Pediatrics
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Liberty Plaza, 335 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

boggscenter.rwjms.rutgers.edu

p. 732-235-9300

f. 732-235-9330