



November 4, 2017

Meet Today's Presenters

Welcome and Overview of the Day

Susan Weisselberg, PCA Workforce Council Chair & Deputy Secretary, Office of Policy & Management

Sue serves as Chair of the PCA Workforce Council and is appointed by the Governor. She is currently the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management (the state budget office). Prior to joining OPM as Deputy Secretary, she served as Chief of Wraparound Services for New Haven Public Schools, Chief Legal Counsel to the House Democrats at the Connecticut General Assembly, and Coordinator of New Haven's \$1.5+ billion School Construction Program.

PCA Workforce Council Report

Sheila Mulvey, Advocate & PCA Employer

Sheila S. Mulvey of Plantsville is appointed by the Connecticut Healthcare Advocate. She is an employer in the federal waiver program representing a family member who receives services from the Department of Developmental Services. Sheila served as Chair of the Board of the former Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and is a former chair of the Department of Developmental Services Advisory Council. For the past 45 years she has worked professionally and voluntarily to support the needs of persons with disabilities.

Christopher Drake, Business Services Division Organization, Office of the Secretary of the State

In June, Chris left the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to take a position with the Office of the Secretary of the State. During his time at OPM, Chris worked closely with the PCA Workforce Council and the Chair, Sue Weisselberg, to implement the provisions of the PCA Collective Bargaining Agreement. Chris is an attorney and has been practicing law for 12 years.

Meet Your Fiscal Intermediaries

Eric Gervais, Director of Fiscal Services, Allied Community Resources

Eric Gervais is the Director of Financial Services for Allied Community Resources. Eric has been with Allied for over 10 years and currently oversees the payment processing, accounting and Medicaid billing departments.



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Valerie Giannelli, Manager of Provider Service, Allied Community Resources

Valerie is the Manager of the Provider Service Department at Allied Community Resources. She has been with Allied for nearly 12 years and oversees the processing of employment applications, provider directory applications, provider credentialing and service approval activities.

Carina LeBlanc-Reno, Customer Service Supervisor, Allied Community Resources

Carina is the Customer Service Supervisor for Allied Community Resources. Carina currently oversees the Customer Service department.

Laura Wells, Sunset Shores of Milford

Laura is the Director of FI Services for Sunset Shores. Laura has worked in FI services for over 17 years and is responsible for the overall management of the FI program. She has worked in the field of ID/DD for over 27 years as direct care staff, teacher, program director, clinical director/QMRP in residential, school, day and self-directed settings in CA, NY, and CT. Laura supports her 50 year-old sister-in-law with intellectual disabilities and raised her now 24 year-old daughter.

Electronic Visit Verification

Kathy Bruni, Community Options Unit, Department of Social Services

Kathy is appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services. She is co-lead of the Department's Community Options Unit.

Lori Grice, EVV Project Analyst, DXE Technology

Lori works for DXC Technology who is the Fiscal Agent for the Department of Social Services, processing Medicaid claims. She has supported the CT Medical Assistance Program since 1981 in various roles, both technical and non-technical. Most of her career has been spent in Provider Relations supporting project implementations and managing training for all stakeholders. She currently manages the EVV implementation, for both agencies and the upcoming implementation for the self-directed population.

How to Recruit and Interview the Ideal PCA for You

Sharon Denson, M.Ed., J.D. Executive Director of the Connecticut Business Leadership Network and President of Aldot Training



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Sharon Denson is considered a subject matter expert and thought leader in diversity and inclusion. She is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Business Leadership Network, and President of Aldot Training, a consulting firm that provides human resource and diversity and inclusion training. She had written and presented training programs regarding best practices for hiring individuals with disabilities. Ms. Denson collaborated with Ms. Nadeau on training employers when “You Are Now the Employer” was first created.

Theresa Nadeau, MSW, Instructor, Connecticut Community Care, Inc.

Therese Nadeau has significant experience in various consulting and supervisory positions working with people with a variety of disabilities and their families to plan for supports and options with regards to inclusion in communities of choice. Currently Therese works as an Instructor at Connecticut Community Care, Inc. and developed the “You Are Now The Employer” guide to hiring and managing Personal Care Assistants.

Managing Your Individual Budget

Amy M. Blazawski, LCSW, CESP, Director of Self Determination, North Central Region, Department of Developmental Services

Amy M. Blazawski completed her graduate work at the UCONN School of Social Work, and is currently licensed in the State of CT to practice Clinical Social Work. Amy currently serves in the capacity of the Director of Self Determination in the North Region at the Department of Developmental Services, with a focus area on endorsing and teaching the core components and philosophies of Person Centered Planning, Self-Direction, Customized Employment, and Self Advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Amy has a strong clinical background in the domains of cognitive behavioral therapy and solution focused therapies, and provides direction to a team of Employment Instructors/Coordinators, Self-Advocates, Case Managers, and Social Workers toward the goal of finding creative means to support individuals with disabilities to "realize their dreams" in the domains of employment and beyond.

Dawn Lambert, Co-Leader, Community Options Unit, DSS

Dawn co-leads the Community Options Unit within Connecticut’s Department of Social Services, Division of Health Services. Her primary responsibilities focus on strategy development and oversight as well as implementation of systems innovation and transformation initiatives. With over 25 years of experience in long-term services and supports, she currently serves as an appointed member of the National Academy on State Health Policy, an advisor to the AARP’s Public Policy Institute in Washington DC and a consultant to the Department of Justice regarding community options for older adults and people with disabilities.