



PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES

NYS DPN Training Forum

December 16-17, 2009

Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, Albany, NY

DJ Diamond

Danielle Diamond started her career in the public workforce investment system as a WIA Case Manager and One-Stop Career Center staff member. Upon receipt of the Disability Program Navigator Initiative, Ms. Diamond was asked to serve as both a Disability Program Navigator (DPN) and the state project lead for the Alaska DPN project. As the DPN project lead, Ms. Diamond was responsible for all aspects of the Alaska DPN project including planning, implementing, organizing, and directing the work of five Navigators across the state including developing and delivering training for Navigators. As the DPN project lead, Ms. Diamond worked closely with multiple state partners to promote sustainability through collaboration, integration and systemic change through leveraging available programs, resources and funding streams available to people with disabilities. Since joining the national DPN technical assistance team, she has provided training and technical assistance around multiple topics through webinar series as well as one-on-one to DPN projects. Additionally, she has served as the lead for developing the new technical assistance and training website www.dpnavigator.net.

In addition to having direct experience with the DPN initiative and detailed knowledge of the state and national workforce investment system, Ms. Diamond brings with her experience in building relationships and collaborating with state and local level partners to promote asset development opportunities for people with disabilities. Since her arrival in Ohio she has been an active leader in an "Asset Development" state level work group which consists of public and private sector organizations in order to promote asset development opportunities for people with disabilities. Currently, Ms. Diamond is providing training and technical assistance to two local communities in Ohio to help promote asset development opportunities for

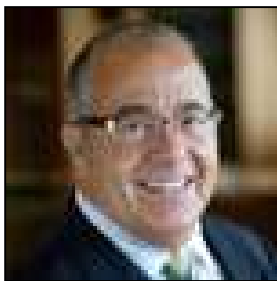
individuals with disabilities through facilitating the collaboration and coordination of the asset development and disability sectors in these communities.

Ms. Diamond completed her undergraduate studies at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio and has a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from Western Washington University.

Laura Gleneck

Laura Gleneck is Founder and Vice President of NDI Consulting, Inc. a women-owned for profit small business, and serves as the Project Coordinator and has served in this capacity for both the Work Incentive Grants (WIG) and the Disability Program Navigator (DPN) Initiative since 2001. In her capacity as Project Coordinator, she serves as the lead coordinator of the key technical assistance staff, manages material development, coordinates all training and technical assistance activities, produces the One-Stop Toolkit Resources of the Week, and works closely with the national DPN Program Office. Since the WIG grants, she has served as the key staff person with expertise on transportation and other community resources for work support. Prior to joining the national Technical Assistance team, Ms. Gleneck served as the project coordinator for federal projects with a focus on inclusion of youth with disabilities in transition and participation in community and employment for the National Parent Network on Disabilities for five years.

Ms. Gleneck has a Master's degree in Child Study from the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development from Tufts University in Medford, MA and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. In 2000, Ms. Gleneck completed a Continuing Education Professional Writing Course at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.



Thomas P. Golden

Thomas P. Golden is the Associate Director of the Employment and Disability Institute in the ILR School at Cornell. He has been on faculty since 1991 and his practice, research and publication has focused to date in three primary areas: social

insurance policy and its relation to return to work and greater economic independence and self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities who receive public benefits and entitlements; transition planning for secondary education students with disabilities to live, learn and earn in their communities; and organizational development and systems change with an emphasis on facilitating inclusive communities for individuals with disabilities.

As a faculty member he has been a contributor to the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Economic Research on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities and the Disability STATS RRTC at Cornell sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). In addition, he has directed the Center for Educational Achievement and Training, the Work Incentives Support Center and several other state initiatives focusing on community participation and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Thomas has completed three terms on the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Advisory Panel since its inception under appointment from both President William Jefferson Clinton and Senator Bill Frist. Thomas is currently the President of the National Association of Benefits and Work Incentives Specialist, a Trustee at Eastern Nazarene College serving as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and was also recently accepted into membership of the National Academy on Social Insurance.

Thomas has served on the Board of the U.S. International Disability Council, Board of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education and served as Past-President for the Association of Educators of Community Rehabilitation Personnel.



Deborah S. Holliday

Deborah Searcy Holliday has been a Disability Program Navigator (DPN) with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Rehabilitative Services since June, 2007. Deborah covers Local Workforce Investment Area XIV & XVI. In this role, Deborah provides service collaboration with partner agencies along with providing training and education and various outreach activities to disability-related organizations, school systems, or other potential points of contact. DPN educates other systems and or individuals with disabilities about the workforce development system and the

availability of various community disability related resources while working closely with the Community Work Incentive Coordinators.

Deborah provides guidance to One Stop staff identifying strategies and possible resources to remove barriers along with implementation of solutions for accessibility challenges. Prior to this position, Deborah was a Project Manager with Local Workforce Investment Area XVI overseeing and implementing comprehensive employment and training plans for individuals with disabilities in the Hampton Roads Area. Deborah has over 20 years experience providing services to individuals with disabilities in various capacities. Deborah moved to Virginia Beach, VA six years ago from California and holds her Master of Science Degree from the College of Education, California State University, Sacramento. Deborah is married with identical twin sons.



Brian Ingram

Brian Ingram has been working in the fields of disability and employment for 15 years, focusing on issues of access to the Workforce Investment Act services for customers with disability and other challenges to employment at a center, regional, state, and national level since 2000. Mr. Ingram is currently the State of Oregon DPN Initiative Program Lead and works for Worksystems Inc. in Portland Oregon.



Miranda Kennedy

Miranda Kennedy has extensive experience working at the local, state and national level within the United States Workforce Investment System. Ms. Kennedy has expertise in researching and analyzing policy issues, as well as developing and implementing promising practices across states, in the areas of youth in transition, workforce development, employment, entrepreneurship, asset development, assistive technology, community participation and inclusion. She is a Research Project Coordinator for the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University focusing on the New York Medicaid Infrastructure Grant; she has contributed to the development and implementation of the New York Makes Work Pay (NYMWP) five year strategic plan. In her work with the National Disability Institute (NDI), Ms. Kennedy has served as the senior technical assistance liaison, and currently serves as the training coordinator for the 42 state level Disability Program Navigator (DPN) projects and DPN projects in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. These projects are funded through the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA) and focus on increasing access for individuals with disabilities to the full range and scope of employment services within the workforce system.

Ms. Kennedy received her Masters in Public Policy from the University of Denver's Institute for Public Policy Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She lives just outside of Boulder Colorado with her husband and son.

Raymond M. (Chip) Kenney

Mr. Kenney is the Director of the Southeast Technical Assistance and Continuing Education Center and also works on the DPN Initiative with the National Disability Institute. Prior to this work, Mr. Kenney was Director of the Regional Continuing Education Program (RCEP) for Community Rehabilitation Providers at Georgia State University. Previously, he was the Bureau Chief of Client Services for the Florida Division of Blind Services. He has been in the field of vocational rehabilitation for over 30 years. He has a Masters Degree in Educational Research and a Bachelors Degree and other graduate work in Organizational Psychology. He is a graduate of the National Executive Leadership Institute and has contributed to the Institute of Rehabilitation Issues. He has been a Certified Public Manager since 1985.

Elaine Kost

Elaine Kost has been employed with the NYS Department of Labor (NYSDOL) for over 25 years and currently works in the Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions. Her extensive knowledge of the workforce system, including the One-Stop Career Centers, has allowed her the opportunity to serve in her current role as the State Lead for the Disability Program Navigator (DPN) Program. As State Lead, she is responsible for overseeing 52 full- and part-time Navigators at the One-Stop Career Centers and conducting monthly conference calls on topics relevant for capacity-building of the Navigator team. Additionally, she is responsible for representing NYSDOL on monthly conference calls with USDOL, Social Security Administration and NDI Technical Assistance Team on various topics related to the National DPN program.

In addition to her role as DPN State Lead, Elaine is actively representing NYSDOL on various committees. Several of these committees are; (a) NYS Commission of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities – Interagency Partnership on Assistive Technology, (b) NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council – Adult Issues Committee, (c) NYS Most Integrated Settings Coordinating Council – Employment Committee, (d) NYS Rehabilitation Committee – Workforce Developmental Subcommittee and (e) The NYS Council on Children & Families – Subcommittee on Children with Incarcerated Parents.

Elaine also has extensive experience on workforce related issues associated with the ex-offender population. She currently serves as the liaison between NYSDOL and the

NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. She completed the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training conducted by the National Institute of Corrections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice in Oklahoma City in 2003 and received her Global Career Development Facilitator certification. She is a certified instructor of the OWDS Curriculum through the National Career Development Association. Elaine lives in Saratoga Springs, New York, with her husband.

Joyce Lanier

Joyce Lanier is a Human Service Professional with over 20 years working in various positions such as Executive Director of Greater Salem Caregivers, Program Director of the WIC program and an underage drinking program and Supervisor of a residential program for the mentally ill. She also has 7 years working in career centers in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire performing positions such as Workshop Specialist assisting customers producing and presenting workshop presentations on topics such as career assessment, resume writing, interviewing and job search. Another position she has had is as a Workforce Investment Act Counselor and also has been a Disability Program Navigator in both Massachusetts and in New Hampshire assisting customers with disabilities to obtain employment.



Beth Larson

Beth Larson was born and raised in Southeastern Idaho. She attended Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration with emphasis in Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations. Beth has worked for the Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) for the past 12 years. While at IDOL, Beth has worked as a Senior Consultant/Case Manager in employment services, unemployment insurance, WorkFirst (welfare-to-work program) and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program. In addition to her duties as DPN, Beth currently serves on the state Executive Board for Road to Recovery, International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) Subchapter President and State President-Elect for 2010-2011, Vice President of the Pocatello Community Services Council and Chairperson for Partners for Prosperity Adult Education and Training

Work Group. Beth has been in her current position as DPN since July 2007. She is married with two daughters and her first grandchild on the way!!

Abbie Miller

Abbie Miller, DPN, currently employed with Workforce Solutions, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England and cover the LWIB Coastal Counties Region 4, which consists of York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Waldo Counties in Maine. I have a BA in Human Development & minored in Psychology from Mount Vernon College - George Washington University, Washington D.C. and have been in the human services field for fifteen years. Relocated to Maine in 2007, where I worked for the Shenandoah Valley Department of Social Services in Virginia as a TANF Employment Services Case Manager for the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) Program. Prior to joining DSS, I was employed by the Education & Training Corporation as a WIA Case Manager, serving the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board Area 4, as well as doing evaluation intakes for the TRAIN IT grant at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) in Fishersville, VA. My experience also includes vocational evaluator and counselor with the Post Secondary Rehabilitation & Training (PERT) Program at WWRC, sheltered workshop counselor and group home manager for dually-diagnosed adults coming out of institutions (back when the Justice Dept wanted everyone out of institutions / training centers).



Kevin R. Nickerson

Kevin Nickerson has worked for Challenge, a non-profit rehabilitation agency in Ithaca, New York for the last 15 years. He established a benefits advisement service for Challenge long before any formalized services through the Social Security Administration began. In 2000, he became a certified Benefits Planning, Assistance & Outreach specialist for Tompkins County, and has assisted many Social Security beneficiaries in utilizing Work Incentives to return to work. He is currently contracted as a Disability Program Navigator (DPN) and has maintained the title of Community

Work Incentive Coordinator under Social Security's Work Incentive Planning Assistance program for the local One Stop, Tompkins Workforce New York. As a DPN, Kevin assisted in developing a strategy for staff training that was viewed as one of the initiatives promising practices called 30-Second Trainings, which are now used nationally by DPN's. He was also one of 21 disability stakeholders invited to speak at a Listening Session at USDOL regarding the re-authorization of the Workforce Investment Act, and its implications on continued services for customers with disabilities through One Stop Career Centers across the nation.

Kevin established Challenge as an Employment Network (EN) in the Ticket to Work program in 2001, assigned the first Ticket in New York State to a private EN, and recently assisted Challenge in becoming the 2nd EN nationally to claim a 60th Outcome Payment through the Ticket to Work program. Additionally, they have been included in a national publication, promoted by Maximus, the Program Manager of the Ticket to Work program, as an agency utilizing best practices. He is a current member of the Ticket to Work Ambassadors Bureau, a resource for agencies establishing and operating Employment Networks. Kevin also works for the Burton Blatt Institute as a consultant focusing on the New York Medicaid Infrastructure Grant; including assisting Workforce Development Areas and other human services agencies in the implementation and understanding of Employment Network operations through Social Security's Ticket to Work program. Kevin currently holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Barbara Nwaigbo

Barbara Nwaigbo is a Disability Program Navigator in Dallas Texas. She attended Dallas Baptist University where she obtained her Bachelors degree in Business Administration. Barbara has over 20 years of experience in workforce development encompassing ADA rules and regulations, training, Case Management, Program Coordination and Public/Client Relations. For the past six years, Barbara has worked as Disability Specialist and Disability Program Navigator. She is active in many community events and groups. She is serving on the board of directors for REACH, an Independent Living center, is chair of Dallas Easter Seals North Texas Business Advisory Council and co-chair of the Dallas Advisory Group on Disabilities.



Gary Shaheen

Gary E. Shaheen, M.P.A. is a nationally recognized expert in the field of mental health rehabilitation, homelessness and systems change. For over twenty- six years in both the public and private sector he has been instrumental in shaping policy and programs at both the state and federal levels that help people with mental illnesses, co-occurring substance abuse disorders and those who are homeless fully integrate into their communities. He has worked with HUD, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Labor and other federal agencies on increasing employment for these populations throughout the United States and its Territories.

He has provided his expertise as a trainer and technical assistance resource to state mental health authorities throughout the country seeking to transform their mental health systems through policy and program development and a workforce trained in recovery and rehabilitation principles and practices. As a principal staff to the joint USDOL/HUD Ending Chronic Homelessness initiative and to the NYS Department of Labor as one of their Workforce Development Consultants, he has helped facilitate systems integration as a necessary component for employing people with serious disabilities.

He is the author of numerous publications and curricula including SAMHSA's "Work as a Priority: A Training Program for Employing People with Psychiatric Disabilities who are Homeless" and is currently working on a series of HUD Guidebooks and Lectures on employing people with disabilities who are homeless. Mr. Shaheen often provides training and technical assistance on mental health rehabilitation, systems transformation and recovery-based employment internationally that has included work in the Netherlands, Russia, St. Maarten, Bermuda, Ireland and the U.S. Pacific Territories.



Veronica Triana

Veronica Triana joined the Kansas Department of Commerce in March 2008 as a Disability Program Navigator. She is based at the Wichita Workforce Center providing staff training and disability resources. She has been actively working to develop coalitions that have brought together community service providers, workforce center staff, employers and jobseekers on the topic of employment opportunities. Veronica and her fellow Kansas navigators assisted in developing area 2009 Disability Mentoring Day committees, which provided job shadow opportunities for disabled high school and college youth recently. Veronica currently partners with the City of Wichita, USD 259 AmeriCorps GRASPS program, State Voc Rehab and Working Healthy to provide ongoing disability resources and her monthly “Disability News You Can Use” article. Veronica holds a Masters degree in Organization Development (MSOD) from Friends University, Wichita, Kansas.



Cornell University
ILR School
Employment and Disability Institute

New York Makes Work Pay is a Comprehensive Employment System Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (#1QACMS030318) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the Office of Mental Health on behalf of New York State. It is a joint effort of the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University and the Employment and Disability Institute at Cornell University with the collaborative support of the Employment Committee of the New York State Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) to develop pathways and remove obstacles to employment for New Yorkers with disabilities.