





MORNING SESSIONS

7:45 - 8:30	Breakfast and Registration Desayuno y Registro	Windsor Ballroom
8:30 - 9:00	 Welcome and Opening Remarks Bienvenida y Apertura Carolyn Hayer, Executive Director, SPAN John Morel, President, SPAN Board of Trustees <i>Simultaneous Interpretation by Maria Flores and Luz Tabora</i>	Windsor Ballroom
9:15- 10:15	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – SESSION A (choose one)	
A 2	Making a Difference: One Leader at a Time LaVonja Abavana, SEVA; Mita Bhattacharya, SEVA/SPAN; Tammi Kaminski & Tara Szymanek, SPAN ➤ Defining parent leadership and ways that parent leaders can grow	Room F
 A 3	Marcado la diferencia: Un Líder a la vez Jeannette Mejias, SPAN; Carla Viccari, SEVA ➤ Definición del liderazgo de los padres y formas en que los padres líderes pueden crecer	Room E
 A 4	A Person-Centered Planning Approach to Assistive Technology Un enfoque de planificación centrado en la persona para la tecnología de asistencia Adam Krass, Adam Krass Consulting, LLC; Catherine Fredericks, Communicom, Inc.; Monique Dujue Wilson, SPAN <i>Simultaneous Interpretation by Maria Flores</i> ➤ Overview of the ways that person-centered planning can play a role in identifying assistive technology Descripción general de las formas en que la planificación centrada en la persona puede desempeñar un papel en la identificación de tecnología de asistencia	Auditorium
A 5	Advocacy 2.0: SEPAGs as Catalysts for More Inclusive School Districts Stefanie Babits & Beth Cosentino, SPAN START Project ➤ What can SEPAGs do to collectively advocate for inclusive education?	Room D
 A 6	Defensoría 2.0: Grupos Consultivos de Padres en Educación Especial (SEPAGs, por sus siglas en inglés) como catalizadores para distritos escolares más inclusivos Brenda Figueroa, SPAN START Project ➤ ¿Qué pueden hacer los SEPAGs para abogar colectivamente por una educación inclusiva?	Room C
A 7	Finding Help When You Need It Nicole Pratt & Kim Rivers, SPAN; Gaye Korley, Middlesex NAMI ➤ Hear from individuals who are navigating mental supports for their families and themselves	Room A
A 8	Making the Invisible Visible: Engaging Male Role Models David Armstrong & Carl Boyd, Parent Leaders, NJ Help Me Grow / ECCS P-3 ➤ Learn strategies to make sure male role models are visible, valued and engaged	Gallery
10:15 - 10:30	Break / Descanso	



State Agency Updates and Leadership Opportunities | Actualizaciones de agencias estatales y oportunidades de liderazgo


- Commissioner Christine Norbet Beyer, NJ Department of Children and Families | Departamento de Niños y Familias de NJ Comisionada Christine Norbet Beyer
- Amy M. Hoehman, MS, LRC, CRC, CPRP, NCC, BC-TMH, Supervising Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, DVRS, NJ Department of Labor | Departamento De Trabajo De NJ Amy M. Hoehman, MS, LRC, CRC, CPRP, NCC, BC-TMH, El Panel de Consejeros Supervisores de Rehabilitación Vocacional
- Dr. Chinwe Osondu, Ed. D., Assistant Director, NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Education, Division of Educational Services | Departamento De Educación De NJ Dr. Chinwe Osundo, Ed. D. Subdirector, Oficina de Educación Especial, División de Servicios Educativos
- NJ Department of Human Services (invited) | Departamento De Servicios Humanos De NJ ((invitado)
- NJ Department of Health (invited) | Departamento De Salud De NJ (invitado)



Moderator | Moderado: Peg Kinsell, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

Simultaneous Interpretation by Maria Flores and Luz Tabora

- Hear from State Agency Leaders about:
 - Opportunities for families, youth and young adults to advocate and make an impact in human service and education systems
 - New initiatives related to topics such as: mental health, supporting immigrant families and language access, and diversity, equity and inclusion |
- Escuche a los líderes de agencias estatales sobre:
 - Oportunidades para que las familias, los jóvenes y los adultos jóvenes defiendan y generen un impacto en los sistemas educativos y de servicios humanos.
 - Nuevas iniciativas relacionadas con temas como: salud mental, apoyo a familias inmigrantes y acceso al idioma, y diversidad, equidad e inclusión.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:00 – 2:00		CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – SESSION B (<i>choose one</i>)	
B 1	<p>Time's Up: The Urgent Need to fill the New Jersey State Board of Education's Expired Seats</p> <p>Kaleena Berryman, Representative from Our Children/Our Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In June of 2023, all seats on the New Jersey State Board of Education expired. In this session we will discuss advocacy efforts to ensure current nominations move forward to build a strong State Board of Education for the benefit of New Jersey's students. 		Room F
B 2	<p>Assistive Technology and Transition Success</p> <p>Adam Krass, Adam Krass Consulting, LLC, Jordan Pratt, Nicole Pratt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hear from a self-advocate, parent and consultant about how AT contributed to a successful transition from high school to adult life 		Auditorium
B 3	<p>Parents as Champions for Healthy Schools</p> <p>Kasey Dudley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of collaboration among schools, communities and families to advocate for healthy school communities 		Room A
 B 4	<p>Caring for Loved Ones? Understanding Paid Family Leave</p> <p>Danica LaFortune & Rhea Malone, SPAN Paid Leave Ambassadors</p> <p><i>Simultaneous Interpretation by Maria Flores and Luz Taborda</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learn more about using paid family leave for caregiving in New Jersey Obtenga más información sobre el uso de la licencia familiar remunerada para brindar cuidados en Nueva Jersey 		Room E
B 5	<p>Empowering Caregivers, Self-Advocates, and Community Members to Participate in Research</p> <p>Daniel Lima, MSW, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify next steps to become involved as a community scientist 		Room C
B 6	<p>Transition from Early Intervention to Preschool for Students with Disabilities</p> <p>Jennifer Nicosia, NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase your knowledge about the process of a child moving from Early Intervention to preschool programs 		Room D
B 7	<p>Be a Change Agent: Youth Leadership Development</p> <p>Jeremy Hayer, Johan Mora Valverde & Rachel Shandler, SPAN Youth Leadership Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strategies for building and supporting youth voice and leadership 		Gallery
2:00 - 2:15		Afternoon Break Descanso de Tarde	

2:15 – 3:15		CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – SESSION C (<i>choose one</i>)	
	C 1	The Importance of the Family’s Role in IEP Development El Rol de la Familia en el Proceso del IEP Dawn Monaco, SPAN <i>Simultaneous Interpretation by Maria Flores and Luz Taborda</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learn about the valuable role that families can play in the IEP process Conozca la valiosa función que desempeñan las familias en el proceso del IEP 	Auditorium
	C 2	Building a Healthcare Coalition Laura Waddell, New Jersey Citizen Action (NJCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learn about how building healthcare coalitions has been essential to advocating for successful healthcare legislation in New Jersey 	Room C
	C 3	Taking Care of Yourself First Nicole Pratt & Khayre Tyler, SPAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This session will provide individuals with information and resources to engage in daily self-care practices 	Room F
	C 4	Cuidarte a ti mismo primero Yvonne Robles y Paulina Vargas, SPAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Esta sesión proporcionará a las personas información y recursos para participar en prácticas diarias del cuidado personal 	Room E
	C 5	Highlights from the NJ Office of Special Education Preschool Team Jennifer Nicosia, NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An overview of initiatives that impact preschool programs in NJ 	Room D
	C 6	The Importance of Parent Leadership Doreen Finley, Parents’ Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Join us to learn why parent leadership is essential for the development of children to increase the likelihood that children will grow into responsible, confident and well-rounded adults 	Room A
3:15 - 3:30		Wrap Up and Evaluation Evolve y evaluación	

