



Disability Health Action Summit

*“Reimagining Healthcare for
People with Disabilities”*



March 6, 2024

Sheraton Hershey Harrisburg Hotel—Harrisburg, PA

Summit Schedule

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

All general sessions and lunch will be held in Salon A & B

- 8:00—8:30 AM **REGISTRATION**
- 8:30—8:45 AM **Welcome (Salon A&B)**
➤ Sherri Landis, The Arc of PA Executive Director
- 8:45—9:00 AM **Keynote Speaker**
➤ Meghna Patel, Deputy Secretary of Policy and Planning, Office of the Governor
- 9:00—10:00 AM **Breakouts**
➤ Session A - Education of Medical Professionals - Salon C
➤ Session B - Elevating the Voices of Self Advocates- Salon D
- 10:00—10:15 AM **BREAK**
- 10:15—11:15 AM **General Session (Salon A&B)**
➤ Tine Hansen-Turton, President and CEO, Wood Services
- 11:15—11:45 AM ➤ Dr. Maulik M. Trivedi, Station MD
- 11:45—1:00 PM **LUNCH**
- 1:00 —2:00 PM **Breakouts**
➤ Session C - Advancing Dental Care- Salon C
➤ Session D - Policy Changes- Salon D
- 2:00—3:0 PM **General Session (Salon A&B)**
➤ Shaleea Shields, CEO, Lumicare, Andrea Palmer, Awake Labs, and Madison Obert, Director of Operations, Lumicare
- 3:00—3:30 PM **Closing**
➤ Sherri Landis, The Arc of PA Executive Director

Keynote Speaker

Meghna Patel



Meghna Patel is the Deputy Secretary of Policy and Planning at Governor Shapiro's Policy Office, overseeing health and human services policy-making for Pennsylvanians. With a wealth of experience, Meghna has held key roles, including Assistant Vice President of Practice Improvement at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, where she provided leadership on public health, equity, and behavioral healthcare delivery best practices. Before this, she served as Deputy Secretary for Health Resources and Services at the Pennsylvania Department of Health, focusing on the opioid epidemic, healthcare access expansion, advancing health research, modernizing public health systems, and addressing workforce shortages. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Meghna led innovative initiatives, including developing a mobile app for exposure notification and spearheading COVID-19 vaccination-related data transparency.

Her earlier roles include serving as the Director of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Office, where she successfully implemented the PDMP system in a short timeframe. She transformed the PDMP Office into an Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention, focusing on prevention, evidence-based education, and patient advocacy at the Department of Health. Meghna's professional journey also includes contributions to the Geisinger Health System, where she managed the successful implementation of the ICD-10 system, enhancing the organization's data and technology platforms.

A first-generation immigrant from India, Meghna holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Gujarat University. After immigrating to the U.S., she pursued a Master's in Health Administration from the University of Scranton. She is pursuing her Doctor of Public Health from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center of Houston, School of Public Health.

Thank you to our speakers

Shane Janick is the Executive Director at The Arc of Philadelphia where his passion advocating for, and with, the community with IDD has grown from having an older brother with a variety of complex disabilities. He has previously coordinated the Adult Advocacy and Healthcare Advocacy programs at The Arc of Philadelphia, and worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant at Temple University where he earned a Master's in Public Health.



Valerie Chadwick is the Health Advocacy Director at the Arc of Philadelphia and brings disability awareness and education to healthcare professionals. As a registered nurse with 15 years of experience, she was drawn this advocacy space because of the lack of education she received while training to become a nurse. Valerie also provides care for people with IDD in community medical homes and previously worked in critical and hospice care. She earned a BSN from Temple University.

Dr. Mary Stephens, MD, MPH is the co-director of the Jefferson FAB (For Adolescents and Beyond) Center for Complex Care, a primary care medical home for patients with complex childhood-onset conditions. She is also a faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.



Karin Roseman, MSW, LCSW is the co-director of the Jefferson FAB (For Adolescents and Beyond) Center for Complex Care, a primary care medical home for patients with complex childhood-onset conditions. Kaitlyn Davis, MS, MPH is a senior clinical research coordinator in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.



Lydia Smeltz is a third-year medical student at Penn State College of Medicine, originally from Harrisburg, PA. She graduated from Duke University in December 2020. She plans to graduate from Penn State COM in 2025 and pursue a PM&R residency. Her research focuses on disability health and medical education. She led a team of students to create and publish ADEPT-CARE, a teaching tool for performing a comprehensive history and physical exam for patients with disabilities. She also started and runs the PA Revs All Starz field hockey program, the second adaptive field hockey team in the entire country. Lydia wishes to acknowledge that she stands on the shoulders of her colleagues, athletes, and friends with disabilities and that her allyship is impactful because of what she has learned from those around her.

Thank you to our speakers



The Reverend Sally Jo Snyder has been ordained in the United Methodist Church for 30 years. She spent the first ten years in congregational settings as lead pastor to churches in suburban and urban settings. For the last 20 years, Snyder has been answering and living her call to social justice by working on health inequities which impact persons with disabilities, individuals with mental health, inclusion for the LGBTQ community; racism, economic justice; public education reform; children's health and well-being and respect, and community connection. As a community organizer, Sally Jo has directed local, statewide and national campaigns. Currently she is with Achieva: The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh serving as the Project Coordinator for the statewide initiative to address health disparities further evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Snyder is a published writer, a gifted communicator and a frequent speaker at rallies and guest lecturer in many college classrooms. Sally Jo is a YINZER by birth and wisdom, a loyal Pittsburgh Pirates fan, a member of Steelers Nation, believes Mister Rogers is a saint in a cardigan and that community is all of us.

Dr. Jane Tobias, DNP, CRNP, CPNP-PC is an Assistant Professor at the Jefferson College of Nursing at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. She has been educating nurse practitioner students in the academic setting and providing pediatric primary care clinical mentorship and experiences since 1999. Dr. Tobias started her nursing career at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit as a nurse and continued her professional journey there in the primary care setting as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Jane's clinical interest is deeply rooted in the care and advocacy of individuals across the lifespan with neurodiversity. She is a Fellow of the Golisano Institute in Developmental Disability Nursing. She brings her primary care pediatric expertise to the Jefferson Center for Autism and Neurodiversity, where, alongside Dr. Wendy Ross and her team, she focuses on creating inclusive healthcare access for individuals with autism spectrum and intellectual disabilities. She enjoys volunteering for the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania as a Healthy Athletes volunteer. In addition to volunteering with the Special Olympics, Dr. Tobias is passionate about transitional care of adolescents with complex medical needs, including autism and intellectual disability and advocates for increased health care and community access for this population. She is working with the Jefferson Health enterprise to create a health resume for all patients to use as a care accessibility tool. Jane also is active in the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, her professional organization. Since joining in 1999, she has been President of the Delaware Valley Chapter and is currently a member of the National Executive Board as a Member at large.

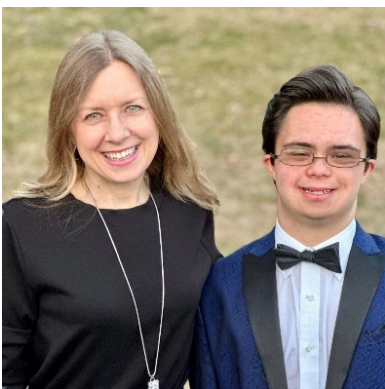


Thank you to our speakers



Wendy Ross, MD, FAAP is a leader in the field of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics who, in addition to her extensive academic and clinical work, created the first air travel program for families affected by autism. Dr. Ross is passionate about creating an inclusive environment for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Neurodiversity. This inclusivity is not limited to healthcare access; she has worked with museums (including the Smithsonian), sports teams, and other venues to improve inclusion of children affected by autism in the community. Dr. Ross has been an invited speaker by multiple professional and commercial organizations, including the Autism Society of America, the Department of Transportation, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and more. She is the recipient of numerous honors and recognitions for her work in the autism community and has been featured in major media outlets, including People Magazine, which named Dr. Ross a “Hero Among Us,” and CNN, which named her a “CNN Hero.” Dr. Ross earned her doctorate at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine before completing a pediatrics residency at Yale and a developmental and behavioral pediatrics fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital.

Alexa Brill graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2013. She has worked for The Arc of Pennsylvania since 2014 as their Social Media Manager. Alexa serves as the President on the Board of Self Advocates United As 1 (SAU1). She also serves on the Smart Home Advisory Committee through the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF), as well as the Wireless RERC Advisory Committee through the University of Pittsburgh. Most recently, she is a participant in the Assistive Technology Champions Program through Temple University. Alexa is very passionate about advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, as well as helping to make sure they have access to the right technology. She wants to help as many people learn about and access the technology they need to be as independent as possible.



Jessica Capitani is a communications consultant for The Arc of Pennsylvania. She has formerly served as The Arc of Pennsylvania board president, Children’s Miracle Network Hershey board member, Penn State Children’s Hospital Family Advisory Council co-chair, and Derry Township Special Education Parent Advisory Council co-chair. She is a contributing author to Gifts: Mothers Reflect on How Children with Down Syndrome Enrich their Lives and assistant editor to Gifts 2: How People with Down Syndrome Enrich the World.

Caden Capitani is a senior at Hershey High School. He participates in ice hockey, field hockey, soccer, bocce, and swimming. He recently performed in All In Theatre’s production of Little Mermaid Jr. and in 2015-16, he served as the Pennsylvania Champion ambassador for Children’s Miracle Network. He has met with state and federal legislators in Harrisburg and DC to advocate for disability issues.

Thank you to our speakers

Tine Hansen-Turton, President and CEO of Woods Services, is an executive with more than 25 years of experience in health and human services senior management, executive leadership and consulting. Ms. Hansen-Turton is currently the President and CEO of Woods System of Care. Woods is a fast-growing multi-state nonprofit population health organization serving people with intellectual disabilities and complex healthcare needs, with annual revenues in excess of \$450 million that has advocated for people with disabilities for over 100 years. Ms. Hansen-Turton has extensive experience healthcare policy, service delivery and financing, business development and education, and has been a leader in nurse-led healthcare. Ms. Hansen-Turton has authored numerous books and articles and teaches nonprofit leadership and health policy at University of Pennsylvania and elsewhere.



Thank you to our speakers



Dr. Maulik M. Trivedi is a board-certified Emergency Medicine physician in practice for over 20 years. He has served as the chairman or associate chair of several emergency departments. He has also been an integral part of the core leadership of Emergency Medicine provider groups in the region. He is a founding partner of StationMD and has been instrumental in helping the organization achieve its mission of improving the quality of care for the IDD population. He is a recognized national speaker and thought leader on the use of technology and telehealth solutions to positively impact an individual's medical care and foster independence. He continues to practice as an ER doctor in the NYC area. He has a special interest in applying tech solutions to keep both individuals and staff safe during the COVID-19 crisis. He and his family currently live in midtown Manhattan.

Thank you to our speakers



Dr. Alicia Risner-Bauman earned her Doctorate in Dentistry at the University of Iowa and has a Diplomate from American Board of Special Care Dentistry and a Fellowship from the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities. She volunteered on numerous committees focused on access to care and advocating dental care for vulnerable populations. She is also involved with the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health and the NYS Task Force on Special Care Dentistry as an active policy maker and advocate for Special Care Dentistry. She serves as a member of the Health Advisory Group for the Governor of PA. Dr. Alicia has a long practice history in various clinic settings where she treated individuals of all ages and ability levels. She is currently the Associate Director of the Center for Individuals with Disabilities at University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and Assistant Professor of Clinical Oral Medicine and Restorative Dentistry. She has several publications and a history of presentations relating to advocacy and treatment for complex patients and access to care.

Michelle Jordan is a dedicated leader in the field of intellectual disabilities and social work. As the Executive Director of the Arc of Indiana County since March 2020, she empowers individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. Michelle's journey began with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. With over 20 years of experience in inpatient and outpatient psychotherapy, she has a deep understanding of their needs. Michelle also serves as Vice President of the Pennsylvania Chapter Executives within the Arc of PA. Beyond her professional commitments, she volunteers with Special Olympics of Pennsylvania as Team Leader for the local program in Armstrong/Indiana Counties, promoting inclusive sports and community engagement. Michelle's work reflects her commitment to advocacy, empowerment, and support for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.



Amy Jo Pesci (pay-see), RDH, BSDH, MS, PHDHP has been a licensed and practicing dental hygienist since 1992, after graduating from West Liberty University in WV. She attended West Virginia University, graduating in 1995 with a master's degree in Community Health Education. She previously was an adjunct instructor, teaching pharmacology and first year clinic for the dental hygiene program at Luzerne County Community College. Her clinical experience has been in private and group practices mostly in PA. Most recently, she was certified as a Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner in PA which allows flexibility in providing better access to care for more populations in need. She is a member of the PA Coalition for Oral Health and a board member of the Arc of Indiana County. As a volunteer coach for Special Olympics PA in the Three Rivers Region, she proudly watches her son compete and spends time visiting Richmond, VA where her daughter is attending graduate school at VCU.

Thank you to our speakers



Seth Keller, MD is a co-chair of The National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, a board-certified neurologist who specializes in the care of adults with IDD. Dr. Keller is the Past President of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry and the Chair of the Adult IDD Section of the American Academy of Neurology. Dr. Keller received his bachelor's degree from Temple University, earned his medical degree from The George Washington University School of Medicine and completed his neurology internship and residency at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Vanessa Rastovic, attorney by trade, a math nerd by nature, and a person experiencing disabilities. She has been an awardee of the National Science Foundation, on Law Review, and coordinated public relations for a non-profit working to eradicate abuse. She went on to Legal Aid, where she represented refugees, older adults, and people experiencing disabilities.

An avid SCUBA diver, she loves exploring shipwrecks, hanging out with rays, sharks, and octopodes; jogging; and learning languages. She is a member of the American Bar Association; the ABA's Health and Administrative Law groups; the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics; and sits on the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry's Presidents' Workgroup.



Nicole Payonk, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for the PA Coalition for Oral Health, is committed to driving policies and systemic reforms that improve the quality of life for every Pennsylvanian. With a breadth of experience spanning from the classroom to the hospital settings, and even directly working with populations in their home and community, Nicole offers a comprehensive expertise in interventions for both individuals and providers, offering a unique perspective to her work.

Having dedicated her career to direct service, Nicole possesses a deep understanding of the challenges individuals face in accessing essential resources. From her roots in rural Pennsylvania, she recognizes both the beauty and the barriers of rural living, fueling her determination to catalyze individual and organizational empowerment through advocacy efforts. Nicole's passion for bridging gaps in accessibility comes from her lifelong commitment to supporting those in need. With her expertise and unwavering dedication, she strives to create lasting, positive change in oral health access across Pennsylvania.

Thank you to our speakers

Shaleea Shields presently holds the position of CEO at LumiCare, a forward-thinking technology solutions company dedicated to serving individuals and organizations. Prior to this role, Shaleea contributed significantly to the Merakey team for over 16 years. At Merakey, she served as IDD Innovation Manager, spearheaded the Merakey Career Enhancement Program, chaired the IDD division's policy committee, and actively participated in Merakey's Corporate Learning Collaborative.



During her tenure at Merakey, Shaleea led the successful implementation of numerous technology initiatives, including the establishment of smart homes, communication technology programs, advancements in transportation technology, and a transformative project aimed at enhancing quality and services through a nursing model overhaul. She also played a pivotal role as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of Developmental Programs Policy Taskforce.

Shaleea has shared her insights and knowledge on technology adoption through presentations at both national and international conferences. Additionally, she has co-authored several papers advocating for the strategic utilization of technology in various contexts.



Madison Obert is the Director of Operations at LumiCare, bringing a wealth of experience in operational leadership and technology integration. Assuming the role of Director of Operations at LumiCare in March 2022, she has significantly influenced the organization's operational landscape. With exceptional skills, she developed, implemented, and monitored day-to-day operational systems to ensure transparency in goals, progress, and potential obstacles for key initiatives.

Andrea Palmer is the Founder and CEO of Awake Labs, a digital health company empowering people with cognitive disabilities to live healthier and more independently. She has been working at the intersection of enabling technology, mental health, and person-centered care for 10 years. She is a big Enabling Technology and Assistive Technology geek, so please ask!

Awake Labs uses wearables to measure stress and strong emotions in real-time. They have partnered with I/DD care providers across the US and Canada to improve quality of care and quality of life for the people they support. Awake Labs completed the UnitedHealthcare Accelerator powered by Techstars and is an Ontario Brain Institute portfolio company.

Andrea is on the Board of Life Sciences Ontario and serves on its Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee. An engineer by training, Andrea used to build autonomous soccer-playing robots and compete them around the world. In her spare time, you can find Andrea outdoors, practicing jiu-jitsu and kickboxing, or saying hi to every dog she meets.





The Disability Health Action Summit was made possible by a grant from the Pennsylvania Disability Advocacy Fund, a fund of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. The Arc of Pennsylvania is grateful for this opportunity to carry out the vision of assuring the rights and entitlements of persons with disabilities in receiving access to healthcare.

To find information about The Arc of PA's Health Initiative including the "Barriers" and "Recommended Solutions" reports, scan the QR code or go to:

<https://thearcpcpa.org/healthcare-initiatives/>



We value your feedback. Please complete our survey by scanning the QR code or by going to:

<https://arc-pa.questionpro.com/2024HealthSummit>



Thank you!