



## Speaker Bios (082917)

**Atkinson, Wendy** – is an Occupational Therapist with over thirty years experience in working with clients with varying levels and types of disability. Ms. Atkinson is also certified in sensory integration and frequently trains on sensory issues throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is the owner of Cornerstone Therapy Associates and splits her time between direct patient intervention and training parent groups, organizations, group homes, schools and community programs. She is very passionate about this training and wants more people working with clients with disabilities to understand how effective this intervention can be in the care of clients, and how helpful it can be in increasing their level of participation across all environments. (cornerstonetherapyassociates@gmail.com)

**Beavers-Chandler, Rhonda** - began her career in human services counseling individuals with disabilities over 27 years ago. Rhonda is the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) for DARS with Transition Services in Danville, Virginia. She holds a Master's Degree in Marriage & Family Therapy from Liberty University and a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing/Business Management from Averett University. Rhonda is a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC), a member of the Adult & Career Education Advisory Council (ACEC), with the Danville Public Schools, a member of NRA/VRA and a board member of VRCEA. (Rhonda.Chandler@dars.virginia.gov)

**Bevan, Ann** – is the Director of Developmental Disability & Behavioral Health Services at the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Prior to her current position, Ann was the DOJ Settlement Agreement Senior Advisor at DMAS and monitored the Commonwealth's progress towards meeting the goals within the Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice. Ann has more than 30 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities in a variety of settings including case management, residential, day support, hospice, behavioral health, substance abuse and crisis services. She worked with NHS Human Services for 14 years where she was charged with oversight of all programs in Virginia to include supervision of up to 200 employees, all IDD day and residential, TDO, crisis stabilization, and short-term co-occurring residential treatment programs. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Network of Private Providers for 8 years and President for 3 years. Ann received both her BS in Psychology and Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from VCU/MCV. (Ann.Bevan@dmas.virginia.gov)

**Caldwell-Miller, Dr. Gabriella** – is the Community Services Manager at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. A Licensed Professional Counselor for 20 years, she has extensive clinical experience working with adolescents and adults in mental health and addiction treatment programs. Dr. Caldwell-Miller serves as the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors National Treatment Network representative for Virginia. (Gabriella.Caldwell-Miller@dbhds.virginia.gov)

**Chory, Janice** – is currently a Vocational Evaluator for the Fairfax County Public School system. Janice has more than twenty years of experience providing employment support and job placement services to individuals with disabilities – assisting over 500 individuals to obtain community-based employment. Ms. Chory has worked with individuals in different settings including individuals with significant disabilities into community-based jobs, transitioning high school students, college students with disabilities and individuals receiving unemployment insurance. Janice just recently completed her Master's in Collaborative Vocational Evaluation from George Washington University. (Janice.chory@gmail.com)

**Cross, Lacette** – is the Petersburg Youth Programs Coordinator for the organization Side by Side. Ms. Cross has 20 years of youth development experience in faith based and community focused organizations. She has been involved with Side by Side as a volunteer facilitator and board member for the past five years. Lacette is a local pastor and active community leader. Ms. Cross holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology. (lacette.cross@sidebysideva.org)

**Crossway, Melody** – is the current Director of Client Achievement overseeing all mission services for NW Works, Inc. – an employment service and day service organization in the Shenandoah Valley. In addition to this position, Ms. Crossway works as a Behavior Specialist under the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in local school systems and children's residential facilities. Early in her sixteen-year career in the health and human services field, Ms. Crossway worked as a transitional change agent in Pennsylvania for individuals leaving sheltered workshop settings into integrated competitive community vocations. (mcrossway@nwworks.com)

**Dodd, Phillip "Chip"** – is the President and CEO of Support Services of Virginia, Inc. (SSVA) headquartered in Virginia Beach. Since 1994, SSVA has provided person-centered supports to individuals with developmental disabilities in the Coastal Virginia, Eastern Shore, Central and Southside Virginia areas. Services include residential, foster care, day support, therapeutic/behavioral consultation, training, transportation, payee services and accessible housing. Since taking over the family business in 2005, Mr. Dodd has tripled the size of the company by both organic growth and acquisition. SSVA is proud to have over 255 employees and contractors supporting over 175 persons with disabilities live a "life like yours" in the local community. Chip grew up in Yorktown Virginia and graduated with a BS in Psychology from Christopher Newport University. (chip@ssvainc.org)

**Ellison, Gregory** – is currently the Employment Specialist Supervisor for the Hanover County Community Services Board. Mr. Ellison has been in the Supported Employment field for more than twenty years in multiple roles – in both group and individual employment. Some of his placements have been with Compass Group, Inc., American Family Fitness and Blue Ridge Arsenal. Greg also served for five years as a member of the Metro Richmond Workforce Investment Board and the Youth Council subcommittee. Mr. Ellison is currently a member of the ESOSC representing Hanover County Employment Services. Greg holds a Bachelor of Education from Virginia State University. (Gellison@hanovercounty.gov)

**Froehlich, Robert J. EdD, LPC, CRC** - is a Project Director/Adjunct Professor with the George Washington University's Center for Rehabilitation Counseling, Research, and Education (GW CRCRE). Rob works with the VR Return on Investment Project, the WINTAC and Targeted Communities Technical Assistance Centers, and the Virginia Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities Project. He has been providing rehabilitation counseling services since the early 1990's and has been a rehabilitation counselor educator for more than 15 years. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a nationally Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). He has significant clinical experience in the psychiatric rehabilitation, brain injury rehabilitation, State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation, and private sector rehabilitation settings. His areas of training expertise include ethics in the vocational rehabilitation setting, psychiatric rehabilitation, career development and counseling, rehabilitation leadership development, and personality assessment. (rfro@gwu.edu)

**Glenn, Margaret EdD** – is Professor and Coordinator of the Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program at West Virginia University. A former rehabilitation counselor, Ms. Glenn started her career with the VA Department of Rehabilitative Services. Since that time, she has developed expertise in a variety of subjects from addiction to service dogs. An ongoing interest of hers is the use of contemplative practices to enhance well-being for counselors and those they serve. She is a Certified Primordial Sound Meditation Instructor with the Chopra Center, has studied Tibetan Buddhist compassion meditation, as well as healing practices of other indigenous cultures. (Margaret.Glenn@mail.wvu.edu)

**Golob-Birjandian, Michelle QMHP, QMHCM** – has been employed as a Mental Health Therapist for Fairfax-Falls Church CSB for eight years and is currently in pursuit of her Master's Degree for Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Michelle has over ten years of experience as an Employment Specialist with individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorder developmental disabilities and intellectual disabilities. Ms. Golob-Birjandian has almost twenty years of work experience within the field of human services which includes residential settings, day programs, clinical outpatient, jail programs, community outreach, international humanitarian work, homeless outreach and community building. (Michellgolob@gmail.com)

**Harris, Tish** - brings a diverse array of business, higher education, workforce and non-profit experience to the Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities Project, where she serves as a Project Coordinator for the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. As the Director of Operations for her family business, Tish oversaw the expansion and operation of a family business from one location to 15 business locations and an expansion of commercial properties, employing over 600 people. She continued to serve on the Board of Directors while she turned her efforts to youth non-profits and higher education, where she specialized in resource development and volunteer outreach. Tish served the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Board as a Grant Director for Valley OJT and a Director of Operations. Tish holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration from James Madison University, a Master's of Business Administration from Eastern Mennonite University, and a Certified Workforce Development Professional credential from the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. (Tish.Harris@dbvi.virginia.gov)

**Jennings, Elizabeth** - is the Deputy Director of National Disability Institute. She is passionate about disability rights as a civil rights issue and supporting Americans with disabilities to realize the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act; equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Jennings has technical expertise in Social Security work incentives, employment for individuals with disabilities, financial capability

strategies, asset development, and the provision of training and technical assistance. Her extensive experience includes serving as the Assistant Director of NDI's LEAD Center, NDI's Director of Training and Technical Assistance, and Project Director of a Social Security Administration (SSA)-funded Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach project serving seven counties within South Florida (including Miami and Ft. Lauderdale). Jennings has provided training to thousands of service providers on SSA work incentives, return-to-work practices, the link between employment and financial stability, and asset development strategies. She has jointly developed research and written content for multiple federal agencies. Jennings completed her Master of Applied Positive Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. She is invested in educating the disability community on interlacing disability services, financial capability and positive psychology theories and interventions. (ejennings@ndi-inc.org)

**Jensen-Smith, Adair** – is the Director of Training and Operations at The Choice Group. Prior to Adair joining The Choice Group in 2004, she was a Regional Manager and Vocational Counselor. Ms. Jensen-Smith sits on numerous committees both internal and external, actively participates in Employer Networks and is the President Elect for the Virginia Rehabilitation Association. Adair received her Bachelor of Psychology from James Madison University and is a Certified Employment Support Professional. (Adair.Jensen-Smith@thechoicegroup.com)

**Kaegi, Kate** - is the DARS Virginia Manufacturing Association Liaison with the Career Pathways for individuals with Disability grant. She brings to this position over 15 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities to help them with their career choices, training options and employment. She has been a vocational evaluator working with consumers and businesses with Division of Rehabilitation Services, Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center, and VA Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired. Additional experience includes working as a career coach in the community colleges, adjunct instructor with VCU and Sergeant in the US Army Reserves. Kate received her Master's in Vocational Evaluation and Rehabilitation Counseling from East Carolina University. (Kate.Kaegi@dars.virginia.gov)

**Klinger, Mike** – is responsible for coordinating the Work Incentives Specialist Advocate (WISA) program, ensuring that all WISA vendors are credentialed to provide services, and providing technical assistance and training to WISA's and VR staff on issues related to federal and state work incentives. He serves as the point of contact within DARS for any questions related to WorkWorld for the web or any other services under the WIS budget. (Michael.Klinger@dars.virginia.gov)

**Kriner, Richard, MS, CRC, PBSF, LPC** – is responsible for supporting DARS' involvement in Autism focused projects and activities, managing VR participation on research activities, ensuring knowledge dissemination to stakeholders, and integrating evidence-based results into DARS service delivery. Mr. Kriner joined DARS in 2002 as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with a specialty caseload in long-term mental illness. He has experience planning, directing and managing programs for individuals with disabilities including DARS activities on the Assistive Technology for Cognition research study, VA DARS Autism Services Pilots, the Virginia Disability Program Navigator Initiative, Virginia's Disability Services Boards, and the Statewide Independent Living Council. (Richard.Kriner@dars.virginia.gov)

**Lavach, Chris** – serves as the VP and Director of Community Services at The Choice Group. Mr. Lavach has been with The Choice Group since its founding in 1998, and has extensive experience in the field of rehabilitation counseling with a strong background in research at the university post-graduate level. As Director of Community Services, Chris oversees and develops the services provided by The Choice Group. In addition to direct services provided to

clients, he provides supervision and clinical support to Regional Managers, staff, interns and practicum students. Chris is a Board member of APSE and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Randolph-Macon College and a Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University. (Chris.Lavach@thechoicegroup.com)

**Leon, David** - is the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services Ticket to Work Coordinator. He has served in this role for the past 6 years. Prior to working for DARS, Mr. Leon worked for HAMHDS for over 15 years in a variety of capacities. Mr. Leon provides technical assistance on cost reimbursement and TTW statewide and nationally. Mr. Leon is a certified work incentives practitioner. (David.Leon@dars.virginia.gov)

**Luther, Matt** – is currently a Pre-ETS Counselor with DARS. Mr. Luther has been with DARS, New Horizons, Williamsburg/James City County Schools and Poquoson City Schools over the past twenty-five years. He has served as a Transition Counselor, a Cold Case Counselor Easter Region, a Vocational Evaluator, a Special Education High School Teachers, a GED Instructor and a Transition Specialist. Matt is a Certified Vocational Evaluator, a Licensed Teacher K-12, ED, LD, ID and a Certified Workforce Development Professional. He currently serves on the State Special Education Advisory Board as an agency representative. Matt has a BS degree in Rehabilitation Education from Indiana University of PA and a Master's degree in Special Education from the College of William and Mary. (Matt.Luther@dars.virginia.gov)

**Martin, Beth** – is the Coordinator of Waiver Services for The Choice Group. Beth joined The Choice Group in 2013 with over 20 years of experience in the social work field. She most recently worked in Waiver case management and brought with her a broad knowledge of the Medicaid Waiver system. Beth serves on the Region IV Quality Council and has also been trained as an Individual Service Plan Specialist. Beth received her Bachelor of Social Work degree from James Madison University. She is a certified Work Incentives Specialist and recently received her certification in Leadership Coaching. (Beth.Martin@thechoicegroup.com)

**Martin, Paula** - is the DARS Assistive Technology Specialist with the Career Pathways for individuals with Disability Project and the Virginia Assistive Technology System. She is an Occupational Therapist that has worked with a variety of clients at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center and Western State Hospital. Additional experience includes teaching assistive technology courses and guest lecturing for Occupational Therapy students at James Madison University, Jefferson College of Health Sciences, Shenandoah University and Murphey Deming College of Health Science. She brings to this position over 33 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities to help them achieve their goals to live independently, go to school and work toward becoming employed. Paula attended the University of Tennessee and the Medical College of Virginia. (paula.martin@dars.virginia.gov)

**Mathews, Kathy** – is the Vice President of Educational Outreach at the Faison Center in Richmond which provides lifespan services to individuals and families impacted by Autism and developmental disabilities. This program encompasses a full day school, outpatient behavioral health center, early intervention program, and adult and residential services. As part of her position, Dr. Mathews maintains formal affiliations with the Applied Behavioral Analysis program at Teachers College, Columbia University, NY and the Dept. of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Mathews is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Richmond leading the BACB approved course services and holds a Virginia license as a Behavior Analyst. Kathy currently serves on the disability Law Center of Virginia Foundation Board, the CABAS Board and previously served on the APBA Board. Dr. Mathews

obtained her Ph.D. in Behavior Analysis from Teachers College, Columbia University.  
(kmatthews@faisoncenter.org)

**McGuire-Kuletz, Dr. Maureen** - is the Co-Director for The George Washington Center for Rehabilitation Counseling Research and Education. Dr. McGuire-Kuletz has over 36 years of combined experience as an educator at the university level and a manager in the public vocational rehabilitation program. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and has served on numerous boards and commissions including the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, the National Rehabilitation Association, the US Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, the Virginia Rehabilitation Association and the National Association of Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Personnel. She has presented at numerous national conferences and written a number of referred journal articles and book chapters. (Mkuletz@gwu.edu)

**McSweeney, Kate** - is Vice President Government Affairs and General Counsel of ACCSES, the Voice of Disability Service Providers. Kate joined ACCSES after more than twelve years of law practice, primarily in the areas of reinsurance law and litigation. Law school was a mid-career investment, however. Prior to law school, Kate had a successful career in broadcasting, including seven years as Vice President of Programming and Development for Turner Broadcasting. During the two decades spent in broadcasting, Kate had the opportunity to hone her management, marketing, and business development skills. Kate is a cum laude graduate of Boston College, and magna cum laude graduate of George Mason University School of Law, where she also taught for ten years. She is a long-time resident of Virginia and continues to be has Alumni Board and she is the current Vice President-Advocacy for the George Mason University Alumni Board. (kmcsweeney@accses.org)

**Mullins, Teresa** – currently serves as a Social Security Administration certified Community Work Incentives Counselor in Far SW Virginia for the vaACCSES Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Project. Teresa has accumulated over 30 years of professional experience in the Deaf community working as a job coach, interpreter, Deaf Resource Center Specialist and equipment contractor with the VDDHH, and has worked at the Department of Social Services as a Medicaid eligibility worker specializing in long term care. Teresa and her husband have been foster care parents working with children with severe disabilities through the Therapeutic Foster Care Program for many years. Mrs. Mullins recently published her book *Job Coaching in Rural Areas, Tips and Suggestions* with terrific success on Amazon.com. Teresa has a Bachelor's degree in Human Services, Child and Family Welfare. (Teresa-mullins@comcast.net)

**Norton, Heather MSW** - is the Director of Community Support Services for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). She has worked in the field of intellectual disabilities for over twenty-five years and currently sits on the Virginia APSE Board as well as the Virginia Autism Council. She started her career in Pennsylvania at a summer camp for individuals with intellectual disabilities and worked for two children's behavioral health programs supporting children with various mental health diagnoses and autism. She relocated to Virginia in 2004, at which time she started working for Southside Virginia Training Center as the Director of Program Services where she oversaw the vocational, habilitation, and program centers. Prior to working at DBHDS, she worked for Chesterfield Community Services Board, first as the services manager for Community Employment Services and then as the Assistant Director of Community Services. (Heather.Norton@dbhds.virginia.gov)

**Paluszak, Kevin** – is a former DBHDS Regional Human Rights Advocate and is the founder/CEO of ECCO Consulting Services. He has a MA in Executive Leadership and nearly 20 years in the health and human services field. His background includes regulating providers for DBHDS, working at NVTC and 12+ years of residential program experience. Having sat on both sides of the service delivery table (provider and regulator), Kevin brings a unique voice and perspective. With over 15 years of training and development experience, he provides thought provoking presentations which keep participants engaged while providing practical insight for application. Kevin is a graduate of Virginia State University and is currently finishing a master's degree in executive leadership. (kpaluszak@eccoconsultingservices.com)

**Paris, Mike** - is a Business Development Manager with the Norfolk Department of Economic Development and is responsible for administering its workforce initiative, Norfolk Works. He also represents Development as part of the East Little Creek Task Force. Mr. Paris has served as an Employment Broker, Manager of the Center for Employment Resources, and as a senior employment professional for the Norfolk Department of Human Services. Mike is the previous Chair of the Norfolk Employment Task Force and the Hampton Roads Reentry Employment Committee, and is the present Chair of the Norfolk Workforce Investment Network. Over the past decade, Mike has worked with over 100 businesses, and has helped local employers fill thousands of job openings. Mike is a graduate of Tidewater Community College and Old Dominion University, and holds an MBA from Regent University. (Michael.Paris@norfolk.gov)

**Peed, Terry** - is the Special Education Chairperson and Transition Specialist for Danville Public Schools (DPS) at George Washington High School (GWHS) in Danville, Virginia. She is also the Homebound and Homebased Liaison and the Coordinator of the Community Based Instruction for DPS. Terry began her career in education with DPS over 27 years ago working in various capacities throughout the school system. She is a graduate of Virginia State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. (tpeed@mail.dps.k12.va.us)

**Pennington, Sarah** – serves as the Senior Marketing Communications Associate for ABLEnow, the national ABLE savings program offered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. With accounts in all 50 states, ABLEnow is one of the fastest-growing ABLE programs in the country since it opened for enrollment in December 2016. ABLEnow is administered by Virginia529, the country's largest college savings plan, which has an expanded mission to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. Prior to joining ABLEnow, Sarah worked in a variety of communication roles in other state agencies and private-sector organizations. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree from West Virginia University. Sarah lives in Richmond, Va. with her husband and son. (spennington@able-now.com)

**Peterson, Mark** – is a Developmental Disability Employment Resource Specialist for DARS. For over 30 years, Mr. Peterson has worked from many perspectives and roles in the vocational rehabilitation field. He specializes in supported employment services and most recently, customized employment. As a DD Employment Resource Specialist, Mark assists VR as well as other partnering staff in working with ID/DD clients who seek competitive integrated employment. Mark has his Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University (Mark.Peterson@dars.virginia.gov)

**Roberts, Cindy** – is the Director of Business Development and Corporate Initiatives at the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI). Ms. Roberts is known across the state for her high energy and innovative thinking and as a seasoned veteran in the world of workforce development. With over 20 years of experience, Cindy is well connected with economic

development, Workforce Investment Boards, Chambers of Commerce and has held board seats on several non-profit organizations. Ms. Roberts has been honored by the Virginia Rehabilitation Counseling Association with the “Counselor of the Year” award and given the “Emerging Leader” award by the Virginia Rehabilitation Association.  
(Cindy.Roberts@dbvi.virginia.gov)

**Rudolph, Susan RN, BSN** – is a Registered Nurse Care Consultant in the Health Supports Network within the Office of Integrated Health at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. She is responsible for working with individuals, families and community-based stakeholders to provide health supports and technical assistance for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Region II and statewide. Ms. Rudolph has a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Nursing from George Mason University and has practiced nursing in Virginia for over 32 years in acute care hospitals, Brain Injury Rehabilitation programs as the Director of Programs and Services for Brain Injury Services and for over 10 years as the Deputy Executive Director of The Arc of Greater Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc. and has held many leadership and advocacy positions in the disability services network over the last 25 years. Susan is a avid educator and has spoken across the Commonwealth promoting the practice of nursing and ensuring quality services and supports are provided in community settings to individuals with high intensity medical needs and their families.  
(Susan.Rudolph@dbhds.virginia.gov)

**Scott, Gwendolyn** – has been with DARS for almost 18 years and is currently the Employment Services Counselor in the DARS Alexandria office. Ms. Scott has received numerous accolades for her work in developing successful partnerships with federal government agencies that has led to many DARS and DBVI clients becoming employed with the federal government. Gwendolyn received an award from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation because of her meritorious work with the Federal Highway Administration. (Gwendolyn.Scott@dars.virginia.gov)

**Smith, LaPearl** – is the Business Development Manager for the DARS Northern Virginia district and the Fredericksburg office of almost 18 years. Prior to her current position, Ms. Smith was the Employment Services Counselor in the Leesburg and Winchester DARS offices. LaPearl has over thirty years of Workforce Services experience and in 2017, she received the DARS Leadership Award given by the agency and the State Rehabilitation Council.  
(LaPearl.Smith@dars.virginia.gov)

**Stehle, Jessica, MA, CRC** – is a DD Employment Resource Specialist with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Jessica works with the Northern and Rappahannock district DARS offices and their local community services boards, educational agencies, employment services organizations and other community partners to promote competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Ms. Stehle has contributed to the development and implementation of formalized trainings, assessment tools, guidance documents and DARS’ autism-focused service model. Jessica is trained in person-centered thinking and planning. (Jessica.Stehle@dars.virginia.gov)

**Thomas, Amy** – is the Program Coordinator for Employment Services with Hanover County Community Services. Ms. Thomas has a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Amy has been in the field of Supported Employment for twenty-four years and in the mental health/mental retardation field for twenty-eight years. She has served on the APSE Board as well as the Collaborations Steering Committee.  
(aathomas@hanovercounty.gov)

**Unger, Lauren CSA** - has been the Lead Workforce Specialist for Linden Resources located in Arlington, VA for the last seven years. Ms. Unger has successfully placed over 500 individuals with co-occurring disabilities, substance use disorders, criminal histories, deaf/hard of hearing, and immigrant Spanish populations in permanent long-term employment. Lauren graduated from George Mason University with a B.S. in psychology and attended NoVa Community College to obtain her CSAC. Prior to joining Linden Resources worked seven years in Clinical Assessments, IDDT Treatment teams, Jail Retry programs and life coaching services. (lunger@linden.org)

**West, Emily C., M.S, C.R.C, LPC** - is the Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities Project Manager. Emily received her Bachelor of Science in Education from New York University. She has a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Virginia. Prior to her Vocational Rehabilitation career, she taught at the Science Museum School in New York City and sold professional development for Cornell University. As a vocational rehabilitation professional, she has worked as a Learning Specialist Manager at Virginia Commonwealth University's Health Sciences Schools and for the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services as a Disability Program Navigator and Rehabilitation Counselor at the Petersburg Office with a Transition Caseload. (Emily.West@dars.virginia.gov)

**Wilkerson, Vance** – is currently the Disability Employment Program Manager in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion Branch for the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Wilkerson brings more than 27 years of federal service experience and wealth of recruitment knowledge to this role. As a direct result of his position, there have been many internal and external partnerships established through Mr. Wilkerson's outreach efforts resulting in a substantial increase in the recruitment and hiring of individuals with disabilities into the U.S. Department of Labor. Vance has a degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland, University College. (Wilkerson.Vance@dol.gov)

**Zeagler, Jamie** – is the Division Manager of the Richmond and Hampton Roads region for Moms-In-Motion. As a mother of three children with disabilities, Ms. Zeagler has been active in the world of disabilities for over eleven years. Her training in disabilities includes VCU's program for Parent Navigators and the VA Board for People with Disabilities specialized training to be a Partner in Policymaking – Class of 2014. Ms. Zeagler has been a Medicaid Waiver Services Facilitator and Case Manager for four years. She is also Co-Chair for the Parent Family Advocacy Council at Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughter. Jamie loves working with families and helping people get the services they need to improve their quality of life. (MIMJamie@gmail.com)

**Zimmerman, Shawn** – is currently a Certified Vocational Evaluator for the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Ms. Zimmerman graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with her Master of Science degree in Vocational Rehabilitation with a dual focus in Rehabilitation Counseling and Vocational Evaluation and a Specialization in Diverse Populations. Ms. Zimmerman has over eleven years of experience including practicum experience with Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute, rehabilitation counseling and vocational evaluation internship with Georgia Department of Labor. Shawn has served as the President of VEWAA, served as the NRA Board Representative for VEWAA and was the Education Coordinator for VECAP. She currently serves as the Chair for the Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluators. (Shawn.Zimmerman@dars.virginia.gov)

