



# 2017 Annual Conference

Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

February 16 & 17, 2017



## Balancing Act:

Finding Autonomy  
Through Interdependence

# About the Conference

## Schedule-at-a-Glance

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

- 10:00 - 11:30 am** AAIDD WI Annual Meeting  
(Open to all AAIDD Members)
- 12:30 - 1:00 pm** Registration
- 1:00 - 4:00 pm** Keynote Session
- 4:00 - 6:00 pm** Reception

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017

- 7:45 - 8:15 am** Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 - 8:30 am** Welcome and Opening Remarks with  
Dr. Margaret Nygren, Executive  
Director and CEO of AAIDD
- 8:30 - 10:00 am** Keynote Session
- 10:00 - 10:15 am** Break
- 10:15 - 11:45 am** Breakout 1
- 11:45 - 12:45 pm** Lunch
- 12:45 - 2:15 pm** Breakout 2
- 2:15 - 2:30 pm** Break
- 2:30 - 4:00 pm** Breakout 3
- 4:00 pm** Conference Conclusion

For a complete list of Presenter  
Bios, visit our website:  
[www.aaiddwi.org](http://www.aaiddwi.org)

## Keynote Presenters

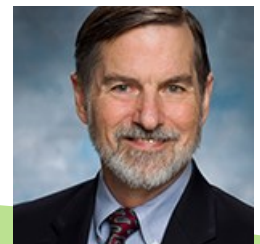
### Glenis Benson, PhD



Dr. Benson has supported persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) for over 35 years. She has been Senior Advisor to the United Nations for the Middle East for ASDs, Director of the Autism Program and Assistant Professor in Pediatrics at USD. She has taught at the Kentucky Autism Training Center with the University of Louisville and currently teaches at UW Madison. Dr. Benson co-produced, wrote and narrated a video entitled Autism Spectrum Disorders (<http://www.attainmentcompany.com>). She has numerous articles and book chapters to her name as well.

Dr. Benson obtained her PhD. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and conducted both her doctoral and master's research on persons with ASD. She trains nationally and internationally on a wide variety of topics including behavioral supports as well as ASDs. She currently consults from her private practice in Madison. Glenis is also a founding board member of Camp AweSum a camp in northern Wisconsin for youth and families who live with ASD. She can be reached at [info@ASD-DOC.com](mailto:info@ASD-DOC.com).

### William (Bill) Gaventa, M.Div.



Bill Gaventa is the current president of the Board of Directors of AAIDD, the Director of the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability as well as the new Collaborative on Faith and Disability, linking a number of University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities who are addressing spirituality through initiatives in training, technical assistance, research, and/or dissemination. He was formerly Director of Community and Congregational Supports at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey. Bill's primary areas of experience and expertise are spiritual and faith based supports with people with disabilities, training for clergy, seminarians and community services staff, aging and end of life/grief issues in intellectual and developmental disabilities, cultural competence, and community building. As a writer and editor, he has edited newsletters and several books, written articles and chapters, and served as the Editor of the Journal of Religion, Disability and Health for 14 years, now as an Associate Editor. Bill and his wife, Beverly Roberts Gaventa, moved in 2013 to Waco, Texas where she serves as Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Baylor University. They have one son, Matthew, daughter-in-law, Sarah, both of whom are clergy in Virginia, and one grandson, Charlie.



# Session Descriptions

## Keynote Presentations

### **Through Another Lens, The Communicative Intent of Challenging Behaviors** - Presented by Glenis Benson, PhD

**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017  
**Time:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm

It's escape.. No, make that avoidance.. Or is it control?.. No, I know, it's retaliation.. Or is it lack of motivation?.. We generate a host of hypotheses when trying to determine the function of challenging behaviors. A closer look at these and many other hypotheses often reveal a negative valence to these functions. Escaping and avoiding are not valued functions, nor are seeking control, retaliation or being unmotivated. With this negativity, who among us sees fit to honor these functions to the degree that we design and teach replacement behaviors so that the individual can get these functions met? Few if any.

But, what if we looked at challenging behaviors through a communication porthole, not a wide one, but through a 'communication acts' lens? This presentation will discuss the rudimentary communication acts, that in their conventional form, are all too often missing from the repertoire of someone with challenging behaviors. Participants will be encouraged to see challenging behaviors as valid communication attempts with legitimate functions, yet presented in idiosyncratic forms. Then, if we deem the function legitimate, it's incumbent upon us to honor it.

The way we approach those we support will also be addressed. The 'old school' my way or the highway all too often gets in the way of respecting those we support. The value, indeed, the benefit of a respect-based approach will be discussed as a win-win for all concerned.

### **Identity, Community, and Commitment: Learning to Love the Paradoxes** - Presented by William Gaventa, M.Div.

**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2017  
**Time:** 8:30 - 10:00 am

Our commitment as professionals and advocates to independence and autonomy can also have a "dark side," i.e., a neglect of the ways we are all rooted in relationships and depend on others. As professionals, parents and advocates who provide support, it is far too easy to forget that we also need to be supported. It is a journey in honesty and mutuality, helping us all to become better individuals and stronger communities.

## Breakout 1

### **Session A: Developmental Disabilities: The Neuroscience of Sexual Functioning. Clinical and Ethical Considerations (Part 1)** - Presented by Terry Young, PhD

This presentation will provide a brief review of the underlying causations of developmental disorders and the socio-political impact of the history of providing services for persons with developmental disabilities. There will be discussion of the rights of persons with developmental disabilities with a specific focus on sexuality. The influences and interactions of atypical neurosexual development and sexual expression and behaviors over the lifespan will be addressed.

### **Session B: Respect for Persons, Applied to Persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities** - Presented by Ryan Spellecy, PhD

Respect for persons, or as it is sometimes described respect for autonomy, is a fundamental principle in bioethics. In many cases though, this means facilitating an informed, voluntary decision for a decisional individual that reflects his or her values. What then should be done if the person is not decisional? For a non-decisional adult, we will look to evidence of past wishes when that person had decision-making capacity. What should be done for someone who never had the capacity to form such wishes? This presentation will address some of the basic legal issues associated with decision making for non-decisional individuals with specific attention to those with intellectual or developmental disabilities that prevented them from ever expressing legally binding wishes. We will then turn to ethical strategies for adhering to the ethical principle of respect for persons even when an individual cannot legally make his or her own decisions, and apply this legal and ethical framework to cases.

### **Session C: Community Building: Theirs and Ours** - Presented by William Gaventa, M.Div.

An exploration of some of the best practices in community building with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Walking along with others towards community inclusion and belonging leads to inevitable questions about what community means for us as well. Community building, in a very real sense, starts at home.



# Session Descriptions

## Breakout 2

### **Session A: Developmental Disabilities: The Neuroscience of Sexual Functioning. Clinical and Ethical Considerations (Part 2)** - Presented by Terry Young, PhD

This presentation is the second portion of the session outlined in Breakout 1. Participants will need to attend both sessions.

### **Session B: Guardianship and Alternative Decision-Making Tools** - Presented by Robert (Rock) Theine Pledl, J.D.

Some people with disabilities may need assistance to make important decisions. Historically, the answer was often to place them under complete guardianship and remove all of their legal rights. That has changed dramatically as Wisconsin and other states have changed their laws to provide for limited guardianship and various alternatives. This presentation will describe the legal structure of guardianship, emerging alternatives and the ways in which individuals with disabilities may be served or disserved by the guardianship process.

### **Session C: As You Eat, So You Are: Foods that Harm, Foods that Heal** - Presented by Linda Draayers

There are so many so-called truths about health living flying around these days. What do you believe? Are eggs good, are they bad? Can I eat carbohydrates? Is dairy bad for me? How many calories do I need every day and what is the best way to get them without feeling starved? This seminar will explore the areas of the world where people are living the longest and their secrets. We will explore, in depth, foods that promote health and healing, along with foods that if eaten in enough quantities send our bodies all the wrong signals and speed up the aging/dying process. A lot of individuals truly do not realize that the food that we put into our bodies greatly determines our mood for the day, our energy levels, our ability to sleep well, to concentrate and so much more. Healthy cooking and low cost healthy recipes and snack ideas will be provided. We will discuss foods that fight fat and help keep your metabolism working for you and against you. Many believe that to eat healthy is to eat very little and spend a lot of money. This session will dispel those beliefs. This seminar is packed with information for people of all ages, backgrounds, sizes, fitness levels, etc. Attending could be the start of a new and more fulfilling dietary life not only for you, both those you support.

## Breakout 3

### **Session A: Cultivating Compassionate and Culturally Responsive Circles of Care** - Presented by Lea Denny

This presentation will focus on introducing concepts around intergenerational trauma, practice-based evidence (PBE) and cultural competence to best inform and support consumers with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In exploring these concepts, strength-based ways to access the consumer, familial, and community resilience will be reviewed. In addition, strategies on how to address ways to be an authentic ally for a consumer and their circle of care (familial/caregiver) will be explored. The goal within this framework is to encourage a culturally responsive, trauma-informed and consumer specific approach to care. This approach invites a sense of community belonging and support within the consumers' circle of care.

### **Session B: God and the Group Home: Beyond The Nervous Relationship of Providers and Religion** - Presented by David Morstad, M.Ed, FAAIDD

Historically, there has been a reluctance on the part of support provider organizations when it comes to actively supporting the spiritual practices of the individuals whom they support. Acting as though this is somehow a delicate "church and state" concern is a distraction from the real issue. The acknowledgement of the spirituality of people with disabilities raises important questions about the integrity of individual supports. The session will provide data relative to US cultural norms of religious practice, and the practical impact of faith communities as natural support networks. It will also propose a renewed understanding of the person-centered, choice-honoring nature of planning and supports.

### **Section C: Benevolent Touch and Essential Oils** - Presented by Heather Hitchler and Leann Reichertz

Benevolent Touch is any positive tactile contact on another or one's own skin with loving intent. It was developed originally at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee to help patient's with dementia who may be challenged with anxiety and troubling behaviors such as wandering and aggression. In Leann's experience, she has found that the benefits of Benevolent Touch extend beyond that, including helping people with various ages, illnesses, disabilities, and even ourselves. This is a hands on presentation, where participants will learn massage techniques and practice them on each other during the class.

This class is being held in conjunction with an Introduction into Essential Oils class. The essential oil portion will show you how to incorporate the power of nature's own oils to assist in the dealing with various issues.



# Registration

## Conference Fees

### SINGLE DAY

#### FEBRUARY 16

AAIDD Member.....	FREE
Non-AAIDD Member....	\$60
Student.....	\$20

#### FEBRUARY 17

AAIDD Member.....	\$80
Non-AAIDD Member...	\$90
Student.....	\$40

### BOTH DAYS

AAIDD Member.....	\$80
Non-AAIDD Member....	\$130
Student.....	\$40

To receive the student rate, you must provide a copy of your Student ID upon registration.

Pay on-line or make checks payable to AAIDD WI and send to:

Options for Community Growth, Inc.  
11823 W. Janesville Rd.  
Hales Corners, WI 53130  
Attn: Linda Draayers

## On-line Registration

### EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:

All attendees that register **by January 16, 2017** will be entered into a drawing for a gift card to the Wilderness Resort. The winner will be announced during the conference.

### REGISTER AT:

<http://www.aaidawi.org/events/wi-annual-conference-february-16-17-wisconsin-dells/>.

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

February 1, 2017

## Hotel Accommodations

The conference will be held at the Wilderness Resort, 45 Hillman Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965, 608-254-1020.

To make room reservations call: 1-800-867-9453 and indicate you are with the AAIDD Winter Conference at Glacier Canyon Lodge (Reservation# 573069). The following room rates apply for reservations made by January 16, 2017:

### FEBRUARY 15 & 16

Single Room .....	\$82.00
Double, Triple or Quad Room.....	\$99.99

### FEBRUARY 17

Single, Double, Triple or Quad Room.....	\$129.99
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## Cancellations

All registration cancellations must be received in writing. Email your cancellation notice to Linda Draayers ([ldraayers@o4cg.com](mailto:ldraayers@o4cg.com)) or Dan Drury ([ddrury@o4cg.com](mailto:ddrury@o4cg.com)).

- Cancellations received up to 10 business days or more prior to the conference will be refunded the full conference fee.
- Cancellations 4-9 business days prior to the conference will be refunded 50% of the full conference fee.
- Cancellations 1-3 business days prior to the conference, and no-shows, are subject to payment for the full amount.

### REGISTRATION SUBSTITUTION

If a registrant is unable to attend the conference for any reason they may substitute, by arrangement with AAIDD Wisconsin, someone else from the same organization. Please contact Linda Draayers ([ldraayers@o4cg.com](mailto:ldraayers@o4cg.com) or 414-433-1210 ext. 101) or Dan Drury ([ddrury@o4cg.com](mailto:ddrury@o4cg.com) or 414-433-1210 ext. 104) directly.

### CANCELLATION BY AAIDD WISCONSIN

AAIDD Wisconsin reserves the right to cancel any training course due to insufficient enrollment or unforeseeable circumstances. Notice will be provided with the option to reschedule for a future conference date or to receive a full refund of registration fees.