

WSFN 2018 Conference Session Descriptions

Morning Sessions

Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts - Christy Ibrahim, Jones & Ibrahim, PLLC

Covering questions such as: What is a guardianship? Why do I need one? What is a special needs trust, what types are there and why are they needed?

Maintaining Relationship Resilience While Parenting a Child with Special Needs – Bill Scott, LICSW, Boyer Children’s Clinic Social Worker

As a father, the information presented will prove useful, whether you are new to your marriage or have decades of experience. Bill will draw from his training with John and Julie Gottman and his work at the Gottman Relationship Research Institute. Expect a fun, meaningful and insightful experience while enjoying the camaraderie of other fathers interested in improving the health and vitality of their relationships, while navigating this highly emotional journey of parenting a child with special needs

Social Media and Developmental Disability: Teaching Privacy and Safety – Claire Tierney and Daniel Isherwood, Healthy Relationships Program Staff, The Arc of King County

The Internet and Social Media can be a great source of connection, community, and support, especially for people with disabilities who often face barriers accessing the community. The internet also comes with challenges that uniquely impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Together we’ll discuss the impact that disability can have on access to privacy, and how those deficits can create vulnerability. We’ll discuss the kinds of exploitation that can happen through social media, from financial abuse to bullying, and what to do if you suspect your loved one is talking to someone online that isn’t safe. We’ll also talk about how to have these important discussions with your loved ones, and how to build safety skills like assertiveness so that they can stay in control over their lives on social media.

Introduction to Housing Options – Vicki Isett, Executive Director, Community Homes, Inc.

Participants will learn the basics of each supportive housing model and understand the services needed to qualify for and acquire housing. This session will help participants understand the housing basics and terminology.

Afternoon Sessions

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)– Nelson Rascon, Executive Director - Dads Move

We will talk about what an IEP is and how you can work collaboratively with your child's school to get the best education possible. We will also talk about your rights as a parent and how you can effectively resolve disputes with your school district.

Theater of Possibility: Exploring Relationship Skills Through Acting & Improvisation– Lauren Marshall- Playwright, Director, Teaching Artist, Founder of Theater of Possibility

Theater of Possibility (TOP) founding director Lauren Marshall will lead a 75 minute experiential workshop for dads on using theater and improvisation techniques to enhance family interactions with your special needs son or daughter. Imaginative, playful and non-didactic, these techniques are designed to foster relationship skills, such as experience sharing, social referencing, leading and following, flexibility, repair and collaboration. Marshall blends principles of Relationship Development Intervention with activities from theater improvisation and creative dramatics. Workshop will combine theory and practice and will offer examples of activities that you can do in your home. Adaptable for parents of children or adults of any age.

Financial Strategies for Families with Children Who Have Special Needs – Sheldon Sweeney, Financial Adviser, ChSNC, FIC, F-Squared, a Premier Planning Team at Pacific Capital Resource Group, Inc.

There are three Phases of Family Life, based on age, for a child with special needs: Pre-Guardianship, Post-Guardianship, and Independent Living. Each phase has its own unique financial challenges. However, with proper planning, parents/guardians can hopefully find peace, knowing that their child's financial well-being is protected throughout their life span as well as in the event of an unforeseen life change. We will discuss the resources available to you and have an open conversation where you can ask questions and/or share life experiences.

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Supported Employment Works for Everyone! Carrie Morehouse and Jen Huard, Work Opportunities

For most of us, adulthood equates to becoming a member of the workforce. While the path to employment may be a bit more complex for adults with disabilities, it can happen! Join us to learn more about supported employment, who benefits from employment(everyone!), preparing for work, and how parents can support their adult child with the employment journey. The presenters have personal and professional experience living and working with individuals with disabilities who have found success and inclusion in the workplace.