



Schedule Day 1



9:00

Welcome

disABILITYsa • Main Stage

9:15

Featured Session: Rewriting the Script: Transforming Lived Experiences into Healthcare Advocacy

Dr. Ortiz Aragón and Michelle Casares • Main Stage

Witness how lived experience and creative storytelling can improve disability-inclusive healthcare training.

10:30

Multiple Sessions

A: The State of Workplace Inclusion Policies and Employment Outcomes

Eduardo Velazco • Main Stage • 10:30-11:00

Examine how DEIA policies impact disability inclusion in the workplace.

B: Brush Your Stress Away with Hug Me Ink

Nicholas Holstein • Classroom 104 • 10:30-11:30

Try out the power of art-based healing, and learn how to use art in peer support programs.



C: Activity: Campfire Conversation

Room 3 • 10:30 - 11:30

Join in on an informal community conversation facilitated by Dr. Garfield.

11:00

Recommendations from Lived Experiences for Collaborative and Inclusive International Research Partnerships

Dr. Jillian Pierucci • Main Stage

Explore how building ethical, community-centered partnerships are key to expanding early childhood services.

11:30

Lunch and Networking

Room 3

Grab lunch with new friends and partners.



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12:30

3D Printing Innovation in a DME Reuse Program at Project MEND

Michael Darilek and Dexter Moon • Main Stage

Explore how disability-led design can improve medical equipment reuse, increasing access and sustainability.

1:30

Multiple Sessions

A: Leveraging Advanced Technologies for Coordinated Response and Tech-Enhanced De-escalation Support of Autistic Individuals

Katie Holloway and Kim Davis • Main Stage

Learn how technology and community collaboration can improve crisis response for individuals with Autism

B: Featured Session: Expanding the Discussion... When Words Matter

Dr. Theresa Garfield • Classroom 104

Learn about an opportunity to get involved in a new research project. No previous experience needed!

2:45

Multiple Sessions

A: From Restraint to Respect: Lived Experience is Research

Becky West and Sam West • Classroom 104

See how centering dignity, lived experience, and community-led care can reduce restraint and sedation

B: Care Mapping: A Person-Centered Approach to Visualizing Complex Needs through Visual Storytelling



Dr. Ortiz Aragón & Michelle Casares • Classroom 105

Try out a visual tool to understand support systems, identify gaps, and advocate for more inclusive care.

3:45

Closing Remarks

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Don't forget to take the event survey for Day 1!