

49th Annual Convention

# The Right Direction

Advocacy

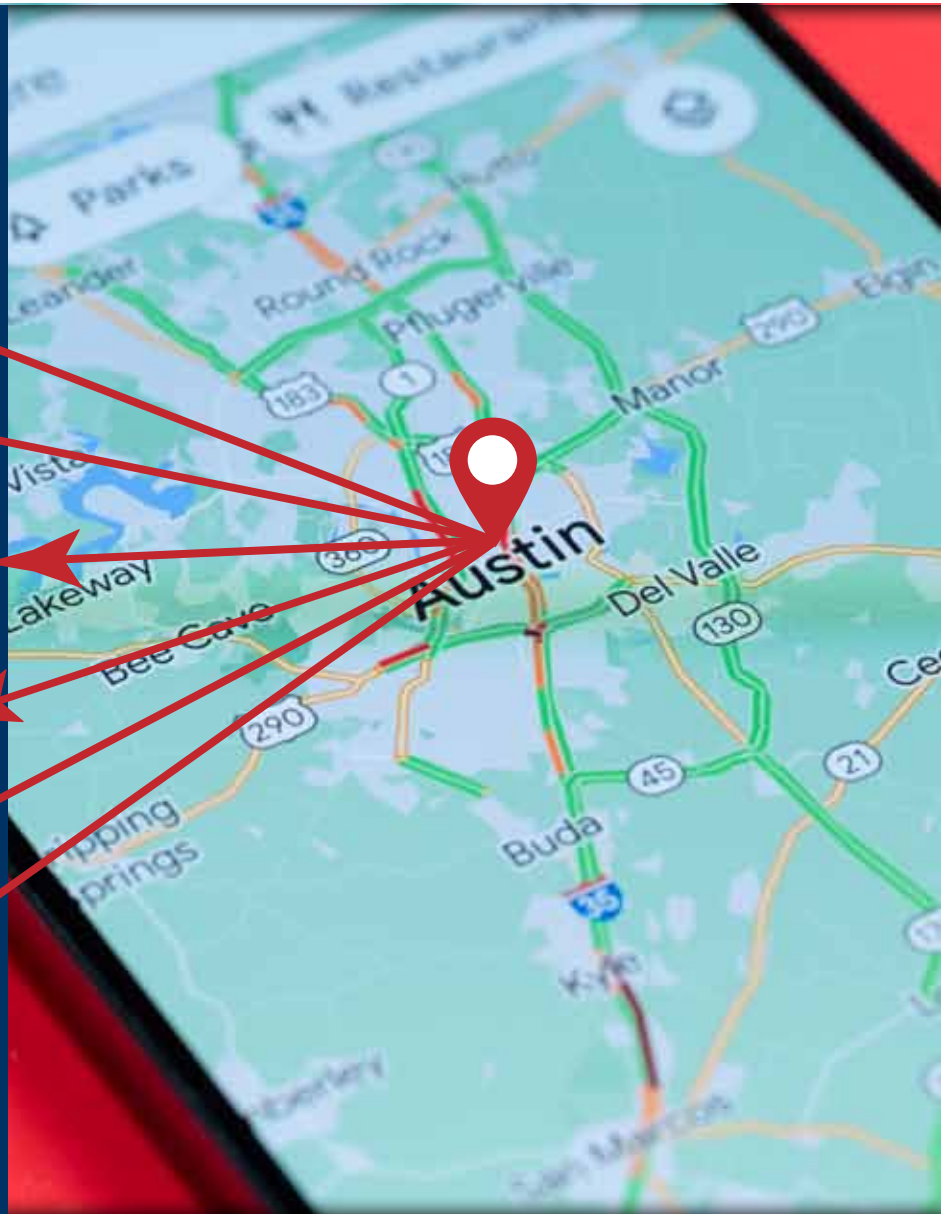
Awareness

Collaboration

Compassion

Education

Inclusion



Sept 30 – Oct 3, 2025



 **aaidd**

Knowledge | Support | Empowerment  
*Texas Chapter*

**Omni Corpus Christi Hotel**  
**Corpus Christi, TX**

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# WELCOME

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Fellow Advocates,

On behalf of the AAIDD Texas Chapter, it is with great pride and heartfelt enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 49th Annual Convention of the American Association on Intellectual Disabilities – Texas Chapter. We are honored to gather with you in the beautiful city of Corpus Christi, where together we will explore new ideas, share expertise, and reaffirm our collective commitment to advancing the rights and inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This year's theme, "The Right Direction," reflects both the progress we've made and the path ahead. It reminds us that every step forward, whether in policy, practice, research, or personal growth - moves us closer to a future where all individuals are supported, valued, and empowered to thrive.

Our 2025 program offers a robust and engaging lineup of sessions led by self-advocates, professionals, educators, policymakers, and community leaders. We are especially honored to open the convention with a keynote by James Meadours, a nationally recognized self-advocate whose journey from group home living to independence embodies the spirit of this year's theme.

Plan to attend the general session "Taking Our Lives in the Right Direction" a talk show interview with three people with Down Syndrome living their best lives hosted by Shelbi Davenport of The Shelbi Show. From dynamic breakout sessions and in-depth presentations - such as the 89th Legislative Overview of IDD Initiatives and Outcomes - to the powerful insights shared during our closing State Leader Panel Discussion, and the compelling voices of self-advocates sharing their lived experiences, this year's convention offers something for everyone. You will leave not only informed, but energized, inspired, and renewed in purpose, ready to continue the vital work you do each and every day.

Throughout the week, we encourage you to take full advantage of the breakout sessions and networking opportunities and do also remember to visit our generous exhibitors. These are moments not only to learn but to connect, reflect, and collaborate. Your presence here strengthens our shared mission, and your contributions help ensure that all individuals with IDD have the opportunity to live full, self-directed lives.

Thank you for your continued dedication to this important work. We are grateful you have chosen to spend these meaningful days with us, and we hope you leave inspired, empowered, and encouraged as we continue moving together in the right direction.

Warmest regards,  
Ken Winston  
President-Elect and Convention Committee Chair  
AAIDD Texas Chapter





# SPECIAL EVENTS

## OPENING SESSION

**Wednesday, October 1, 8:45 – 10:30 a.m.**

### **A Journey from Group Living to Independent Living**

James Meadours, a nationally recognized self-advocate, shares his powerful story of moving from a group home to living independently in “The Right Direction.” With honesty and courage, James outlines the milestones, setbacks, and supports that helped him take control of his life. From building daily living skills and speaking up for his rights, to embracing community inclusion, James offers a message of hope and empowerment. Attendees will leave with deeper insight into how to support others on their own path to independence.

- James Meadours, Self-Advocate, National Speaker, Disability Rights Leader

## SILENT AUCTION

**Wednesday, October 1, Noon - 4:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, October 2, 7:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Show your support for the association and participate in the Silent Auction. If you have an item that you would like to donate, contact Susanne Deiter at 210-845-2628 or by email at [susannedeiter1964@gmail.com](mailto:susannedeiter1964@gmail.com). Proceeds from the auction will help support the convention. See you there!

## AAIDD TEXAS CHAPTER AWARDS LUNCHEON

**Thursday, October 2, 11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

We all know dedicated persons who are serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Visit [www.aaiddtx.org](http://www.aaiddtx.org) for awards information. Help honor this year's award recipients.

## GENERAL SESSION

**Thursday, October 2, 3 – 4:30 p.m.**

### **Taking Our Lives in the Right Direction**

This presentation is intended to be a general session in the format of a structured interview that will provide the audience with a personal perspective on how the lives of three people with Down Syndrome were given the support and freedom to doggedly pursue their dreams and who are now living their best lives, with even better things to come. Shelbi Davenport of The Shelbi Show will host the session, interspersing interview questions with video snippets to facilitate and drive the discussion. The audience will be motivated to encourage others with disabilities to let nothing get in the way of following their desired path.

- Shelbi Davenport, B.S. Better Lives Senior Associate/Practicum Coordinator at TAMU
- Martha Haythorn, Georgia Tech ExCel Graduate, Policy Specialist-Georgia State Legislature
- Austin Underwood, Operator-Austin's UnderDawgs
- Jenny Stone, Outspoken Self-Advocate and Austin's partner

## CLOSING SESSION

**Friday, October 3, 9 – 11 a.m.**

### **State Leader Panel Perspectives**

#### **Continental Breakfast will be provided**

- Moderator, Carey Amthor, President, AAIDD Texas Chapter
- Sandy Frizzell Batton, Executive Director, Provider Alliance for Community Services of Texas (PACSTX)
- Michael Clarke, Deputy Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, The Arc of Texas
- Scott Daigle, Public Policy Director, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)
- Erin Lawler, J.D., M.S., Chief of System Policy, Texas Council of Community Centers
- Anne McGonigle, Deputy Associate Commissioner of IDD Services and PASRR, Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Carole Smith, Executive Director, Private Providers Association of Texas (PPAT)



# SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

## SPONSORS

### DIAMOND



### PLATINUM



### GOLD



### SILVER



### BRONZE



## TABLETOP DISPLAY EXHIBITORS

AAIDD Texas Chapter

Alleviate, LLC

Cantex

Enable Dental

Genoa Healthcare

Guardian Pharmacy - Texas

Molina Healthcare

Neighborhood LTC Pharmacy

Nursing Innovations Consulting

Pharmacy Alternatives by  
PharMerica

Special Considerations

Tarrytown Expo Pharmacy

Teromed

Texas Comptroller of Public  
Accounts – Texas ABLE

TWC VR Rehabilitation Council of  
Texas

Vitoria Pharmacy

[www.aaiddtx.org](http://www.aaiddtx.org)



# SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

## Tuesday September 30

**3 – 5 p.m.**

Registration

**3 –5 p.m.**

Exhibit Hall/Silent Auction Set-up

**4:45 – 6 p.m.**

Reception/Poster Presentations

**6 p.m.**

AAIDD Texas Chapter Board of Directors and  
Convention Committee Meeting/Dinner

## Wednesday October 1

**7:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Registration

**7:45 – 8:30 a.m.**

Continental Breakfast

**8:45 – 10:30 a.m.**

Opening Session

**10:45 – 11:45 a.m.**

Breakout Sessions

**Noon – 4:30 p.m.**

Exhibit Hall/Silent Auction (Lunch on your own)

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

Breakout Sessions

**2:30 – 3 p.m.**

Break (Exhibit Hall)

**3 – 4 p.m.**

Breakout Sessions

**4 – 4:30 p.m.**

AAIDD Texas Chapter Annual Business Meeting

**5 – 6:30 p.m.**

Reception

## Thursday October 2

**7:45 a.m.– 5 p.m.**

Registration

**7:45 – 8:15 a.m.**

Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)

**7:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Silent Auction Open

**7:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

Exhibit Hall Open

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

Breakout Sessions

**9:30 – 10 a.m.**

Break (Exhibit Hall)

**10 – 11 a.m.**

Breakout Sessions

**11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Awards Luncheon

**1p.m.**

Silent Auction Closes

**1:15 – 2:15 p.m.**

Breakout Sessions

**2:15 – 2:45 p.m.**

Break (Exhibit Hall)

**3 – 4:30 p.m.**

General Session

**4:30– 5 p.m.**

Silent Auction Pick-up

**Evening on your own**

## Friday October 3

**8 – 11 a.m.**

Registration

**8 – 8:45 a.m.**

Continental Breakfast

**9 – 11 a.m.**

Closing Session



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Tuesday September 30

3 – 5 p.m.  
REGISTRATION

3 – 5 p.m.  
EXHIBIT HALL/SILENT AUCTION SET-UP

4:45 – 6 p.m.  
RECEPTION  
Poster Presentations

6 p.m.  
AAIDD TEXAS CHAPTER BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS AND CONVENTION COMMITTEE  
MEETING/DINNER

## Wednesday October 1

7:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
REGISTRATION

7:45 – 8:30 a.m.  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 – 10:30 a.m.  
OPENING SESSION

**James Meadours, Self-Advocate, National  
Speaker, Disability Rights Leader**

### **A Journey from Group Living to Independent Living**

James Meadours, a nationally recognized self-advocate, shares his powerful story of moving from a group home to living independently in “The Right Direction.” With honesty and courage, James outlines the milestones, setbacks, and supports that helped him take control of his life. From building daily living skills and speaking up for his rights, to embracing community inclusion, James offers a message of hope and empowerment. Attendees will leave with deeper insight into how to support others on their own path to independence.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.  
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### **1. Supporting Youth with Developmental Disabilities in Crisis**

Youth with developmental disabilities (DD) experience mental health concerns at higher rates than the general population. Despite this, they experience multiple barriers to receiving care, which can lead to higher instances of mental health crises and use of emergency systems. In this panel, we will discuss the mental health needs of youth with IDD, current crisis response realities, and different strategies for supporting youth with IDD in crisis. Attendees will hear from a person with lived expertise and staff implementing programs to support youth, and how they have tailored their crisis response program to better serve youth with IDD.

- *Katie Mitten, LMSW, Director of Cross System Integration, Children’s Specialty Healthcare, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute*
- *David Baker, LPC-S, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network*
- *Kelli Guerrero, LCSW/LPHA, Director of Child & Adolescent Crisis Services, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network*
- *Jessica Jimenez, LMSW/QMHP-CS, Program Manager, Child & Adolescent Homeless & Crisis Services, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network*
- *Jordan Smelley, MHPS, People Planning Together Trainer*

### **2. Medicaid in Texas: Understanding Benefits within Managed Care**

Medicaid in Texas provides numerous valuable services, resources, and support to our most vulnerable populations. However, navigating these services can be challenging. Attend this session with representatives from Molina Healthcare of Texas and Maximus to gain a comprehensive understanding of the services available through the various STAR programs. This session will also provide an opportunity to have your questions addressed by professionals who work with these programs on a daily basis.

- *Rachel Hopkins, IDD Program Director, Molina Healthcare of Texas*
- *Araceli (Sally) Guerrero, Long Term Services and Support Specialist (LTSS), Maximus*

# Wednesday October 1

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS - CONTINUED

### 3. Transition Support Teams in Texas

This presentation will provide the audience with information on the availability of a valuable resource: The Transition Support Team. This is a program which provides free service to families, individuals, caregivers, and other community members. The services include training, information, and case consultation. Several teams across the state are organized to implement this program. Each team consists of various professionals, and each team responds to their communities' needs in their own manner while staying within the bounds of the program outline. The panel will present several ways in which the eight teams across the state have implemented the program.

- Beth Duncan, BCBA, Transition Support Team, Texana Center
- Susan LaGrone, MS, LBSW, LPC-C, Transition Support Team Coordinator, Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities
- JP Cardenas, LPC, Outreach Training Specialist LPHA, Integral Care

Noon – 4:30 p.m.

## EXHIBIT HALL/SILENT AUCTION OPEN

(Lunch on your own)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 1. My Person-Centered Planning

My Person-Centered Planning provides an overview of Person-Centered Planning (PCP) as a structured approach to empower individuals in making decisions about their own lives. It highlights the balance between what is "Important To" and "Important For" a person, emphasizing individualized goal setting and action planning. The presentation explores how using the PCP process ensured that my voice was heard, and services were aligned with my personal aspirations. By shifting the focus from clinical decision-making to person-driven choices, PCP fosters inclusion, self-determination, and meaningful participation in the community.

- Jordan Smelley, MHPS, People Planning Together Trainer

### 2. Are They Prepared? Time Management in IPSE Programs

Managing time is crucial for successful outcomes in education, employment, and independent living. Yet, youth with disabilities struggle with time perception, organization, and task completion, especially in post-secondary programs with greater flexibility and less supervision. Our collective case study explored parents' perspectives on their youth's daily time management in inclusive postsecondary education programs, parental strategies, youth responses, and contributing potential factors by conducting eighteen semi-structured interviews over seven months. Preliminary results will be categorized into three primary areas based on parental perceptions and approaches: Time Perception, Time Orientation, and Time Management. Practical implications and recommendations for future research will be discussed.

- Peizhen Li, Ph.D. Student and Graduate Research Assistant, Texas A&M University
- Wen-hsuan Chang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Special Education, Texas A&M University

### 3. Music Therapy's Role in Medicine

Music has been used for pathologic purposes for longer than it has been an accredited profession. As time passes, music therapy is becoming a more popular adjunct therapy. What was considered credible by a handful of professionals is now being requested and used in numerous fields such as education, psychiatry, intellectual disabilities and medicine. Music therapy's application and use in the medical field is growing significantly. In this class we will explore the various branches of medicine that use music therapy. We will look at music therapy's purposes and benefits in various fields of medical treatment.

- Lauri Gallegos, MA, MT-BC, Board Certified Music Therapist, [laurigallegos.com](http://laurigallegos.com)

2:30 – 3 p.m.

## BREAK (EXHIBIT HALL)





# Wednesday October 1

3 – 4 p.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 1. Digging Deeper: Asking Questions and Thinking Critically

Gathering information and using that information to provide support and services is a key component of our work. The quality of the information matters; if we base our service planning on low-quality, inaccurate or incomplete information, the people we support may not get the services they need when they need them. This interactive presentation highlights the importance of active-empathic listening and asking quality questions to gather information. It offers a model of how to construct questions to better our information-gathering and decision-making skills.

- Susan LaGrone, MS, LBSW, LPC-C, Transition Support Team Coordinator, Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities

### 2. Do You See What I See?

As the old expression goes, “art has no boundaries”! Anyone that has briefly scanned a print of the Sistine Chapel or a crayon rendition of a dog surely has thought Art has no boundaries. There are so many examples in our world of how beauty and success are born “outside the box” or without boundaries. Unfortunately, the IDD world is laced with dos and don’ts and boundaries. Our role is to tear down boundaries and ensure everyone has the same opportunities in this world. Interestingly, even my title creates a boundary inferring only those who can see will understand. All boundaries aside, art defies all! My presentation will highlight the important role ART plays in the IDD setting. A formal or informal art program within the day program provides opportunities of not just self-expression but self-exploration. The presentation will showcase a myriad of art pieces ranging from pottery to poetry and highlight the importance of supporting art programs and allowing the individuals to lead. The presentation will also discuss how art allows individuals to make money as well as introduces the community to the IDD world.

- Kim Fincanon, Area Supervisor, Evergreen Life Services
- Lynda Krupa, Creative Art Coordinator, Evergreen Life Services

### 3. The Journey to Neuro-Affirming Care

Recipients of our services and their caregivers are actively sharing their expectations and preferences, and it’s our responsibility to listen. Through social media, interviews, and surveys, they provide valuable feedback on goals, interventions, and suggested improvements. In this discussion, we explore recent literature from Behavior Analysis and other fields, focusing on how we are striving to offer neuro-affirming care across various service models. Neuro-affirming care encourages collaboration with clients, the most important stakeholders. We will examine the neurodiversity movement, address criticisms from autistic advocates, and offer practical recommendations for integrating neuro-affirming care into practice to foster inclusion.

- Jeffrey Dillen, MS, BCBA, LBA, Senior Manager, Texana Center
- Holly Dillen, MS, BCBA, LBA, Senior Manager, Texana Center
- Rany Thommen, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, Café Project Manager, Texana Center

4 – 4:30 p.m.

## AAIDD TEXAS CHAPTER ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

5 – 6:30 p.m.

## RECEPTION

# Thursday October 2

7:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## REGISTRATION

7:45 – 8:15 a.m.

## CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST – EXHIBIT HALL

7:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## SILENT AUCTION OPEN

7:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

## EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

# Thursday October 2

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 1. Common Survey Violations in the HCS Program: Tips for Prevention & Correction

This session will review some of the most common survey violations that Twogether Consulting has seen over the past year with HCS providers. In addition, I will be discussing some of the areas of the HCS TAC (Title 26 Part I Ch 565) that survey may be paying special attention to, as well as tips on how to prevent specific violations using best practice. Examples and helpful tools will also be provided in this session.

- Julie Andrews Blacklock, IDD Waiver & ICF Consultant, Twogether Consulting

### 2. Developing Voice and Agency to Inclusive Postsecondary Education: Student Experiences

In this session, students from the inaugural cohort of a new Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program for students with IDD (IPSE) in central Texas will share their experiences at Texas State University's Bobcat RISE. Now in their junior year, these students have taken dozens of traditional college courses, program specific courses and employment courses and have participated in internship opportunities. These students have lived independently in campus apartments, eaten almost 1,500 meals away from home and walked hundreds of miles on the hilly Texas State University campus. Bobcat RISE students will share about their academic, social and vocational growth and how college life has changed them.

- Tamara Shetron, Ph.D., Bobcat RISE Program Director, Texas State University
- Gloria Gilbert, Christian Turner, Hudson Veader, Grant Zollinger

### 3. When the Direction is Unclear

In *When the Direction is Unclear*, Sylvan Cochran shares his journey as a neurodivergent student navigating autism, ADHD, OCD and dysgraphia through school, health care and community systems. Now a college student, self-advocate, and volunteer, Sylvan offers a powerful inside look at the barriers, breakthroughs and people who helped him move from misunderstanding to empowerment. With honesty and heart, he reflects on the role of inclusive practices, creative expression and community support in building confidence and self-determination. This session offers educators and professionals a firsthand understanding of what true inclusion feels like from the perspective of lived experience.

- Sylvan Cochran, Self-Advocate

9:30 – 10 a.m.

## BREAK (EXHIBIT HALL)

10 – 11 a.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 1. Bridging the Gap: IDEA to ADA Transition

Transitioning from school-based accommodations under IDEA to workplace accommodations under ADA can be a complex journey for individuals with disabilities and those who support them. This presentation will explore this crucial transition, providing valuable insights for professionals working with individuals with disabilities. It will highlight key differences between IDEA and ADA, specifically addressing the purpose and eligibility differences between accommodations in school and the workplace. Attendees will be introduced to the Job Accommodation Network (JAN) as a vital partner in navigating workplace accommodations. This session provides professionals with tools to support a more inclusive work environment.

- Marcy Hancock, MSE, Program Coordinator, Texas A&M University
- Joette Hardin, M.Ed., Program Coordinator, Texas A&M University



# Thursday October 2

10 – 11 a.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS - CONTINUED

### 2. HCS Waiver Survey: Nursing Compliance Essentials

HCS Survey: Nursing Compliance Essentials offers a focused overview of key nursing documents and practices reviewed during HCS Waiver surveys. This session outlines requirements such as CNAs, risk assessments, physician's orders, nursing notes, RN delegations, Special Needs Training, and implementation plans. Attendees will also get an overview of significant issues, including dental service documentation, staff training, PDP/IPC compliance, and environmental and emergency preparedness. The presentation provides a clear checklist of what surveyors seek and practical strategies to maintain readiness. Ideal for nurses and providers, this session ensures your team is prepared for a successful HCS survey with nursing at the forefront.

- Pamela Long, BSN, RN, CCM, Owner, Nursing Innovations Consulting
- Megan Hinds, BSN, RN, Owner, Nursing Innovations Consulting

### 3. 89th Legislative Overview of IDD Initiatives and Outcomes

The presenter will discuss the specific changes that will be implemented in IDD services and supports as a result of the recent legislative session in Texas.

- Dion White, MBA, FAAIDD, CEO, Center for Life Resources

## 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m. AWARDS LUNCHEON

## 1 p.m. SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 1. Building Connections: Enhancing Engagement Through Service Learning in IPSE

This presentation highlights the importance of community engagement in inclusive higher education for students with an intellectual disability (ID). It introduces a service-based learning curriculum that fosters leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and civic responsibility. By promoting self-determination and belonging, the program encourages students to actively participate in meaningful community service, strengthening their connection to both campus and local communities. The session will showcase how such programs support students' personal growth and long-term involvement while providing strategies for assessing social cohesion and engagement to enhance outcomes in inclusive postsecondary education.

- Kayla Canis, M.S., Doctoral Student, University of North Texas

### 2. Developmental Disabilities and the Juvenile Criminal Legal System

This session will be a facilitated conversation among participants about improvements that could be made along the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Continuum of Care (CoC) for youth with developmental disabilities (DD). The presenters from the Meadows Institute will provide an overview of the OJJDP Continuum of Care and share key insights from community site visits across the 7 juvenile justice regions related to youth with DD who experience the juvenile justice continuum. Through a facilitated discussion, attendees will share thoughts on their communities' strengths and weaknesses in supporting youth with DD along the OJJDP CoC.

- Katie Mitten, LMSW, Director of Cross System Integration, Children's Specialty Healthcare, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
- Kaila Berrian, BSW, MHPS, PSS, Project Director, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

### 3. 89th Legislative Overview of IDD Initiatives and Outcomes

The presenter will discuss the specific changes that will be implemented in IDD services and supports as a result of the recent legislative session in Texas.

- Dion White, MBA, FAAIDD, CEO, Center for Life Resources

# Thursday October 2

2:15 – 2:45 p.m.

**BREAK (EXHIBIT HALL)**

3 – 4:30 p.m.

**GENERAL SESSION**

**Taking Our Lives in the Right Direction**

- **Shelbi Davenport, B.S. Better Lives Senior Associate/Practicum Coordinator at TAMU**
- **Martha Haythorn, Georgia Tech ExCel Graduate, Policy Specialist-Georgia State Legislature**
- **Austin Underwood, Operator-Austin's UnderDawgs**
- **Jenny Stone, Outspoken Self-Advocate and Austin's partner**

This presentation is intended to be a general session in the format of a structured interview that will provide the audience with a personal perspective on how the lives of three people with Down Syndrome were given the support and freedom to doggedly pursue their dreams and who are now living their best lives, with even better things to come. Shelbi Davenport of The Shelbi Show will host the session, interspersing interview questions with video snippets to facilitate and drive the discussion. The audience will be motivated to encourage others with disabilities to let nothing get in the way of following their desired path.

4:30 – 5 p.m.

**SILENT AUCTION PICK-UP**

**EVENING ON YOUR OWN**

# Friday October 3

8 – 11 a.m.

**REGISTRATION**

8 – 8:45 a.m.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

9 – 11 a.m.

**CLOSING SESSION**

**Closing Session – State Leader Panel Discussion**

- *Moderator, Carey Amthor, President, AAIDD Texas Chapter*
- *Sandy Frizzell Batton, Executive Director, Provider Alliance for Community Services of Texas (PACSTX)*
- *Michael Clarke, Deputy Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, The Arc of Texas*
- *Scott Daigle, Public Policy Director, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)*
- *Erin Lawler, J.D., M.S., Chief of System Policy, Texas Council of Community Centers*
- *Anne McGonigle, Deputy Associate Commissioner of IDD Services and PASRR, Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)*
- *Carole Smith, Executive Director, Private Providers Association of Texas (PPAT)*





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register online, go to [www.aaiddtx.org](http://www.aaiddtx.org). You can make your payment by credit card or check. Once you have registered online, make check payable to AAIDD Texas Chapter and mail payment to: AAIDD Texas Chapter, P.O. Box 28076, Austin, TX 78755.

## Hotel Information

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel  
900 North Shoreline Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Online Reservations: [Click Here](#)

Group room rates available (3) nights prior and (3) post to the event based upon availability. Reservations requested after cut-off date will be subject to space and rate availability.

**Rates:** \$155.00 single/double occupancy  
Check-in time is 4 p.m.; check-out time is 11 a.m.

Make your reservation by September 8, 2025 to ensure the special rate and room availability. Reservations requested after cut-off date will be subject to space and rate availability.

**Hotel Parking:** Discounted self-parking is \$15 + tax/day/vehicle and valet parking is \$40 + tax /day/vehicle.

## TRANSPORTATION

Hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to/from the Corpus Christi International Airport. Taxis and rental car agencies are located at the airport.

## ATTIRE

Attire is “business casual” for all meetings and events.

## BADGE IDENTIFICATION

Badges are required for entry to all meeting rooms, meal functions, and Exhibit Hall.

## CONCURRENT SESSION ADMITTANCE

All sessions are open to conference attendees on a *first-come/first-serve basis*. As soon as all chairs are occupied, the room monitor will close the session. Fire codes prohibit the attendees from standing in the aisles or against the walls. We appreciate your cooperation.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

CEUs are available for designated sessions at the Convention at no charge. CEU forms will be provided at the designated sessions. Certificates will be distributed after completion of each session.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## CONVENTION EVALUATION FORMS

Be sure to complete the overall convention evaluation form and return it to the registration desk before the closing session. Attendees who complete the overall convention evaluation form, will receive a ticket for a prize drawing to be held at the closing session. Your input is important and will help us plan for the 2026 Convention.

## DOOR PRIZES

Door Prize drawings will be held in the Exhibit Hall at selected break times on Wednesday and Thursday. To qualify, you must visit all exhibitors and have each one sign the drawing card. Drawing cards will be available at the registration desk. To be eligible to win, your completed entry form must be dropped in the bowl at the AAIDD Texas Chapter exhibit table. You must be present to win!

## EXHIBITION INFORMATION

There are (20) exhibit tables available for the show this year. The exhibit fee includes one registration. Additional company representatives will need to pay the additional exhibitor fee (\$195). Upon receipt of your exhibitor registration and payment, display tables will be assigned on a first-come/first-serve basis. The exhibit hall will be open during the following hours: Noon – 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 1 and 7:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m., Thursday, October 2. Exhibitor set-up begins on Tuesday, September 30 from 2 – 5 p.m. Exhibits need to be ready by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 1. Tear down begins at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 2 with all displays removed by 4 p.m. Please contact Pat Holder at 512/349-7470 for display table availability and assignments.

## SILENT AUCTION AND 50/50 CASH GIVEAWAY

Our silent auction and the 50/50 cash give-away is back again this year. Attendees can provide a credit card and/or cash for the silent auction and cash for the 50/50 give-away (ATM machine available at the hotel).

## SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

As a “Green” initiative, we will post the speaker presentations to the website following the Convention. Speakers will provide a short summary of their presentation onsite. Thank you for your cooperation.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If your organization is interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please check the appropriate box on the registration form. When completing the registration, be sure that the company name is printed exactly as it is to appear in the promotional materials. Sponsors receive the following benefits for their participation at the Convention: listing on sign at the convention; recognition in the convention program (if committed 30 days in advance), company name posted on the association website, recognition in the association newsletter and sponsor ribbon on name badge at the convention.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2025 AAIDD Texas Chapter Board of Directors

### President

**Carey Anthor**  
Friends for Life

### President - Elect

**Ken Winston**  
Integral Care

### Past President

**Toye Babb**  
Advocate

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### Secretary

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**Julie Blacklock**  
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**Coleen Heaton**  
Arc of McLennan County

**Amber Jones**  
Integral Care

**Charlotte Kimmel, Ph.D.**  
Independent Practice

**Cheryl Wilson**  
Integral Care

**Pat Holder**  
Convention Manager

# CONVENTION COMMITTEE

## 49th Annual Convention Committee

**Ken Winston, Chair**  
Integral Care

**Carey Amthor**  
Friends for Life

**Toye Babb**  
Advocate

**Linda Bailey**  
Evergreen Life Services

**Julie Blacklock**  
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**Connie Cisneros**  
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**Susanne Deiter**  
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**Charlotte Kimmel, Ph.D.**  
Independent Practice

**Ramona Salomons**  
Nueces Center for MH and ID

**Lisa Simmons**

**Dion White**  
Center for Life Resources

**Cheryl Wilson**  
Integral Care





# REGISTRATION INFO

## AAIDD 49th Annual Convention

### "The Right Direction"

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel • Corpus Christi, Texas • September 30 - October 3, 2025

To Register Online visit our website - [www.aaidctx.org](http://www.aaidctx.org)

- **Cancellation Policy:** No refunds will be given after **September 8, 2025**; however, substitutions will be permitted.
- For best rates, be sure to register by the earlybird cut-off of September 8, 2025
- Special needs? Interested in Convention sponsorship? Questions? Contact Pat Holder, Convention Manager at 512/349-7470 or [patholder@austin.rr.com](mailto:patholder@austin.rr.com).



Join AAIDD Texas Chapter now! If you sign up now, you can register at the member rate.

Membership to AAIDD Texas Chapter is an Individual membership. Visit [aaidctx.org](http://aaidctx.org)



### Registration Fees\*

	Early Bird Until 9/8/25	After 9/8/25 and on-site
Full Convention - Member	\$350	\$400
Full Convention - Non-Member	\$400	\$450
Daily Rate	\$150	\$180
Guest/Spouse	\$150	\$180

\*Fees for full convention attendees include Wednesday – Friday sessions, daily coffee breaks and the Thursday Awards Luncheon. The daily rate includes the sessions, coffee breaks and meal functions scheduled on that day.

Group Discount: Take \$15.00 off per person from the full registration fee with 3 or more from your facility/agency/company.

**To receive the group discount for multiple attendees, please register the group together online. Late additions will be charged as a separate submission and not receive a discount.**

### Exhibitor Information

	Early Bird Until 9/8/25	After 9/8/25 and on-site
Exhibit Fee	\$580	\$630

Exhibit fee includes one (1) complimentary registration, one six foot skirted table and two chairs. Other company representatives will need to pay the additional exhibitor fee (\$195/person). Only representatives who are employed by the exhibiting companies will receive this rate. All other visitors must pay non-member rate. Contact Pat Holder at 512/349-7470 for booth availability.

### Convention Sponsorship

Diamond	\$1,000
Platinum	\$750
Gold	\$500
Silver	\$400
Bronze	\$250

If you are interested in Event Sponsorship, contact Pat Holder at 512/349-7470.

[www.aaidctx.org](http://www.aaidctx.org)

