

PROVIDER CONFERENCE

Speaker Bios

utah department of
**human
services**
SERVICES FOR PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES



Bevin Croft

Dr. Croft conducts research in self-direction and self-determination, person-centered planning and practice, peer services, and human services systems transformation. She is co-director of the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (www.ncapps.acl.gov), funded by ACL and CMS. She is also the principal investigator of a multi-state Demonstration and Evaluation of Self-Direction in Behavioral Health, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.mentalhealthselfdirection.org). Dr. Croft serves in principal roles in behavioral health systems analysis projects with several states and counties. She holds a Master of Public Policy and a Ph.D. in Social Policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University.



Jenny Turner

Jennifer "Jenny" Turner is a Senior Research Associate at the UMKC-Institute for Human Development, UCEDD. She specializes in organizational and systems change, supporting and training professionals, and is a member of the staff team for the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families. As a

member of the Charting the LifeCourse team, Jenny participates in the development and dissemination of promising practices to enhance person-and-family centered policies and practices within state agencies and provider organizations. Previously the Regional Director for a large provider of state funded services to individuals with developmental disabilities, Jenny was responsible for the development and implementation of an organizational plan to become compliant with the Home and Community Based Settings rule. She also served on state wide work groups for implementation of the Home and Community Based Settings rule throughout the state of Missouri, the development of the Missouri Support Coordinator Core Competencies and related tools, and the revision of directives, guidelines, and service definitions. Jenny started her career as a Support Coordinator (case manager), supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to develop their vision for a good life and to identify and access needed resources. She received her Master of Social Work from Missouri State University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Her passion for the development and implementation of best practice that will drive systems change and impact families originates in growing up as a sibling of a sister with a developmental disability.



Tim Reisen

Tim is a research associate professor with a joint appointment in the Center for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation. Tim's research focuses on promoting positive employment outcomes for individuals with significant disabilities. He has published articles on customized employment, transition to employment, inclusive education, systematic instruction, and alternatives to guardianship. He is the co-author of a book on transition, has written book chapters on improving employment and independent living, job coaching, embedded instruction, and research design.

Tricia Jones-Parkin

Tricia has over 20-years of experience working with people with disabilities. In 2011, Tricia collaborated to craft the Employment First Language for Utah and has focused on capacity building and systems change efforts to increase the number of people employed and included in their local communities. Tricia is also the project director for Utah's School to Work Inter-agency Transition Initiative funded by

the Administration for the Employment Systems Change grant. She is the co-state lead for Utah's partnership with the Office of Disability Policy's Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program. Tricia was the recipient of the National Association of Persons Supporting Employment First (APSE) Dave Hammis Award.

Aubrey Snyder

Aubrey graduated from Utah State University with an undergraduate degree in political science. Aubrey has been working with people with disabilities for over five years and is excited to continue her work as an integration specialist.

Matt Wappett, Executive Director Center for Persons with Disabilities

Matthew Wappett is the Executive Director of the Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities (UCEDD), with an affiliate appointment as a Research Associate Professor in the USU College of Education and Human Services. He was formerly the Co-Director of the University of Idaho Confucius Institute and had an affiliate faculty appointment as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Dr. Wappett has also served as the Associate Director of the UI Center on Disabilities and Human Development and had a faculty appointment in the UI College of Education. Dr. Wappett's background is in special education and disability studies; most of his research has been focused on creating inclusive environments to accommodate the needs of diverse populations.



Lisa Wade

Lisa Wade is currently the Person-Centered Support Plan Consultant for the Utah Parent Center. She comes to UPC with more than 20 years of experience advocating on disabilities issues. She has worked with the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities on mental health and special education issues and served as a parent partner with IHC Sandy Pediatrics, helping the doctors and staff create a more disability-friendly environment. She served two terms on the Utah Special Education Advisory Panel and is currently serving on the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council. She was co-leader of the Salt Lake Family-to-Family Network for many years and most recently served as a facilitator of a parent support group with Easter Seals-Goodwill. Her son, Brandon, is her inspiration and reason for all she does, to help him have the best life possible.