

State Support Team Region 7 Family Engagement Recognition Day 2023

Partnering with Families for Student Success

May 11, 2023
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom



State Support Team Region 7
1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 200
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
419-747-4808
www.sst7.org

Schedule of Events

- 8:30 am - 8:45 am Welcome and Introductions
- 8:45 am - 9:45 am **Keynote #1—Brett Tingley**
Parents and Communities are Essential For Student Success
- 9:45 am - 10:00 am Break
- 10:00 am - 11:00 am Break Out Session #1
(Choose **one** of the following sessions to join)
- Dyslexia Communication Tools for Schools and Families - Dr. Meredith Wellman*
- A Mom's Journey Through Autism - Erin Simmons*
- Supported Decision Making - Derek Graham*
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm FERD Awards and Recognitions
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm LUNCH
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm **Keynote #2 Brett Tingley**
Our Dyslexic Children Documentary Screening and Q & A
- 2:00 pm - 2:15 pm Break
- 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Break Out Session #2
(Choose **one** of the following sessions to join)
- Permission to Dream and Drive the Family Vision: How to Map and Share - Celia Schloemer*
- Understanding State Graduation Requirements - Graham Wood & Travis Taylor*
- Transition Planning or Planning for the Future: SSI and Maintaining Medicaid with STABLE Accounts and Trusts - Logan Phillips*
- 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm *Office Hours*

Keynote Speaker



Brett Tingley is the parent of three amazing children, one of whom is dyslexic. She has Master's Degrees in Engineering and Business Administration from the University of Michigan. She is the President of Parents for Reading Justice, a non-profit dedicated to training and activating parent groups to bring the Science of Reading to their schools. She is also the President of OH-KID, a grassroots parent group dedicated to ensuring all children in Ohio learn to read. She serves as an advisory board member of the International Dyslexia Association Central Ohio.

Guest Speakers



Meredith Wellman, Ph.D., is a Program Manager at the Center on Education and Training for Employment (CETE) at The Ohio State University. Since 2014, she has worked at CETE to support strong family-school-community partnerships within Ohio's education system. She currently serves as the Project Lead and internal evaluator for Ohio's Statewide Family Engagement Center. She is co-author of *Partnerships for Literacy*, a program for elementary schools to improve the ways they support family and community engagement in early literacy. Meredith received her doctoral degree in Community and Prevention Research in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2016. She minored in statistics, methods, and measurement. She lives in Westerville, OH with her husband and two young children. You can find her on Twitter @MWellmanOSU or email her at wellman.87@osu.edu.



Erin Simmons is married to Jason Simmons and has six children. Her first two daughters were gifted and excelled academically in school. Her next two are also girls and they were identified with dyslexia and other diagnoses. Her last two children are boys and they were both diagnosed with autism and other diagnoses. She is raising kids on all ends of the spectrum. She became very passionate about helping her children thrive with their development. She became involved with Early Intervention first, then joined the Seneca County Family and Children First Council. She began speaking around the county and state. She started serving on the Governor's Early Intervention Advisory Council, well as the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council. She is the president of the Board of Developmental Disabilities. She is on the State Leadership Team which is part of a National Cohort for Inclusion. This past fall she went back to work as a Parent Mentor, helping schools and parents support children. She strives to help families live their best lives through education and compassion. When she has some free time, she enjoys quilting and painting for fun. esimmons@ncoesc.org

Guest Speakers



***Derek Graham** is an estate planning attorney and partner at Resch, Root, Philipps & Graham, LLC in Dublin, Ohio. Derek's focuses on developmental disability law, special needs planning, guardianship and probate. Derek's practice in developmental disability law started in 2009 when his oldest daughter was born with Down syndrome. Derek and his wife know first-hand how confusing and complicated it can be when trying to navigate all of the medical, legal, social and benefit-related issues that families face. Derek enjoys helping to simplify the process and teach families about the legal topics that really matter to individuals with developmental disabilities. derek@rrpg-law.com*



***Ms. Celia Schloemer** is the Family Support Coordinator at the University of Cincinnati-University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, (UC-UCEDD). She comes to this position with more than 15 years' experience working directly with families of school-aged children with disabilities as an educational advocate. In her present position she supports individuals with disability and their families across the life span by connecting them to resources, assisting them in accessing information and offering trainings that improve outcomes. She is a certified Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador for the state of Ohio and an Ambassador Coach for the Charting the LifeCourse Nexus. She is on the Lead Team for the statewide Community of Practice Supporting Families and an active member of the National Community of Practice Supporting Families, where the Charting the LifeCourse framework and tools began. Ms. Schloemer also brings to her work the perspective of being a sibling, a sister-in-law, an aunt and mom to individuals with developmental and learning disabilities. celia.schloemer@cchmc.org*

Guest Speakers



Graham Wood is a program administrator with the Ohio Department of Education. Prior to joining the Department in 2017, Graham was a Kindergarten and 5th grade mathematics teacher in Dayton, Ohio, through the Teach for America program. Graham has worked in the Office of Career Technical Education and now works in the Office of Graduate Success, managing Ohio's graduation requirements and the College Credit Plus program for the Department. Graham.wood@education.ohio.gov



Travis Taylor is the Graduation Administrator in the Office of Graduate Success at the Ohio Department of Education, with his primary focus on Ohio High School graduation requirements. He joined the Department of Education in 2021. Prior to working at the Department, he worked with youth in the non-profit sector in central Ohio for 8 years. Travis.taylor@education.ohio.gov



Logan Philipps is an estate planning attorney and partner at Resch, Root, Philipps & Graham, LLC in Dublin, Ohio. Logan has been an attorney since 2006. As an estate planning attorney, Logan helps people plan for bright tomorrows for themselves and their loved ones. An area of concentration for Logan's practice is planning for families with children with special needs. Before becoming a lawyer, Logan taught elementary school in Cincinnati, Ohio. He utilizes his teaching background to educate individuals, parents, grandparents and loved ones about the strategies available to protect family members. His experience with special needs started as a teenager when his father remarried and Logan gained a stepbrother who has special needs. logan@rrpg-law.com

Keynote Speaker Topics and Descriptions

Parents and Communities are Essential for Student Success

President of non-profit Parents For Reading Justice Brett Tingley will share her experience as a grassroots parent organizer and parents' critical role in ensuring student success. Brett was one of the Upper Arlington parents who had great success bringing evidence-based reading instruction to all children in her district. Brett will discuss how she then started her non-profit to train, support and activate other parents to have similar success in their districts to ensure every child learns to read. *Brett Tingley, Keynote Speaker*

Our Dyslexic Children Documentary Screening and Q & A

Screening of documentary *Our Dyslexic Children*, exploring how Upper Arlington parents banded together to bring evidence-based reading instruction to their school district to ensure every child would learn to read. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with Upper Arlington Parent and the film's Executive Producer Brett Tingley. *Brett Tingley, Keynote Speaker*

Session Topics and Descriptions

Dyslexia Communication Tools for Schools and Families

In this session, participants will learn from Dr. Wellman about new laws in Ohio related to how schools support students with dyslexia, particularly how those laws relate to communicating with families. You will receive templates that schools and families can both use to communicate back and forth about Dyslexia screenings and supports for students. In addition, Dr. Wellman will share about the work of the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center, and how you can access hundreds of resources on the ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu. *Dr. Meredith Wellman, Ph.D.*

A Mom's Journey Through Autism

Mom's Journey Through Autism is an honest look at what a mom goes through in the early years of raising a child with severe non-verbal autism. I talk about the different struggles I have faced. I talk about the feelings and emotions behind those struggles. I also talk about the different supports that my family has utilized in our community. I admit how hard it can be, I also talk about some of the amazing things that have come out of raising children with special needs. I share the experiences that many families hide or just can't talk about. The purpose of this presentation is to help those who support families dealing with special needs, better understand the daily stress we live with. Those families who are living it, they are not alone. When you know better, you do better. I hope that each person walks away saying "I didn't know that, but this is how I am going to do better." *Erin Simmons* esimmons@ncoesc.org

Supported Decision Making

We will all need help at some point in life. Developing a decision-making framework is necessary to serve you and your loved ones. For many individuals, especially those who lack the ability to make informed decisions for themselves, becoming an adult in the eyes of the law can be a significant concern. To ease this concern, powers of attorney and other supported-making tools may be established to grant a third party the legal authority to make decisions for the individual. *Derek Graham*

Session Topics and Descriptions (continued)

Permission to Dream and Drive the Family Vision: How to Map and Share

Whether you are a family member or a professional supporting an individual and their family on their journey, join us as we talk about how to help discover the vision of what you want, and map the path and support to get there. *Celia Schloemer* celia.schloemer@cchmc.org

Understanding State Graduation Requirements

The presentation will provide examples of the numerous ways a student can meet graduation requirements in Ohio. The presentation will also provide examples of how to complete a Graduation Plan and the benefits they have. Presenters will also share the different communication platforms that are available to provide support around graduation and new graduation material developed to support schools and students. *Graham Wood and Travis Taylor, ODE*

"Transition Planning" or "Planning for the Future" Maximizing SSI and Maintaining Medicaid with STABLE Accounts and Trusts

Trusts and the STABLE account offer solutions to many of the issues facing parents and individuals. Individuals and families are often not sure how to use them and may not be using them to their full potential. The STABLE Account offers a unique opportunity for a person with a disability to save and control money like never before without risking eligibility for government benefits. Combining the powers of a Discretionary Trust established by third parties with the STABLE Account offers saving and spending opportunities that can enhance the independence of individuals with disabilities. *Logan Phillips*

The State Support Team Region 7
Would like to THANK the following
Organizations and
Individuals!

Mid-Ohio Trophy

Families of our outstanding Nominees

Nominators of award recipients

Panel of Presenters



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