

AVRT Professional Development Conference Session Agenda

November 10 – 12, 2020

Tuesday, November 10

Jennifer Ottowitz Moderator

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.



Welcome, Agenda Review, CEU Information, Conference Sponsors

Jennifer Ottowitz, AVRT President

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.



Keynote Speaker

Kelsey Thompson, MHA, MS, CRC, LCPC
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Edward Hines,
Jr. VA Hospital

Presentation: Resilience & Employment

To be happy, self-actualized and successful in meeting their vocational goals, adults who are blind or visually impaired need to find ways to cope with and learn from negative experiences. This quality of resilience is not innate. It can be taught and nurtured in people of any age. In this session, we will discuss what makes resilient people special and explore how to develop these qualities and put them to practice in the workplace.

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.



Jim Sullivan, M.Ed., CRC

Olaya Landa-Vialard, Ph.D.

American Printing House for the Blind, Gold Sponsor

Presentation: **APH Solutions and Services: Providing Opportunities in a Time of Adversity**

Our consumers' lives and their quality of life are foremost on our minds during these uncertain times. We find ourselves seeking new and innovative ways to serve and support those we care about most. Join Olaya Landa-Vialard Ph.D., Director, APH ConnectCenter, and Jim Sullivan, Director, Social Enterprise, to learn how the Connect Center and the APH team have adjusted and expanded our solutions and services in a time of need.



Wednesday, November 11

Jane Thompson Moderator

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.



William Powell, Bosma Assistive Technology Director

Presentation: **Techniques for Teaching Remotely**

This session will give participants a view of virtual learning on different platforms and the most successful way to use them with consumers who are blind or low vision.

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Break

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.



Jill Rossiter, BSW, VRT

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Presentation: **Verbal Communications for Teaching ADL Remotely**

This session will assist you in developing a vernacular which is conducive for remote instruction. Possessing the skill of meaningful speech is required when teaching activities of daily living remotely. As a participant, you will have an opportunity to better hone your skills of description. You will learn to connect intellectually with your students rather than physically. Attain that Aha moment with success!

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.



Panel Discussion

Led by: Nancy Parkin-Bashizi, M.A., COMS, CVRT

Kay McGill, M. A. Ed., CRC

Project Independence: Georgia Vision Program for Adults
Age 55 and Over

Rita Harris, Peer Support Leader
Founder Living Life Team



Presentation: Stuck at Home! Addressing Isolation during a Pandemic

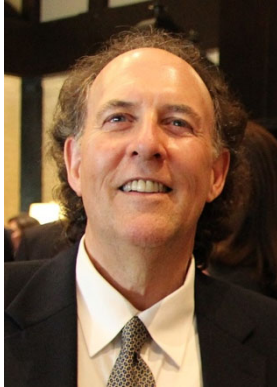
This panel discussion will explore the challenges faced by our clients, who have been significantly impacted by the multiple challenges imposed by the Corona Pandemic. Facilitated conversation will explore unique strategies being used to address isolation, assess risk and facilitate a safe re-entry back into community life.



Thursday, November 12

Ian Shadrick Moderator

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.



Steve Kelly, Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Presentation: **Assistive Technology Resources for Working with Consumers Remotely**

This session will share new and tried and true resources for teaching assistive technology, but now with tips for teaching them remotely.

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Break

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

AVRT Business Meeting and Awards

We will inform and involve AVRT members in conducting business of the organization, including elections.

We will present the Charlyn Allen award and Alice Raftary Emerging Leader Award for excellence and significant contributions in the field of vision rehabilitation therapy.

We will announce recipients of our financial awards for scholarship, certification/recertification stipend, and the Salus AVRT Academic Excellence Award.