

## The Intersection of Disabilities and Child Welfare

### MORNING AGENDA

**8:30am-9:00am: Registration**

**9:00am-9:15am: Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

**9:15am-10:00am: Children with Disabilities in Child Welfare  
Keynote Presenter, Dick Sobsey**

Dick Sobsey is a professor emeritus of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta. He is a member and former Director of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and of the JP Das Developmental Disabilities Centre. He has worked with children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1968 as nurse, teacher, and transdisciplinary team leader as well as a researcher and advocate. He is the author of more than 200 books, articles, and commentaries related to health, educational, and social aspects of disability. Since 1986, Dick Sobsey has devoted much of his research to understanding and preventing violence and abuse of people with disabilities. He also has a strong research interest in strengthening and supporting healthy families of children with disabilities. He strongly believes that supporting and strengthening healthy families and communities is the best long-term intervention for preventing violence. His work on family transformation has made a significant contribution to understanding positive growth in families of children with disabilities.

**10:00am-10:15am: Break**

**10:15am-11:15am: Parents with Disabilities in Child Welfare  
Keynote Presenters, Traci LaLiberte & Elizabeth Lightfoot**

Dr. Traci LaLiberte is the Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare at the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work. She worked in public child welfare for over 12 years with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. For the past ten years Traci has been a passionate educator, researcher and advocate in the area of children and parents with disabilities within the child welfare system.

Dr. Elizabeth Lightfoot is an Associate Professor and Director of the PhD Program at the University of Minnesota, School of Social Work. Dr. Lightfoot's main research interests are in the area of disability policy and services, and the intersections of disability with child welfare, aging, violence prevention and health. She currently has several research projects underway exploring parental supports for parents with disabilities.

**11:15am-11:40am: Psychotropic Medications and Youth in Foster Care  
Clay Finck and Lupe Ortiz-Tovar, NRCYD**

**11:40am-12:30pm: Lunch**