

West Texas Disability Resource Conference Agenda

Friday, May 2

5:00- 8:00 pm Check in & Registration

6:00- 7:00 pm Reception

7:00- 8:00 pm Interactive Advocacy Exercise

A fun, productive way to practice speaking with legislators in a variety of situations. Prepare for self and group advocacy during the 2015 Legislature with us!

- Chase Bearden (CTD)
- Jeff Garrison-Tate (CN!)
- Joe Tate (CN!)
- **Special Guest John Thomas**

John Thomas [photo] from Abilene, Texas, is a Motivational Speaker, Training Facilitator, Project Manager, and Marketing Consultant. John recently started his own company, No Podium Needed, and he is also President/CEO of the Joseph Thomas Foundation, which he and his late wife started in memory of their son. This organization raises money for children with medical issues in and around the Big Country. In addition, he founded the Lee Elementary children's program, which provides Christmas gifts for the school's underprivileged children. John currently serves as Governor of the American Advertising Federation – District 10. In 2009, AbileneBiz magazine named John as one of their "20 under 40" up-and-coming business leaders.

Saturday, May 3

6:30- 8:30 am Breakfast & Registration

Please note: All Conference attendees will receive a voucher for breakfast, including those not staying at the hotel.

8:30- 9:00 am Welcome & Keynote

- Rodney Hanneman (CTD Board)
- Joe Tate (CN!)
- Jeanine Pinner (TXP2P)
- **Special video message: Representative Susan King (HD 71)**
- **Keynote Speaker: John Thomas**

- 9:00- 9:15 am Break, Visit Exhibitors
- 9:15- 10:45 am Medicaid Managed Care
- Experts weigh in on big changes coming your way in Medicaid. Topics to be covered include service delivery in rural areas, and what are "Community First Choice" and "PASRR" and what do they mean to you. Q&A to follow panel.
- Kelley Longhofer (Amerigroup)
 - Ceseley Rollins (Superior HealthPlan)
 - Debra Smith (Health & Human Services Commission)
 - Garth Corbett (Disability Rights Texas)
- 10:45- 11:15 am Break, Visit Exhibitors
- 11:15 am- 12:45 pm Lunch & Self-Advocacy Presentations
- True problem-solving stories from people with disabilities and family members.
- David Chapple
 - Michelle Dooley
 - Jake Pinner
 - Silvia Vargas
- 12:45- 1:00 pm Break, Visit Exhibitors

Workshops: Daily Living

- 1:00- 1:45 pm Funding Resources: What every family should know!
- Parenting is a tough job under any circumstance; parenting a person with a disability label from birth throughout all the growth stages and into adulthood is a whole different kind of tough. Developing a vision and knowing where to turn for help can alleviate concerns, but where do you start? During this session a variety of resources will be reviewed. Participants will leave with a resource list that includes general information and links to helpful sites.
- Cindi Paschall (CN!)
- 2:00- 2:45 pm Behavioral Supports, Early Childhood Intervention

This talk will focus on the importance of identifying issues early, identifying and accessing appropriate and available resources and services, getting an initial treatment plan in place, and some general considerations about learning to navigate the system and learning how to advocate for your child.

- Dr. Wesley H. Dotson (Burkhart Center)

3:00- 3:45 pm

Centers for Independent Living

What are the CILs and what services can they offer you?

- Michelle Crain (LIFE/ RUN CIL)
- Leah Beltran (Disability in Action)
- Marilyn Hancock (ABLE CIL)
- Doug Hammett (Panhandle CIL)

Workshops: Advocacy

1:00- 1:45 pm

Introduction to Organizing for Change.

How to distinguish between problems and issues. Types of power, and how to applying power to influence issues. The Pitchfork Approach to Advocacy. The Power Game [Group Exercise].

- Joe Tate (CN!)
- Sarah Watkins (CN!)

2:00- 2:45 pm

Legislative Issues

Make your voice heard at the Texas Capitol! Learn the top issues from CTD's policy pro.

- Dennis Borel (CTD)

3:00- 3:45 pm

Voting Rights & Accessibility

Several primary elections were decided by less than 100 votes. 2014 is a huge year in Texas elections. Know your rights and be sure to vote.

- Chase Bearden (CTD)

3:45- 4:00 pm

Wrap up & Evaluation

Take a moment to write yourself a reminder of lessons learned during the Conference, and leave us a little feedback. Will take place in workshop rooms.