



30th
ANNUAL

CONFERENCE ON
**Serving Adults
With Disabilities**

"Second Chances"

May 3, 2024

Water's Edge Resort
1525 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

Keynote Presentations by:
Kevin Hines & Carol Glazer

Welcome

Welcome to the **30th Annual Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities**, a gathering where the shining minds of our industry assemble to share what they have learned. If it is your first time attending, then thank you for stepping into our world! If you are a returning guest, then thank you for coming back! Whether you are attending for the first or the fifteenth, we treasure your trust in what we have to offer. We promise to make it worth your while.

Our schedule includes exciting keynote speakers and presentations from a long list of organizations. Their willingness to share their knowledge and experience makes this event possible. We could not have put this conference together without their participation, and we are incredibly grateful for their support. The schedule appears on the next page of this brochure. Please take advantage and reserve your spots in the workshops that interest you most.

Last, we would like to shout out the event team at Water's Edge for assisting us in making this a successful conference. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided, along with refreshments throughout the day at strategically placed tables throughout. It thrills us to provide this moment for you.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Carol Boin

Conference Chairperson

Amy Ferrari

ATDN Coordinator



To Register:

Click [HERE](#), scan the QR Code, or visit www.atdnct.org.

If you need assistance with online registration, contact the ATDN staff at (860) 567-0863 x1315.

Schedule

Registration & Continental Breakfast

7:45 AM – 8:30 AM

Welcome

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

Keynote Presentation – Kevin Hines

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Break

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Workshops – Session 1

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Lunch & Networking

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Keynote Presentation – Carol Glazer

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

Break

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Workshop – Session 2

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM



Kevin Hines

Kevin Hines' story is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and a reminder for us to love the life we have. Kevin is a multi-award-winning filmmaker, bestselling author, and an award-winning global suicide prevention and mental health advocate. Two years after he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at age 19, he attempted to take his own life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. He is now one of only 36 people who've survived that 220-foot jump. Kevin's story is now the only evidence-based story of a suicide attempt that survived.

Though that fall would break his body, it did not break his spirit. Since that fateful day, Kevin has dedicated his life to spreading a message of hope and openly discussing mental health, oftentimes becoming a bridge between people who have made similar attempts and their parents, siblings, children, spouses, and friends.

Kevin released a memoir, "Cracked, Not Broken: Surviving and Thriving After A Suicide Attempt," in 2013 that went on to become a bestseller and produced the 2018 multi-award-winning documentary *Suicide: The Ripple Effect*. His compelling story has impacted diverse audiences at schools, corporations, law enforcement organizations, religious groups, the military, health care organizations, and more. He has been told by thousands of people that his story helped save their lives and he never takes that for granted.

In 2016, Mental Health America awarded him its highest honor, the Clifford W. Beers Award, for his efforts to improve the lives of, and attitudes toward, people with mental illnesses. He was also awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Council for Behavioral Health in partnership with Eli Lilly, and he was named a Voice Awards Fellow and Award Winner by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded him more than 70 military excellence medals as a civilian.

Kevin currently resides on the East Coast with his wife, Margaret, but visits San Francisco often where he's been working toward the creation of a safety net for the Golden Gate Bridge. Thousands of people have attempted suicide on the bridge since Kevin survived. Kevin's fervent pursuit came to fruition in January 2024 when the net was completed. Click [here](#) to learn more about the creation of the safety net.



Carol Glazer

Carol Glazer is President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), the nation's oldest civil rights organization to represent all of America's 61 million people with disabilities. In her years as President, Carol has transformed NOD into the country's premier resource on disability inclusion through its Disability Employment Tracker, its Corporate Leadership Council, and its professional advisory services helping companies with talent acquisition. In 2018, Carol and her team launched the Look Closer awareness campaign, powered by nine major brand name companies. In its first six

months Look Closer garnered 75 million media impressions, with social media following growing daily. Working side by side with Tom Ridge, former Governor of Pennsylvania and our country's first Secretary of Homeland Security, Carol has united the country's fourteen largest disability organizations of all political persuasions, around the issue of disability employment.

Carol is a speaker and subject matter expert on issues regarding the employment of people with disabilities and has addressed audiences at national conferences, corporate forums, and higher education institutions, among others. Some of Carol's commentary has appeared in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *TIME*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *The Huffington Post*, where she maintains a blog on disability employment-related matters. Carol has also appeared on nationally syndicated television and radio broadcasts, including the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *National Public Radio (NPR)*, *Disability Matters with Joyce Bender on VoiceAmerica*, *The Business of Giving with Denver Frederick on AM 970*, and *Connections on WXXI News*.

From 1998 to 2006, Carol advised foundations, universities, and nonprofits fighting poverty in inner-city communities, having served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation between 1996 to 1999.

Carol holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and in 2012, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Allegheny College for her work on behalf of individuals with disabilities. She has two children, one of whom was born with hydrocephalus and has physical and intellectual disabilities.

1 Disability Awareness Training

Disability Awareness starts with identifying and understanding our own emotions, stereotypes, experiences, and attitudinal barriers concerning individuals with disabilities. Through group discussions and activities, the participants will reach an understanding of those attitudes and will learn methods and techniques to assist with becoming more effective in working with individuals with disabilities as an employer and/or service provider. This workshop assists with starting an honest conversation which allows us to look at our own unconscious bias and then how to change our perspective and move forward with an open mind. Participants will learn about themselves while learning strategies and resources to assist with moving forward.

Presenters: Carly Duffy and Lauren McAulay (*Department of Aging and Disability Services*)



2 Preparing the Future: Supporting Individuals with Disabilities for Adulthood

As the fastest-growing developmental disability, autism currently affects 1 in 36 individuals. Social, communicative, and restrictive behavior challenges can often severely hinder skill development and growth. Because of this, the transition into adulthood is often a difficult road with services being scarce or hard to engage. More than half of young adults with autism remain unemployed or unenrolled in higher education in the two years after high school. However, research shows that engaging in vocational skills and job activities improves independence, and daily living skills and reduces the impact of symptoms. This workshop will focus on the programs, opportunities, and initiatives that Adelbrook has developed to address these needs. We will focus not only on how we support adults with autism and their transition from school services but also on how pre-vocational training while still in school sets the stage for better outcomes.

Presenters: Brian Heslin, Paola Blakeslee, Carol Buikus, Jackie Peck, and Alyssa Goduti (*Adelbrook*)



3 Social Media, Substance Use, and Mental Health Symptoms: Isolation, Depression and Regret

This workshop will overview social media platforms and their risk level, explore the de-socialization of individuals through screen presence versus actual presence and their impact on loneliness and depression, review FOMO, loss of true identity through Photo Shopping, updating profiles due to poor self-image, and catfishing vulnerability, as well as outlining how to seek balance and skill development for a healthy relationship with social media.

Presenter: Mary-K O'Sullivan (*Capital Regional Mental Health Center*)



1 Access Granted: A Roadmap for Students with Disabilities in CT Higher Education

Join CT State Community College and Goodwin University Disability Service Providers to explore the requirements and changes students with disabilities face as they transition from high school to college. Gain insights into the landscape of disability services in college and workforce development, and learn how students can effectively apply for accommodations and appropriately self-advocate. This workshop aims to equip rehabilitation counselors and families with the knowledge and tools needed to guide students toward a seamless and empowered college experience for workforce success.

Presenters: Helena Carrasquillo (*CT State Community College*), Molly Zatory Lombardo (*Goodwin University*), and Jillian Sullivan (*CT State Community College*)



2 Accessible Second Chances: Sharing Your Content Accessibility

Incorporating accessible strategies and tools within your practice can ensure your message is received by everyone. This workshop will share tips and tricks to implement when creating content for the community (newsletters, presentations, emails, flyers, and more!). You will leave this workshop with tangible resources for accessibility compliance and implementation of accessibility across platforms.

Presenter: Lauren Tucker (*Southern Connecticut State University*)



3 Resilience - Can You Find Treasure in Trauma?

Resilience is the ability to recover from failures and/or setbacks quickly. If you don't, from that point on, you will see everything through the lens of that negative event. This can be a big "T" trauma or a little "t" trauma. Maybe we blame ourselves for allowing it to happen, which creates self-doubt, guilt, and shame. We might blame someone else, but then feel frustrated, disappointed, and resentful. We may even blame the event itself, but this can leave us feeling disappointed, deflated, and hopeless. In this workshop, you will learn strategies to return to a "ready state" mentally and emotionally, and the most important thing you can do to find the Treasure in Trauma.

Presenter: Denise Hanks (*Dream Builder Coach*)



About the Conference

The Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities provides an excellent opportunity for participants to meet with a wide representation of experts and professionals, along with family and friends of individuals with disabilities, to discuss current strategies and knowledge on the broad spectrum of disabilities.

Conference Goals

The Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities aims to share current knowledge and strategies and to provide answers, direction, and support to:

- Adult Educators
- Workforce Practitioners
- Employers
- Counselors
- Families, friends, and colleagues of individuals with disabilities

Accommodations

If you have a disability and require assistance, please notify Carol Boin at (860) 836-4222 by April 12, 2024, to ensure that proper accommodations are made.

Lodging

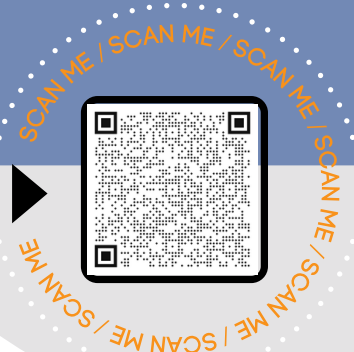
Hotel accommodations are available at:

Water's Edge Resort
1525 Boston Post Road
Westbrook, CT 06498

For reservations, call (800) 222-5901.

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Payment & Cancellation Policy

Payment

The conference registration fee is \$150. If you are not paying by credit card, please make your check or purchase order payable to EdAdvance.

Payments should be sent to:

Adult Training & Development Network
P.O. Box 909, 355 Goshen Road
Litchfield, CT 06759-0909

Cancellation/Refund Policy

To ensure consistency, the cancellation and refund policy for the conference is as follows:

- Cancellations of conference registrations made **on or before April 12, 2024**, are eligible for a refund but will incur a \$25 administrative fee.
- Registrants who cancel **after April 12, 2024**, will not be eligible for a refund.

The policy concerning refunds and cancellations cannot be waived. However, registration fees can be transferred to another individual. A registrant may designate someone else to attend in their place after making arrangements with ATDN.

In the event we must cancel the conference due to unforeseen circumstances, we will refund the cost of registration. Unforeseen circumstances are used to describe an unexpected event and prevents us from continuing with the conference, such as inclement weather or other natural disasters.

Sponsors

Gold

- State of Connecticut...
 - Department of Education
 - Department of Labor
 - Department of Aging and Disability Services – Bureau of Rehabilitative Services
- EdAdvance

Bronze

- State of Connecticut...
 - Department of Aging and Disability Services – Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind
 - Department of Social Services
 - Department of Developmental Services
 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services



Registration Instructions

- Visit www.atdnct.org
- Click REGISTER on the top of the page
- In the top menu, select Conferences > Conference Search
- Select Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities
- Click ENROLL > select okay
- Click LOGIN (*if you have a ProTraxx account*) or click REGISTER (*to create a ProTraxx account*)
- Complete Payment Information:
 - Select Price Type > select Check, Credit Card, or PO
 - Select Payment Method > select Credit Card or Invoice (PO, Check, Cash)
 - Complete the Billing Address information
 - Complete the Billing / Payment information (*a PO# is required*)
- Click CONTINUE WITH REGISTRATION
- Click FINISH REGISTRATION
- Select one (1) AM and one (1) PM workshop (*you must select both an AM and PM workshop*)
- Click CLICK TO FINISH

You will receive an email confirmation stating that your enrollment is approved.



[Register with an Existing ProTraxx Account](#)



[Create a ProTraxx Account and Register](#)

Registration Notes

To register for the conference, you need a ProTraxx account. If you cannot remember your ProTraxx username or password, click FORGOT YOUR USERNAME/PASSWORD or contact our office for assistance.

Questions? Need Assistance?

If you need assistance, would like to transfer your registration to another person, change your workshop selection(s), or remove your registration please contact Brenda Cleary-Williams at (860) 567-0863 x1315 or bwilliams@edadvance.org.