ACCSES 2025 Winter Summit
Final Agenda

February 10-12, 2025
Le Méridien Pasadena Arcadia

Updated 2/6/2025 (subject to change)

Monday, February 10, 2025
All Times Are Pacific Standard Time

The Foyer	**Registration will open Monday at 1:00 p.m. and close Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.**
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. *Winners Circle*	**State Issues Forum** All Registrants are Welcome **Mohsen Badran**, President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES NJ, *Moderator* This three-hour session (which attendees are welcome to join in progress as they arrive) will focus on what is happening in the states that affect disability service providers and the people they serve.
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. *Le Méridien High Tea Area*	**Welcome Reception** Join us for hors d'oeuvres and libations before heading off to dinner.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
All Times Are Pacific Standard Time

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. *Winners Circle*	**Breakfast** **Sponsored by CARF International**
8:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Welcome and Opening Remarks by ACCSES Leadership** **Kate McSweeny**, President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES **Ann Gillmore**, Corporate Vice President, Peckham, Inc.; Chair, ACCSES Board of Directors

8:10 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Keynote Address** **Zach Anner**, Author, Speaker, Comedian, Internet Sensation, and Overall Extraordinary Human Being Born with Cerebral Palsy, Zach entered Oprah Winfrey's competition, *Your OWN Show: Oprah's Search for the Next TV Star*, thinking he had no chance. He won, and subsequently traveled the country for his own travel series on the Oprah Winfrey Network, *Rollin' with Zach*, attempting to conquer his "top five" list of things to do in each city. His win made him the first person with CP to host a television show. Since then, he has hosted his own comedy exercise series on YouTube, *Workout Wednesday*, and hosted two other shows. He was a writer and guest star on the ABC sitcom *Speechless,* and a writer for AppleTV+'s Emmy-winning family comedy *Best Foot Forward.* Zach also serves as an Ambassador for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation and has worked with UCPLA Wheels for Humanity, which supplies wheelchairs to people in developing countries. He has worked with brands including Microsoft and BraunAbility to create informative and entertaining viral content. Zach's memoir, *If at Birth You Don't Succeed: My Adventures with Disaster and Destiny*, is a funny, irreverent, and heartfelt memoir about "finding your passion and your path, not by overcoming challenges, but by embracing them to make a difference."
9:10 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Shaping the Future: Growing & Evolving Organizations in an Ever-Changing World** **JW Gibbs**, CIE Subject Matter Expert, U.S. Department of Labor; Apprenticeship Development & Alignment Coordinator, Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston Disability service providers have been evolving for decades, but the world is spinning faster, and change is coming at us constantly at remarkably high speeds. How do we stay ahead of the curve, embrace change, integrate innovative ideas, and provide services that could not have been imagined 20 years ago? How do we grow in an ever-more-competitive space and maximize opportunities for clients and staff alike? What are the risks of romanticizing the past and not developing or adopting the next great idea? J is going to explain it all to us and will share insights into where the risks are to not taking advantage of the opportunities that await us. **Sponsored by ServiceSource, Inc.**
10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	**Break**
10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Whiplash: Keeping Up with the Rapid Changes Coming from the Administration and Congress** **Doug Golub**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Data Potato, LLC; Chair, ACCSES Artificial Intelligence and Accessible Technology Committee **Kate McSweeny**, President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES Executive Orders and ideas for ways to cut federal regulations and government expenses have been issued at a historic breadth and speed in 2025. This session will focus on what we know right now about how these EOs, regulatory changes, and proposed cuts could affect disability service providers. Doug also will do a review of

	the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services *Strategic Plan for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health, Human Services, and Public Health*, which was released in January, and provide insights into the Administration's Stargate project and upcoming AI action plan through the lens of the disability provider community. **Sponsored by RealAmericanFlag.com by North Bay Industries**
11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**California's Unique Approach to Services** **Amy Westling**, Executive Director, Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) **Dr. Jesse Weller**, Executive Director, San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center Learn how California approaches the delivery of services through its network of 21 Regional Centers, and how the Lanterman Act -- the California law guaranteeing services to people with developmental disabilities and their families -- affects services.
12:20 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. *Event Garden*	**Networking Luncheon** **Sponsored by PCSI**
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**The View from the Hill – Panel Discussion on What We See for the Year Ahead** **The Honorable Jon Porter**, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, The Porter Group **Julia Adams-Scheurich**, President, Oak City Government Relations **Lisa Biggica**, President & Chief Executive Officer, UniqueSource; Immediate Past President, SUPRA **Brad Saathoff**, Chief Executive Officer, Black Hills Works Inc. **Ann Gillmore**, Corporate Vice President, Peckham, Inc.; Chair, ACCSES Board of Directors, *Moderator* With a new Congress and new Administration in place, this is a key moment to review and consider opportunities and concerns and what to do about both. While this is a panel discussion, your input and ideas are vital to the discussion. **Sponsored by Hudson Community Enterprises**
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**SourceAmerica Public Policy Update** **Rick Terrazas**, Vice President, Government Affairs, SourceAmerica **The Honorable Jon Porter**, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, The Porter Group The best way to learn all the ways SourceAmerica is expanding opportunities for people with disabilities is to talk with the people who are making change happen on Capitol Hill. Join us for a stimulating discussion of SourceAmerica's goals for this year. Even if your organization is not an AbilityOne provider, there are many opportunities to collaborate with ACCSES and SourceAmerica on important policy concerns. **Sponsored by Dale Rogers Training Center and Peckham, Inc.**
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	**Dessert!**

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Safety and Police Encounters** **Angela Duckett, M.Ed.**, Developmental Disabilities Services Programs Director, Dale Rogers Training Center **James Helm, MPA, CPACC**, Public Relations Director, Dale Rogers Training Center **Rob High**, Co-Founder and Director of Training, Deescalating Officer Patrol Encounters Encounters with police can be stressful for anyone potentially even more so for people living with disabilities. Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) and I/DD Safe have teamed up to offer a unique, interactive training course geared specifically toward people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Safety and Police Encounters* provides expert-crafted curriculum, developed through the collaboration of veteran police officers and I/DD professionals. Learn more about how the training was developed, how it has been received, and how your organization and the people you serve can benefit from this life-saving training program.
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**AI-Powered Strategies for Future-Ready Disability Services: Leveraging AI to Improve Employment, Service Planning, Strategic Planning, Grant Writing, and Policy Development, Boosting Efficiency and Impact** **Erik Nelson**, Executive Consultant, Provider Strategy, SETWorks This presentation will explore how disability service providers can harness AI technologies today to boost efficiency and impact. We will explore how AI can enhance service planning, strategic planning, grant writing, policy development and beyond. Attendees will learn practical strategies and see real-world examples of cutting-edge AI applications to enable their organization to be future-ready, streamline their operations, improve client outcomes, and support organizational growth.
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. *Event Garden*	**ACCSES Champions Awards Celebration** Join us for convivial conversation, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres during our annual celebration of ACCSES Champions.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
All Times Are Pacific Standard Time

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. *Winners Circle*	**Breakfast** **Sponsored by Adelante, Inc. and SETWorks**
8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Welcome to Day 2 and What You Need to Know for the Thursday Tour of The Roland Center** **Kate McSweeny**, President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES **Dr. Thomas Buckley**, Executive Director, The Roland Center; Chair, ACCSES Health, Aging, Alzheimer's, and Dementia Care Committee **Thomas Cook**, Executive Director, San Gabriel Valley Residential Facilities; Chair, ACCSES Advisory Council

8:20 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Sexuality and I/DD 101** **Peter Leidy**, Trainer & Consultant People with I/DD are often left out of the conversation about sexuality, almost as if they are incapable of having thoughts, feelings, and needs. In reality, they, of course, are sexual beings who need information and skills for making healthy decisions about sexuality and positive relationships in general. As a family member or someone who works with people with I/DD, you may be the most likely person to discuss sexuality with them. This session will help you become more comfortable talking about this sensitive topic by discussing what needs to be taught when and how to support people to have safe and satisfying relationships.
9:20 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Learn About the GUIDE Model and the CARF Standards for Caring for People with I/DD and Dementia** **Matthew Janicki, Ph.D.**, Co-President, National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG); Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago **Dr. Thomas Buckley**, Executive Director, The Roland Center The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is undertaking an innovation in providing health care and support for adults and their caregivers affected by dementia as part of its *Guiding and Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model*. This innovative eight-year project holds great promise for addressing health disparities among older adults and presents an opportunity to improve health outcomes for adults with intellectual disabilities and dementia. Dr. Janicki will discuss the work NTG is doing in support of these efforts. As the Executive Director of the only disability service provider agency to be accredited by CARF to provide dementia care services for people with I/DD, Dr. Buckley will discuss the benefits to providers of incorporating dementia care services into their programs.
10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	**Break**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Enhancing Employment Outcomes through Holistic Integration in Work Programs** **Edgar Figueroa**, Director of Human Services, ACHIEVE Human Services **Jaime Gonzalez**, MSW, Behavioral Health Technician III, ACHIEVE Human Services; Lead, ACHIEVE Behavioral Health Employment Program; Community Rehabilitation Program and Service Provider Representative, Arizona State Rehabilitation Council Achieving effective employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities or behavioral health challenges requires a comprehensive approach that integrates multiple support services. This session will focus on how combining aspects of behavioral health care, housing assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and employment services into a cohesive framework will lead to better results.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Improving Special Needs and Mental Health Care Worldwide** **Sydney Evelyn Gibbs, MSGH**, Grant Administrator, Medical University of South Carolina Approximately one billion people worldwide live with a disability. They are the world's largest minority, yet in many places, there are no services offered, no support system in place, and no path to independent living. Governmental, cultural, financial, and familial barriers often stand in the way of opportunities. These barriers, however, are not insurmountable. Sydney will discuss what is happening right now to create service delivery systems in parts of the world that have never had them.
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. *Event Garden*	**Networking Luncheon** **Sponsored by ACHIEVE Human Services, Inc.**
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Creating a Policy Playbook for 2025 and 2026** **Kate McSweeny**, President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES **Julia Adams-Scheurich**, President, Oak City Government Relations What is your wish list? What keeps you awake at night? This interactive session will take what was discussed in the Tuesday panel discussion to the next level in order to create a broad policy playbook of how we proceed for the remainder of 2025 and throughout 2026. Come prepared to participate! **Sponsored by ACCSES NJ**
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**AbilityOne: The Ins and Outs of the AbilityOne Commission's Compliance Policies** **John Konst**, Director, Oversight and Compliance, U.S. AbilityOne Commission **Kim Zeich**, Executive Director, U.S. AbilityOne Commission (Virtual) **Amy Jensen**, Deputy Executive Director, U.S. AbilityOne Commission (Virtual) It has been a busy time at the AbilityOne Commission, with numerous new policies being released, including updated compliance policies. John will attend in person to discuss the new policies and answer your questions. Kim and Amy will join the Summit via Zoom to discuss the work of the Commission and what they see in the year ahead.
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	**Dessert!**
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Managing Crises at Home: Supporting Emotional States Ahead of Target Behaviors** **John Foote**, Consultant, Behavioral Health and Crisis Response Specialist John will begin his presentation with a look back at the 1990s deinstitutionalization efforts in Wisconsin and the creation of a crisis response/diversion system, specific to adults with I/DD, in Dane County, Wisconsin. He will then share a unique twist on support planning developed by people such as Paul White at the University of Wisconsin Waisman Center. This approach focuses foremost on supporting the individual through various emotional states rather than defining them by their behavior. The many advantages of employing this focus will be discussed.

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. *Grandstand Ballroom*	**Are We Having Fun Yet? Where Do We Go from Here?** **Peter Leidy**, Trainer & Consultant In this musical closing session, we will remember some of what is important about the work of listening to, respecting, advocating for, and building community with people being supported in our system. And we will laugh together!