

July 19-21, 2026
Fairmont Washington, D.C. Georgetown
Updated 7/13/2026
(subject to change)

Sunday, July 19, 2026
All Times Are Eastern Standard Time

Sunday 1:00pm to Tuesday 2:00pm <i>Ballroom Foyer</i>	Registration
1:30pm – 4:30pm <i>Roosevelt</i>	State Issues Forum All Registrants are Welcome Mohsen Badran , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES New Jersey (<i>Moderator</i>) 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.
5:00pm – 6:00pm <i>Loggia Lounge</i>	Welcome Reception Join us for hors d'oeuvres and libations before heading off to dinner.

Monday, July 20, 2026
All Times Are Eastern Standard Time

7:00am – 8:00am <i>Roosevelt</i>	Breakfast Sponsored by Peckham
7:00am – 5:00pm <i>Ballroom Foyer</i>	Exhibits Open
8:00am – 8:10am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Welcome and Opening Remarks Kate McSweeney , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES Brad Saathoff , Chief Executive Officer, Black Hills Works; Chair, ACCSES Board of Directors
8:10am – 8:30am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i> <i>Spotlight Session</i>	Meet Franklin Gomez Franklin Gomez , Self-Advocate; Board of Trustees, OTC Services Kate McSweeney , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES We are all acquainted with Fran Gomez through his advocacy and certainly his regular attendance at ACCSES conferences, but how many of us know his story? Spoiler alert: It is one of courage, confidence, and tenacity that will leave you inspired and grateful to have this remarkable gentleman in our lives.

8:30am – 9:30am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Remembering Who We Are: Aging, Identity, and the Future of Dementia Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Seth Keller, M.D. , Co-Chair, National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices; Past President, American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry In this presentation, Dr. Keller explores the emerging intersection of aging, identity, and dementia in adults with IDD. Drawing on clinical insights and national efforts advancing care for this population, the session will examine why dementia in IDD often presents differently, the importance of life story and personal identity in supporting individuals as they age, and how provider organizations can begin preparing for the demographic shifts already underway. Sponsored by Equip
9:30am – 10:05am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	View from the Hill Kate McSweeney , President & Chief Executive Officer, ACCSES Kate will kick off our first round of sessions with an overview of what is happening in Washington, pending legislation, working together for our common goals, and what lies ahead.
10:05am – 10:10am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	A Special Message from CARF International
10:10am – 10:20am	Break
10:20am – 11:20am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Advocacy: Past, Present, and Future – What We Need to Know to Be Heard Zach Anner , Screenwriter, Author, Comedian, Self-Advocate (<i>Moderator</i>) Andrea Cook , Vice President of Communications and Community Relations, WORK Inc. Constance Garner , PhD, Executive Director, Allies for Independence, Inc. John Kelly , Vice President of Government Affairs and Strategic Engagement, PCSI As political lines become more tightly drawn and with many new faces arriving both in Congress and in state legislatures, how do nonpartisan advocates build coalitions to support our most important priorities, and what are those priorities? Sponsored by Potentia Public Policy Institute and PRIDE Industries
11:20am – 11:40am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i> <i>Spotlight Session</i>	The Independence Lifecycle, A Framework for Measuring What Actually Matters Trent Kocurek , Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Equip Trent will outline how technology can support service providers in expanding beyond traditional activity tracking to driving personalized, measurable outcomes for self-sufficiency, community integration, employment, and ultimately independence.
11:40am – 12:00pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	ACCSES Annual Member Meeting The 2026 ACCSES Annual Meeting is for ACCSES members to learn the latest about ACCSES and to vote on nominees to the ACCSES Board of Directors. • Call to Order and Welcome, Brad Saathoff, Board Chair • Report of the President & Chief Executive Office, Kate McSweeney • Report of the Membership Committee, Vanessa Ferguson • Report of the Nominating Committee, Danny Hoover and Hannah Liedkie 1. Introduction of Nominees 2. Vote to Fill Open Board Seats • Old Business, Brad Saathoff, Board Chair • New Business, Brad Saathoff, Board Chair • Adjournment

12:00pm – 1:00pm <i>Roosevelt</i>	Lunch Sponsored by ServiceSource
1:00pm – 2:00pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	A Different Way of Thinking Cody Clark , Self-Advocate, Magician, Comedian, Public Speaker Cody combines magic, comedy, and storytelling to share what living with autism is like. Starting with his initial diagnosis and ending with his college graduation, Cody places magic routines inside common life experiences to show how his autism makes him different yet similar to most people. Cody's message is that disabilities such as autism are nothing to fear—they simply represent a different way of thinking.
2:00pm – 3:00pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	The Last Stamp: A Journey of Kindness and Understanding Dr. Thomas Buckley, Ed.D. , Executive Director, The Roland Center Koji Okamoto , Self-Advocate Antony Talia , Director of Communications and Advancement, The Roland Center For more than four decades, Dr. Tom Buckley has devoted his professional life to supporting people with disabilities, and for the past six years, he has worked to educate us on the importance of recognizing the need for providing dementia care services for many people who have been receiving disability services. Tom will discuss the transformation of The Roland Center to a world-class, CARF-accredited site for dementia care and IDD. He, Antony, and Koji Okamoto will share Koji's story and screen the documentary, <i>The Last Stamp</i> . Bring tissues; it is moving! Sponsored by FCE Benefits
3:00pm – 3:10pm	Dessert Break
3:10pm – 3:15pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	A Special Message from First Nonprofit
3:15pm – 4:15pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Amplifying Impact: How Disability Service Providers Use Marketing and Communications to Strengthen Their Mission, Build Partnerships, and Advance Advocacy Cyndy Walsh Rintzler , Chief Executive Officer, Employment Horizons (<i>Moderator</i>) Bridget Doane , Director of Business Development, TAC Industries Inc. James Helm, MPA , Marketing & Communications Director, Dale Rogers Training Center Antony Talia , Director of Communications and Advancement, The Roland Center Effective marketing and communications are essential tools for advancing organizational goals. Join communications and marketing leaders from across the IDD community as they share how their organizations are using storytelling, branding, media relations, social media, and strategic communications to raise awareness, engage stakeholders, strengthen community partnerships, support fundraising efforts, and influence public policy. Sponsored by Kibu
4:15pm – 5:00pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Mental Health and Employment: Building Workplaces That Support Well-Being and Success Andrew O'Grady , LCSW-R, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health America of Dutchess County This session will explore the intersection of mental health and employment, highlighting strategies that help individuals enter the workforce and thrive in the workplace while supporting business outcomes. Andrew will share current trends, common workplace challenges, and practical approaches for creating inclusive, supportive, and resilient work environments. Topics will include workplace accommodations, employee engagement,

	leadership practices, mental health awareness, and policies that promote retention and recovery. Andrew will also provide insights to the launch of the 988 number and efforts to grow awareness of this vital suicide-prevention resource. Sponsored by CARF International and Employment Solutions
5:00pm – 5:15pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	A Literary Moment of Inspiration James (JJ) Janis, Poet Extraordinaire (via Zoom) Heather Pickering, Artistic Director, Flutter Productions (via Zoom) JJ will read excerpts from his book, <i>The Chair is Not Me</i>, a collection of poems written to inspire people to think about, learn from, and connect to people who are diversely able.
5:45pm – 7:00pm <i>The Colonnade</i>	ACCSES Champions Awards Celebration Join us for convivial conversation, wine, and hors d'oeuvres during our annual celebration of ACCSES Lifetime Achievement award honorees.

Tuesday, July 21, 2026
All Times Are Eastern Standard Time

7:00am – 8:00am <i>Roosevelt</i>	Breakfast Sponsored by ACCSES New Jersey
7:00am – 5:00pm <i>Ballroom Foyer</i>	Exhibits Open
8:00am – 8:20am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Kibu Gets Us Moving Billy Blanks, Jr., President and Creative Director, Kibu
8:20am – 8:50am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Prove It or Lose It: Because the Work You Do Deserves to Be Protected Heather Janci, Vice President Compliance & Best Practices, Kibu Strong advocacy starts with strong data. Across all ACCSES policy areas, funding, outcomes, and policy decisions increasingly depend on how organizations document and demonstrate their impact. This session explores why documentation technology is more than an operational tool—it is a strategic asset. Using federal data and real-world examples, Heather will examine key risks and opportunities and show how better data can strengthen advocacy, protect funding, and support the people providers serve.
8:50am – 9:10am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i> <i>Spotlight Session</i>	Project SEARCH: How Fairmont is Helping Kelly Wilson, Director of Human Resources, Fairmont Washington, D.C., Georgetown Recently, we were delighted to learn that our conference hotel is a Project SEARCH site! Kelly is joining us to talk about how Fairmont D.C. is expanding employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities.
9:10am – 10:00am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	A National Wake-Up Call: Idaho's Funding Cuts, Provider Response, and the Future of Person-Centered Services Hannah Liedkie, President and Chief Executive Officer, Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.; Member, ACCSES Board of Directors C. Thomas Cook, S.Psy.S., Board President and Lead Solutions Specialist, Potentia Public Policy Institute; Chair, ACCSES Advisory Council With its FY 2027 state budget, Idaho became the first state since the enacted H.R. 1 to pass a substantial reduction in HCBS residential service rates, cutting \$22.8 million in state funding and triggering an estimated total loss of nearly \$70 million when federal matching dollars are included. This session will focus on the background to the budget decision, the

	state's new audit requirements, Potentia's work to assist providers with their strategic response, and the implications for the broader HCBS system. Presenters will discuss why this moment presents the national provider community with an opportunity to advocate for best practices at the state and federal level, and for providers to demonstrate what high-quality, person-centered services look like in an era of fiscal constraint. Sponsored by Adelante and First Nonprofit
10:00am – 10:10am	Break
10:10am – 10:30am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i> <i>Spotlight Session</i>	Making Health & Welfare Benefits Work: Strategies for Employee Engagement and Workforce Success Chris Porter, President and Chief Marketing Officer, FCE Benefits Health & Welfare fringe benefits represent a significant investment in employees, but many organizations face challenges in ensuring that workers understand, access, and fully utilize the resources available to them. This session will explore practical approaches to increasing benefit awareness, improving employee engagement, and strengthening workforce outcomes.
10:30am – 11:10am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Building Stability and Navigating the Labor Force Storm J.W. Gibbs, Apprenticeship Development & Alignment Coordinator, Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), UMass Boston; Lead Subject Matter Expert, NEON Learn how ICI and the State of Missouri have come together to confront and realign direct support professional workforce challenges. Four years into this initiative, the results are encouraging, with hundreds of graduates of the program entering the workforce and hundreds more currently enrolled. Sponsored by Dale Rogers Training Center and SourceAmerica
11:10am – 11:15am <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	A Special Message from PRIDE Industries
11:15am – 12:00pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Summer 2026 NEON Review Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (invited) Jeff Carpenter, Program Manager/Senior Advisor, EconSys Richard Davis, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy J.W. Gibbs, Lead Subject Matter Expert, NEON Michael Petrick, Senior Program Manager, EconSys Sharon Smith, Chief Executive Officer, WORK Inc. ACCSES is proud to be one of the five National Nonprofit Providers that has participated in ODEP's National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) since its inception in 2019. This session will celebrate success stories from the program and look ahead at what we will be working on over the next two years.
12:00pm – 1:00pm <i>Roosevelt</i>	Networking Luncheon Sponsored by PCSI
1:00pm – 2:00pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Medicaid Update Jack Rollins, Director of Federal Policy, National Association of Medicaid Directors The past year has brought Medicaid and the important role it plays into sharp relief. We are happy to welcome back Jack Rollins to share the work NAMD is doing in Washington and the work the State Medicaid Directors are doing in their states to protect and preserve Medicaid going forward.

2:00pm – 3:00pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	CMS Update Melissa Harris , Deputy Director, Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS); Acting Director, Medicaid Benefits & Health Programs Group, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Learn the latest on CMS's priorities regarding Home and Community Based Services and Medicaid. Have your questions for Melissa ready for this interactive session.
3:00pm – 3:15pm 3:15pm – 3:45pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Dessert Break SourceAmerica Public Policy Update The Honorable Jon Porter , Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The Porter Group Rick Terrazas , Vice President, Government Affairs, SourceAmerica 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 policy 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.
3:45pm – 4:45pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	AbilityOne Update Allen Connely , President & Chief Executive Officer, Mozaic; Chair, National Council of SourceAmerica Employers (<i>Moderator</i>) Richard Belden , President & Chief Executive Officer, SourceAmerica Soraya Correa , President and Chief Executive Officer, National Industries for the Blind Amy Jensen , Deputy Executive Director, AbilityOne Commission Kim Zeich , Executive Director, AbilityOne Commission We are delighted to welcome back the leadership of the AbilityOne Commission, SourceAmerica and National Industries for the Blind. There is a lot going on in Washington this year and getting the perspective of these leaders is invaluable. Bring your questions and ideas.
4:45pm – 5:30pm <i>Kennedy Ballroom</i>	Safety in an Inclusive Workplace – Prevention Strategies and Risk Management Tools Barbara Curd , Vice President of Safety and Risk Mitigation, PCSI Barbara will highlight PCSI's journey toward safety success, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive environments where everyone's well-being is prioritized. She will share practical tips to help providers continue to improve safety, reduce costs, and, most importantly, ensure their employees return home just as safely as they arrived.