

The Louisiana Conference of Executives  
&

The Arc of Louisiana

***“Achieve with Us”***

***Annual Conference***

January 11th & 12th 2018

Lafayette, LA



*Louisiana Conference of Executives of The Arc*



## Meet the Key Note Speakers:



Joseph M. Macbeth is the Executive Director at the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) and has worked in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities for more than 30 years - beginning as a Direct Support Professional. Macbeth is recognized as a national leader in the advocacy and advancement the direct support profession He has co-authored the series of publications titled *"Voices from the Frontlines"*, produced an award winning Realistic Job Preview titled *"Working as a Direct Support Professional: We Get It Done"*, and has partnered with the State University of New York (SUNY) by assisting more than 500 direct support professionals advance their college education through the "Disability Studies Certificate".



John Raffaele is the Director of Educational Services at the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals. John is a Master Social Worker and a highly experienced professional adult educator and facilitator. His career spans three decades and those years have been spent teaching direct support professionals and the people they support. He worked as a Director of Training and Education for a large developmental disabilities service provider in New York. John founded his own international direct support professional consulting company. For the past 5 years, in contract with the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals and in close partnership with NADSP. Most importantly John has educated tens of thousands of people in the NADSP Code of Ethics and Competencies and most recently, our new "Informed Decision Making" curriculum.

***Achieve with Us.***

# Thursday January 11, 2017

**8:30am – 9:00am**

**Registration**

**9:00am – 10:30am**

**Welcome & Key Note**

**National Speakers will discuss the "The Emerging Roles and Changing Expectations of the Direct Support Workforce":** This opening session offers a chance to reflect on the evolving roles and expectations of Direct Support Professionals. Many of these changes are driven by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its Federal Home and Community-Based Services Community Rule. This is a radical departure from which we are accustomed and will ultimately create an emphasis on 'personal autonomy', greater access to 'integrated settings' and helping people to make 'informed choices'. The focus of this session addresses one important piece of the CMS Rule; how do we support people with disabilities to make informed decisions? What is the direct support professional's role in this process? What are the workforce demographics and projections to fulfill these expectations? Do direct support professionals currently possess the tools, resources and skills to uphold this responsibility?

**Speakers:** Joseph M. Macbeth, Executive Director at the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), and John Raffaele, Director of Educational Services at the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals.

**10:30am -10:45am**

**Break**

**10:45am – 11:30am**

**"Achieving the Dream" Panel Discussion**

**Achieving the Dream:** This session will be facilitated by Jeff Arseneaux. Jeff will talk a little while about how he defines "achieving the dream" and will facilitate a conversation with other self-advocates who have achieved their dream by becoming employed, continuing their education, and living on their own.

**Speaker:** Jeff Arseneaux, Program Coordinator for People First of Louisiana.

**11:30am 12:15pm**

**Lunch & Guest Speakers**

**Speaker:** Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser – Scratch Off Program to benefit disability services in Louisiana & Mike Teague with Optum

## **Break Out Sessions - Human Service Professionals**

### **12:30pm -2:00pm**

**"The NADSP Code of Ethics Encounter"**: The NADSP faculty will share real examples culled from decades of practicing in the field of intellectual disabilities in a role play, unlike any other. In learning about ethical responsibilities, they will act out some real dilemmas and ethical decisions that confront direct support professionals on the job every day. Using the NADSP's Code of Ethics, participants will consider ways that ethical practices can be incorporated into daily practice. The beliefs and attitudes that are associated with being an effective human service professional are critical to understanding this code - it is not the handbook of the profession, but rather a roadmap to assist us in staying the course of securing freedom, justice, and equality for all.

### **2:00pm -2:10pm - Break**

### **2:10pm - 3:30pm**

**"The Great Direct Support Professional Competency Connection"**- The cornerstone of every profession is a standardized set of competencies with which all practitioners carry out their craft. The NADSP assisted the state of New York's Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) in creating a standardized set of Core Competencies for direct support professionals. Since that time, we have contracted with many states and have provided dozens of training sessions across the country as provider organizations begin to understand the value of competency-based training. This session will introduce the NADSP Competency set in an engaging, though-provoking and fun manner. The audience will break into small groups and discuss the competencies...and then the fun (and learning) begins.

### **3:30pm - 3:40pm - Break**

### **3:40pm - 4:40pm**

**" An Introduction to Informed Decision Making"** - A facilitated discussion that investigates how direct support professionals can use the ethical practices, professional skills and adept reasoning to assist people in making informed decisions and meeting the new CMS definition of "Community". This session will begin a deeper discussion by asking three questions that will identify ways that the spirit of the NADSP's Code of Ethics and Competencies will be incorporated in assessing Risk and balancing Safety. Part of the discussion will focus on how the organization can create a culture of competence with skilled, ethical and empowered direct support professionals that will lead the way to Quality.

**Speakers:** Joseph M. Macbeth and John Raffaele with the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP).

## **Break out Session - Self-Advocate and Family**

**12:30pm - 1:30pm**

**Bridge to Independence Program** - Dr. Mary Breaud with Nicholls State University will be talking about what Nicholls has to offer students with developmental disabilities; such as the opportunity to enjoy the full college experience while gaining the leadership and social skills needed for future employment and independent living. The Bridge to Independence program is the only program in Louisiana certified by the U.S. Department of Education. This presentation will describe how the "Bridge to Independence" provides the support services needed for eligible students to attend regular Nicholls classes, participate in campus events and activities and join campus organizations. Dr. Breaud will explain how along the way, peer mentors, trained in the Nicholls College of Education, will assist Bridge students with their coursework and socialization.

**1:30pm - 1:45pm: Break**

**1:45pm - 2:45pm:**

**Advocacy, Self-Advocacy and Self Determination** - Join Jeff Arseneaux as he explains the difference between advocacy, self-advocacy and self-determination and why all are important to People First of Louisiana.

**2:45pm - 3:00pm: Break**

**3:00pm - 4:00pm:**

**What is the Louisiana ABLE and why is there so much confusion?** - Join Sharon Hennessey as she gives an in-depth presentation of the Louisiana ABLE. Sharon will give a brief history of where the ABLE came from and how Louisiana passed legislation. Participants who attend will learn how to open an account, who is eligible to open an account, how individuals benefit from opening an account, and how to make contributions to an account.

**4:00pm-6:00pm - Break**

**6:00pm - 8:00pm:**

**Awards Dinner - Open to everyone!**

Please join us as we recognize self-advocates, educators, legislators, and human service professional's and other leaders who have made exceptional contributions to advancing the mission of The Arc.

**Friday January 12, 2017**

**9:00am - 10:00am**

**The Arc of Louisiana Annual Meeting**

**10:00am - 11:30am**

**State of the State with Michelle Alletto**

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