



2015 Iowa Lifespan Respite Coalition Conference Session Descriptions

*Additional sessions will be added as they are confirmed.
Sessions are subject to change.

Keynote Speakers:

Jill Kagan: Lifespan Respite Lifts all Boats: Innovation and Collaboration in Respite Services for All

Lifespan Respite is defined as coordinated systems of community-based respite for family caregivers of children or adults regardless of special need. Since 2009, 32 states and the District of Columbia have been awarded Lifespan Respite grants from the Administration for Community Living to build these systems. They have demonstrated best practices in collaboration across state agencies to maximize use of existing respite resources and reduce barriers that keep family caregivers from receiving respite, especially for the underserved or unserved populations. Many of the grantees have developed innovative approaches to marketing respite to family caregivers, developed respite registries, increased respite capacity through provider training and recruitment, and developed consumer-directed respite and other models to help families pay for and find respite. The session will focus on state best practices in the Lifespan Respite program, describe approaches for encouraging additional state and community participation and partnerships in these efforts, and highlight future directions for program implementation.

Christine Sutton: Stop & Smell the Garbage

Stop and Smell the Garbage was written by Christine after three years of full-time caregiving for her husband, Gerald. Gerry, as Sutton refers to him, died in late 2011 with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Stop and Smell the Garbage deals with issues faced by caregivers for people with Alzheimer's, other advanced Dementias, or another terminal disease. Christine discusses caregiver depression, stress and guilt. She offers practical advice on coping with Alzheimer's behaviors. She relates all of the signs of Alzheimer's her husband exhibited in the 18 months before he was diagnosed -- signs she misinterpreted. Christine discusses how she made the decision to place her husband in long-term care, end-of-life planning, and their experience participating in a clinical trial.

Elaine Eshbaugh: Tag You're It, Tackling Caregiver Issues

This session will focus on the family dynamics involved in caregiving. Particular emphasis will be family communication and “trigger issues” for family conflict. The material will be helpful to individuals who are trying to “manage” a caregiving team.

Tyler Eason: Legal Issues in Substitute Decision Making

Being a guardian, conservator, agent or attorney-in-fact can be difficult. This session can help shed some light on the issues that people filling these roles regularly face and the resources that are available to help.

IA Health Link Discussion

Join us in a discussion regarding the new Medicaid managed care program, IA Health Link. This is your opportunity to ask questions regarding the new program and hear from the managed care organizations. All four managed care organizations contracted with the state have been invited to participate in this discussion.