



CSLN 2013 CONFERENCE

SPEAKER PROFILES

Tony Anderson

Tony Anderson entered the field of developmental services in 1987 and began his career as a direct support professional in group homes, respite and in-home support services, schools and work-related programs. He has served as a case manager and resource development manager in a regional center, and was the Executive Director of a residential service agency that served over 120 people with developmental disabilities. He worked in the leadership for the Napa County Department of Health and Human Services and was appointed to serve as Deputy Director for Governor Gray Davis responsible for Policy, Planning & Governmental Relations for the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. He joined The Arc California in 2003 and serve as Executive Director and principle lobbyist for the association. In this capacity he serves on numerous state and national boards and commissions and is the national President for the executive directors of The Arc. Tony received his BA in Research Psychology and an MA in Organizational Development both from Sonoma State University. He completed Executive Training from the University of Southern California while an official of the State.

Nora Baladerian

Nora Baladerian, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist in Los Angeles, California, practicing both clinical and forensic psychology.

Since 1971, long before the crime victimization field as a whole focused attention on the needs of persons with disabilities, she has specialized in working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

With an expertise in serving crime victims with disabilities and people charged with victimless sex crimes, she has successfully rallied victim/witness organization leaders, crime victims' rights advocates, social service professionals, forensic psychologists, law enforcement, attorneys, members of the judiciary, and others to take up the cause of ensuring that the needs of society's most vulnerable are not overlooked or otherwise forgotten.

In 1986, as a proactive way both to bring together the growing number of those dedicated to this work and promoting greater cross- disciplinary dialog, she began convening national conferences on abuse of individuals with disabilities, hosting the 10th in 2005 with The Arc of Riverside County, and the First Online Professional Conference of its kind that same year.

In 2008, the Attorney General of the United States presented her with the National Crime Victims Service Award in recognition of her pioneering efforts on behalf of persons with disabilities and in advancement of the mission of the Office for Victims of Crime of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Bruce Anderson

Bruce Anderson is a nationally recognized speaker, community activist and leadership coach. Equally at home in remote villages and urban communities, he is known for blending old stories and wisdom, along with modern organizing strategies, into the asset-based community development and social service innovation work he is so passionate about.

Carlene Holden

Carlene Holden, Executive Vice President of Easter Seals Southern California, chairs the Easter Seals California Public Policy Team, and is a mentor with the National Easter Seals Office of Public Affairs. Carlene holds a graduate of San Diego State University and an advanced degree from Ball State University with degrees in Psychology and Guidance and Counseling along with two years of additional post graduate work at the University of San Francisco's MBA program. Areas of professional development have focused on the development of innovative programs to meet of children and adults with a disability. Carlene is keenly interested in research and in systems to support best practices. As a result, she is extremely concerned about the ability to maintain quality as services are expanded to meet the federal aim of serving more individuals with lower costs and with increased quality outcomes. Making this a reality is going to be an enormous challenge. The federal government, the state government and the managed care insurance companies will all want lower costs. As advocates, we must make sure there are real options for the people we serve to make sure the "quality" promise is implemented.



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Marty Omoto

Marty Omoto, founder, organizer and director of the CDCAN, California Disability Community Action Network, a non-partisan advocacy network and produces the CDCAN Disability Rights Reports that goes out to over 65,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, the blind, seniors and their families, community organizations, facilities and individual workers who provide supports and services, federal and state department heads and staff and media across the State. Marty currently serves since its creation in 2005, as member of the Governor's Olmstead Advisory Committee, and as board director for over a decade of an independent living center in Sacramento and Sacramento Paratransit Inc. He also serves on several State task forces and stakeholder groups dealing with disability issues. He is a family member of sister who had developmental and physical disabilities and is the proud father of four children. He previously served as legislative director of the Coalition of UCP Associations in California and was the first legislative representative in California for AARP (with 3.5 million members in the State). He served as the executive director of state associations dealing with community action, Head Start issues for the purpose of increasing access to the legal system for people with disabilities, low income families, victims of domestic violence and seniors. He was a senior consultant with the California Legislature. He started his work career as a direct support worker in a Sacramento work activity/sheltered workshop in the late 1970's and later served as vice president of its board.

Art Bolton

Art Bolton is a well known leader and early pioneer in the California disability movement. His lifetime commitment and advocacy work began with his position as a Senior Health and Welfare Consultant to the California State Assembly, and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. As the first director of the Assembly Office of Research, Art was a visionary who helped develop legislation in the fields of mental health, criminal justice, and health care. In 1967, he worked with then Assemblymember Frank Lanterman to craft the bill that became known as the Lanterman Act; a monumental piece of legislation that created our current regional center and community-based service system. Art continued his long and stellar career working as President and Director of Arthur Bolton Associates. He later served as staff director for the California Lieutenant Governor's Task Force for the Seriously Mentally Ill and as a consultant to the Department of Mental Health. He was also project director for the Family Welfare Research Group at UC Berkeley. Several years ago, he was coaxed out of retirement to serve as a consultant to the Assembly Committee on Human Services, and he continues to advocate for quality supports for Californians with developmental disabilities.

Stacy Sisson

Stacy Sisson is currently the Director of Community Resources at the STEP agency in Sacramento. Though she originally started her education and career in the medical field and later in real estate, her passion for social services led her to complete her educational pursuits with a BS in Human Services and a MS in Psychology. Her career has spanned the gamut from First 5 of California to Child Protective Services, to Senior and Adult Services. Prior to STEP, Stacy was employed at the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services as an IHSS Social Worker.

During her time there, she was on the Policy and Procedures Committee and was frequently called upon as Acting Unit Supervisor, lead field training Social Worker and worked closely with the Sacramento County IHSS Fraud Unit and the District Attorney's IHSS Fraud Task Force Unit.

Janice Fialka

Ms. Fialka is a nationally recognized speaker, author, and social worker with expertise in parent-professional partnerships, inclusion, and post-secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. Janice speaks and writes from her dual perspectives as a seasoned social worker and as a mother of two adult children, Micah and Emma. Micah, who has intellectual disabilities, is an award-winning advocate and who has been fully included in general education, college, and in his community. (www.throughthesamedoor.com) Currently he is working on a Peer Mentoring grant at Syracuse University where he also takes classes and serves as a Teaching Assistant. With community supports he lives a fully inclusive, dynamic life. During the Summer of 2013 he will be one of the 45 Summer Interns sponsored by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD.com) working in Washington D.C. in government and non-profit sectors.

Currently Janice is the Special Projects Trainer for Michigan's Early On (Part C of IDEA) Training and Technical Assistance. She was honored as the Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of School Workers-Michigan Chapter in 2007 and is co-author of the recent book *Parents and Professionals Partnering for Children with Disabilities: A Dance that Matters*. For more information about Janice and her publications, see her website at www.danceofpartnership.com.

In 2009, Family Voices awarded Janice and her family with the "Life Time Achievement Award" for their work in disability advocacy.