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Older Individuals who are Blind
Technical Assistance Center

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Be Bold

2021 IL OIB-TAC Conference Agenda

Monday, September 13 – Thursday, September 16, 2021

Times are in Central Time Zone

Session registration and detailed information will be available on our Community of Practice in June.

Monday, September 13, 2021

11:00 a.m. My Heart Is Not Blind: Voices of Older Blind, Michael Nye

For the last eight years, Michael has been listening to men and women who are blind and visually impaired. In this pre-recorded presentation, you will hear an intimate story from the subject accompanied by a photographic portrait. Many of the personal narratives that accompany each portrait speaks of the transition from sight to vision loss and how that has changed—and not changed—the ability to perceive the world. His presentation will be followed by a live Q&A.

1:00 p.m. Assistive Tech Resource Roundup, Kendra Farrow

One of the most difficult topics to stay up-to-date on is assistive technology. Devices and their features are constantly being updated or replaced by a newer product or app. Program participants have different abilities to utilize assistive technology and willingness to accept new devices/apps. Additionally, resources of the program or individual may limit which items can be obtained. How can busy professionals keep it all straight? In this session, we hope to provide some resources to help you get started with this daunting task.

3:00 p.m. *Session Open Only to OIB Program Managers*

Welcome Reception, IL OIB-TAC team

This reception room provides a virtual opportunity for program managers to connect on the first day of the conference. We hope this kickstarts the exchange of ideas and opportunities for connection that this week will entail.



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Tuesday, September 14, 2021

11:00 a.m. C.H.A.T. Your Way to Success: Be an Influential and Inspiring Communicator, Claudia-Jean Virga

Does it feel like a struggle to get your message across? Like your messages are getting lost, overlooked, or even misunderstood? Despite your best efforts, the challenge to communicate with, influence, and inspire your colleagues, partners, and clients might seem unique and overwhelming, especially in our current reality of working remotely. Here is the puzzle to solve: to really connect, you have to speak to others in their language and their style. And the key to that puzzle is the CHAT Communication System, where you'll learn how to maximize your communication, your marketing, and your presentations by leveraging all four distinct communication styles.

1:00 p.m. Community Outreach: Time To Be Bold Campaign Successes, Tools, and Future Plans, Sylvia-Stinson-Perez

The IL OIB-TAC launched the TimeToBeBold.org public service announcement campaign in April 2021. In this session, attendees will hear about the reach and success of the PSA campaign, tools available for continued use, and strategies for moving forward and capitalizing on TimeToBeBold. IL OIB-TAC team members and agencies who have successfully used campaign materials will share information and ideas.

3:00 p.m. *Session Open Only to OIB Program Managers*

Live Q&A with RSA

Representatives from the Rehabilitation Services Administration will answer pre-submitted questions. Questions must be submitted to the IL OIB-TAC team by August 1.

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

11:00 a.m. Strength-Based Leadership: The 10-80-10 Principle, Sunjay Nath

Delivered in a high energy, high content and highly humorous manner, the 10-80-10 Principle is a framework that allows you to increase your performance and results by focusing your energy and efforts on highest yielding activities. It helps individuals and teams operate at a dynamic level.

1:00 p.m. Empower Through Self-care, Sylvia Stinson-Perez



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This session will feature a panel discussing the importance of self-care. Panelists will provide recommendations for creating balance and boundaries, getting better nutrition, sleep and recreational involvement, and how to build more resilience.

3:00 p.m. *Session Open Only to OIB-TAC Program Managers*

Policy Round Table: Assistive Technology, Kendra Farrow

How does your program handle the provision of assistive technology devices? Do you have policies or procedures that guide your staff? In this session, we will look at the federal definition of assistive technology, share how we handle the distribution of devices, and consider if our programs can improve efficiencies in this area of our services.

Thursday, September 16, 2021

11:00 a.m. Empower, Educate, Engage: A Lived Experience, Anil Lewis

Whether aging as a person that is already blind or has low vision, or becoming blind as an older adult, there are life strategies and access technology that enable the senior blind to live the lives they want. This presentation will highlight some of those lived experiences that provide greater independence for older blind individuals and seek to connect them with an organization that will serve as an invaluable resource as they strive to live the lives they want.

1:00 p.m. Activity and Support Groups: Empower, Educate, and Engage with Consumers, Sylvia Stinson-Perez

Adjustment to vision loss is enhanced by access to peer support. Peer support and activity groups also give older individuals access to more resources. The possibilities for people to engage in peer support have significantly increased through remote and virtual opportunities. This session will provide some of the benefits of linking clients to peer support, peer support resources, and how to implement peer support groups in your community.

3:00 p.m. *Session Open Only to OIB-TAC Program Managers*

Closing Breakout Session

These private breakout rooms allow a networking opportunity for OIB-TAC program managers connect in smaller groups directly.