



2007
Youth Information Centers
ADD TA Institute
“Creating a Legacy to Lead On”

Speaker Biographies

Dr. David Barney received his MPH from the University of California (UC) at Berkeley, his MSW from San Diego State University, and a PhD in social work from the University of Kansas.

At present, he is a College Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at New Mexico State University (NMSU). He teaches classes in both clinical social work practice and social work research. Dr. Barney's previous experience includes positions as the medical epidemiologist for Alameda County in California and assistant statistician at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. Previously, as Director of Research at the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center he conducted evaluation activities for a network of 12 Special Projects of National Significance throughout the U.S. that served American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Other major research and evaluation efforts have included the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) U.S./Mexico International Border HIV/AIDS Initiative and the HRSA National American Indian and Alaska Native HIV/AIDS Technical Assistance Center. He has conducted HIV/AIDS evaluations for adherence issues and Title III programs under the Ryan White CARE Act. Dr. Barney was the principal investigator on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded *Latino Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Project*. Dr. Barney has made more than 50 presentations on HIV/AIDS at national conferences, published two articles on HIV care evaluation methods, and published numerous articles on HIV/AIDS case management. Currently, he serves as multi-site evaluator for the Paso del Norte Health Foundation *Two Should Know: Healthy Human Sexuality Initiative*.

Betty E. S. Duran, MSW, MPH is the Evaluation Project Director on staff at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Ms. Duran has more than 13 years of experience in research and program evaluation, specifically in the areas of direct client services and medical care with American Indians and Latinos. Areas of research specialty include domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, adolescent health, and tribal ethnographic studies.

Ms. Duran currently is employed by NMSU as evaluation project director for research contracts and grants overseen by Dr. David Barney. Prior to working at NMSU, Ms. Duran worked for four years at the University of Oklahoma as Director of the Evaluation and Research Center in the School of Social Work. Her experience also includes working for the University of California at Berkeley in the School of Public Health, Native American Research Center as Director of the Wellness Project. She also worked with the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center as Director of Client Services for approximately five years.

Ms. Duran holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Kansas and a Master of Public Health from the University of Oklahoma. She has presented at national and international conferences on the benefits of traditional American Indian medicine, HIV/AIDS with minority populations, domestic violence, and substance abuse among American Indians and research with tribal communities. She currently teaches in the College of Health and Social Services at NMSU.

Micah Fialka-Feldman was in inclusive education in the Berkley, Michigan School District from his elementary through high school years. He has a cognitive impairment and was supported by the general and special education staff, including a paraprofessional, peer tutors (LINKS), a Circle of Friends, and use of creative modifications and accommodations to meet his needs in classes. He excels in the use of computers and software programs. Micah uses tools such as Screen Reader, PowerPoint, and a voice-to-text program called Dragon Point & Speak to enhance his independence to learn and communicate. He actively participates in his educational planning and IEPs. He uses PowerPoint presentations and includes his friends in the planning. Micah has won many awards, made presentations all over the country and Canada, and written many publications. He serves on the Kids As Self Advocates [KASA] Advisory Board and as the Chair of the KASA Task Force.

Kira Fisher is project coordinator with Acting for Advocacy (A4A) at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Center for Development and Learning, which is the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service in North Carolina. A4A serves youths with disabilities in the Occupational Course of Study in North Carolina high schools. Ms. Fisher teams with the co-director and with the inclusive training team to plan, prepare, and present training workshops to youths, emerging leaders, and professionals. As an emerging leader, Ms. Fisher was the first member of AmeriCorps with a disability to serve in North Carolina. Ms. Fisher has a BA and a background in teaching children with a disability.

Nichole Goble – During Ms. Goble's time as the youth co-director and side-SALYD liaison for SALYD (Self-Advocacy and Leadership for Youth with Disabilities), she has been part of many presentations and panel discussions on disability topics. A few of the topics with which she was involved were volunteerism, self-advocacy, and

issues around the transition stages. In addition to SALYD, she has worked with Iowa's Youth Leadership Forum, serving as a staff member in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007. In 2005, she helped out in the Welcome Room, the purpose of which was to make sure the youth who just arrived felt comfortable in their new setting and began to meet their fellow delegates. She also spoke with parents about any issues or concerns they had.

As a youth with a disability, Ms. Goble feels her experiences have shaped her self-advocacy skills and have had an impact on how she views her disability. It made it important to her to pass on to others what she has learned. She has had additional opportunities to share her knowledge through recent appointments to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development's Community Partnership Advisory Council and her election as president of the Des Moines-based Citizen Advisory Committee.

Janice Goforth is the Project Coordinator for the Center for Emerging Leadership (CEL). She also coordinates CEL's sister project, Project LEADERS through Interwork Institute. Janice is a distance instructor, teaching Disability and Society at the Community College level. Her background is in Disability Services Management, Vocational Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and holds a certificate in Rehabilitation Technology.

Tyler Greene is a 17-year-old junior at West High School in Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. Greene created an Eagle Scout Project in the fall of 2006. It was the production of a training DVD on Ability Awareness, "I'm Tyler ... don't be surprised". His initial project was to distribute the DVD to all 365 school districts in Iowa as a training tool for teachers and administrators. Now 3,500 copies of the DVD are being used in all 50 states and in 16 U.S. territories and countries by churches, schools, universities, support groups, youth groups, workforce development, corporations, and many more organizations.

"My dream is to do good things that are right and of value. If you have hope, you have a reason for doing things instead of aimlessly wandering around. We as a family ruled out 'can't' a long time ago. For us it's not a matter of whether 'I can' but just a matter of 'how'."

Mr. Greene is an active teenager who enjoys music, karate, Scouting, movies, and the Internet. He is active in his church with mission work and youth events and in school in student senate, band, and drama. He also serves on the National Kids as Self Advocates Advisory Board (KASA), the State of Iowa Special Education Advisory Panel, and is an Eagle Scout. He was awarded the United Church of Christ National Disabilities Ministries Award in 2007. He has also been honored as the namesake and first recipient of the "Tyler Student Achievement Award" and scholarship given by the Iowa Chapter of the Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE).

Rebecca Hare is the Project Coordinator for the National Consortium on Leadership and Disability for Youth (NCLD/Youth) housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. NCLD-Youth is one of 15 Youth Led Resource, Information, and Training Centers funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. NCLD/Youth is currently working in nine states supporting young leaders in creating state and local policy to educate students in K-12 public schools about disability history and awareness.

An ardent advocate for youth-led models of leadership development, Ms. Hare has worked with a number of groups such as the National Youth Leadership Network and the National Council on Disability (where she served as the Vice-Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee for 3 years). She has consulted or given expert testimony to the National Council on Independent Living, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the World Bank, the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Advisory panel, the Presidents Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disability, and the committee for the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization.

Her publications include "Youth Development and Youth Leadership: A Background Paper" from the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth, articles on civic engagement for the newsletter Impact, "the 411 on Disability Disclosure," "Paving the Way to Work: A Guide to Career-Focused Mentoring," and various policy agendas for the National Youth Leadership Network. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2001, and is expecting to continue her education in the near future.

Michael Hoenig - For the past 14 years, Mike Hoenig has developed and implemented a variety of advocacy training initiatives for the Center for Disabilities and Development at the University of Iowa. In his present role with the Center's State and Community Projects office, Mr. Hoenig is responsible for training grants on health promotion, community capacity-building, youth leadership, and disability awareness. He has a BA in psychology from Central College, Pella, Iowa, and an MA in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Iowa.

Having experienced blindness from birth, Mr. Hoenig has first-hand knowledge of many of the barriers which persons with disabilities must overcome. This personal experience, combined with professional experience as an advocate and program administrator, has given him the knowledge to be a strong proponent and teacher of self-determination. During his tenure with the Center for Disabilities and Development, he has provided self-determination training for more than 3,000 adults and adolescents with disabilities. Because of his strong commitment to leadership development and peer support, many of these individuals are now taking charge of their lives and creating change in their communities.

Briana Jackson is a Peer Mentor with the Center for Emerging Leadership. Her duties include creating and delivering presentations, mentoring youth, and assisting with the day-to-day running of the center. She is involved with the San Diego People First Self Advocacy Group and the San Diego Unified School District's TRACE Student Governance Council.

Ophelia McLain, MS serves as Program Specialist at the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD). ADD's mission is to improve and increase services to and assure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to make their own choices, contribute to society, have supports to live independently, and are free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their legal and human rights. As Program Specialist, Ms. McLain is the lead on the youth information, training and resource centers, Project Officer of the logistics and technical assistance contract as well as University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in Regions 2 and 3, and serves in the rapid response capacity of the Office of the Commissioner.

Prior to joining ADD, among other duties, she developed standard operating procedures for a health system. Her focus was to improve processes to better serve internal and external customers.

Miguel Monroy is 16 year-old with Orthoreposis, which affects his arms and legs. He lives in a rural community in Chaparral, New Mexico, 30 minutes north of El Paso, Texas and 30 miles south of Las Cruces, New Mexico. His passion is his art work and playing soccer. He holds a position as Sargent at Arms for the youth group El Poder de los Jovenes Project (Empowerment of Youths) that is sponsored by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Recently, he was selected by RASEM2 (Regional Alliance of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics) to participate at a camp, sponsored by New Mexico State University College of Engineering, in San Diego, California. This was a great honor because he was one of ten individuals nationwide to participate at this Mentor/Mentee program which conducts workshops for the Teacher Outreach Program (TOP). This program provides funding on a competitive basis for TOP and University partner projects. His artwork was chosen by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities 2007 Technical Assistance Institute as the winner of this year's logo design contest.

Dr. Patricia A. Morrissey came to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) as Commissioner in August 2001.

She has worked in both the public and private sectors in Washington, D.C. since 1976. Dr. Morrissey worked for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions for five years. In this position she oversaw or played a central role in the drafting of major disability legislation such as: the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act Amendments of 1997; the Developmental Disabilities Act Amendments of 1996 and 2000; the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998; the Assistive Technology Act of 1998; the Education of the Deaf Act Amendments of 1998; and the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act of 1999.

She also worked for the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Education and Labor (currently the Committee on Education and the Workforce), drafting disability legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). She has written four books, assisted in the production of six training videos on the ADA, and served as a consultant to Fortune 200 companies on ADA compliance.

Prior to her current Presidential appointment, Dr. Morrissey was a senior associate at Booz Allen Hamilton where she provided consulting services to federal agencies. Her focus was strategic plans that would facilitate agencies' compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. That provision of law requires federal agencies to purchase electronic and information technology that is accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities.

Presently her leadership is focused on promoting the adoption of universal design principles to all human service delivery programs, and on encouraging implementation of one-stop centers to facilitate comprehensive services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. She is an asset to individuals with developmental disabilities, because she passionately advocates for those we serve, regardless of what setting she is in. She believes that, if the focus in any situation remains individuals with disabilities, consensus among diverse perspectives is achievable.

Dr. Marjorie Olney is an Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling at San Diego State University (SDSU). She has an extensive background as a service provider, advocate, educator, and researcher with and for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. She teaches masters level students about job placement, disability history and policies, services for individuals with disabilities and related issues. Dr. Olney's current research is on barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities. She is the Project Director for three projects, including the Center for Emerging Leadership.

Naomi Ortiz is the Project Director for the Kids As Self Advocates national youth-run disability advocacy project. As a dedicated disability community organizer, she believes people with disabilities deserve a voice in all that affects them. She offers assistance and training for organizations on youth leadership development, disability etiquette/culture and on how to involve youth in organizational leadership roles in meaningful ways. She is proud to be a disabled person as well as a passionate poet, singer, and artist.

Curtis Richards - For more than two decades, Curtis Richards has worked in the public policy arena at the state and national levels. Known as an “advocater,” he blends his advocacy skills with his knowledge of governmental operations to address education, workforce development, disability, and health public policy issues with a particular focus on youth and adults with disabilities.

He is currently a Senior Policy Fellow with the Institute for Educational Leadership, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. He also maintains a public policy consulting firm known as The Advocater Group. Mr. Richards served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education and as an Assistant Director for the California State Department of Rehabilitation. He has also served as a state legislative staff person, for both policy and fiscal committees, in California.

Mr. Richards has spoken extensively on disability issues throughout the country on a wide range of topics including education, employment, and disability policy. As a freelance writer he has a number of magazine, journal and newsletter articles in his portfolio. He is a nationally-recognized leader in the disability community. Among his numerous awards are: a *2000 Certificate of Appreciation* from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, a *1999 Disability Rights Activist Award* from the California Foundation of Independent Living Centers, and the *1997 Lanterman Award* from the California Association of Postsecondary Education and the Disabled.

Mr. Richards, who has been visually impaired since he was a toddler, holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government-Journalism from California State University, Sacramento.

Priscilla M. Salinas has worked for The Arc of New Mexico as Project Coordinator for eight years in Southern New Mexico. Ms. Salinas has provided advocacy to individuals with developmental disabilities since the birth of her son who is now a young adult. She has worked tirelessly for monolingual Spanish-speaking families and was awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award by the New Mexico Protection and Advocacy System.

Betsy Valnes serves as the Executive Director for the National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN), Mentor and Contracted Staff with the National Council on Disability Youth Advisory Council and Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee, and Vice President of the National Association for Youth Leadership Forums. She has contributed to inclusion efforts and program planning in a variety of countries and contributes to state programs such as the State Independent Living Council and the Youth Leadership Forum. Her primary disability-related interests and skills include education, employment, transition services, and cultural diversity.

Deborah Zuver is co-director of *Acting for Advocacy (A4A)*, which serves youths with disabilities in the Occupational Course of Study in North Carolina high schools. For more than 20 years, Ms. Zuver has worked in the disability field with adults and children in educational and clinical settings. In recent years, Ms. Zuver has coordinated a range of community-based outreach projects that aim to empower individuals and families. She is with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Center for Development and Learning, which is the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service in North Carolina. Ms. Zuver holds a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in Drama Therapy and she is licensed as a family therapist. Ms Zuver is registered as a Drama Therapist and board certified as a trainer through the National Association for Drama Therapy.