

**NCHSD FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA 2007**  
**All Rooms are in the Conference Center (CC)**

**Wednesday, September 19**

8:00am	<p><b>Breakfast &amp; Registration</b>  <b>**Room #10BCD**</b></p>
9:00-10:30	<p><b>Opening Session and Keynote Address: A Framework for Understanding Poverty</b>  <b>**Room #10BCD**</b></p> <p>Noted expert and author Dr. Ruby Payne will discuss the principles found in her ground-breaking book <i>A Framework for Understanding Poverty</i>, and how they can be applied to planning, programs and services that support working people with disabilities. Participants in this session will learn why the "hidden rules" of poverty and social class contribute to poor employment outcomes, and explore ways to work with providers and businesses to develop employment and disability policies and practices that can overcome the causes and effects of generational poverty.</p>
11:00-12:30	<p><b>Breakout Discussions: <i>Choose One</i></b></p> <p><b>A. Dr. Ruby Payne: Q&amp;A</b>  <b>**Room #23AB**</b></p> <p>As a follow up to her keynote presentation, Dr. Payne will continue the conversation about the <i>Framework for Understanding Poverty</i> and its applicability to MIG efforts to increase competitive employment outcomes. This will be a great opportunity to talk with Dr. Payne as part of a smaller group.</p> <p><b>B. MIG Evaluation Strategies and Experiences</b>  <b>**Room #22AB**</b></p> <p>This working session will feature the Connecticut evaluation team leading a discussion about what evaluation tools and methodologies can be used to address the unique evaluation needs of Medicaid Infrastructure Grants, with special consideration given to what works best when you have limited staff, time and resources. Participants will help develop an evaluation planning tool that incorporates lessons learned in the session. Bring your experiences and challenges.</p>
12:30-1:30	<p><b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>  <b>[Opportunity for Poster Session Set-up]</b>  <b>**Room #10BCD**</b></p>
1:45-3:15	<p><b>Breakout Discussions: <i>Choose One</i></b></p> <p><b>A. Connecting Workers to Jobs When Business Types and Community Size Constitute Special Challenges</b>  <b>**Room #20AB**</b></p>

	<p>Some states are engaging employers by working with the people and programs that are already working with employers—such as job developers. Diane Loud will describe Massachusetts’ support of a job developers conference and other training and strategies. Dave Schaad, Wyoming MIG Project Director, will talk about the CEO Consultant, which connects employers, consumers and providers by serving as a “broker” for all.</p> <p><b>B. Systems Change and Supported Employment—A Complicated Web</b>  <b>**Room #23AB**</b></p> <p>Consultant Lisa Mills will engage participants to work together to: identify the most significant challenges that stand in the way of making integrated employment a reality for individuals who require on-going support to work; and exchange information and ideas regarding state-specific efforts being undertaken to address these challenges and create lasting systems change. Participants should come prepared to help analyze this complex issue, to teach as well as learn from fellow participants, and to leave with insights into how to get the best results for the MIG funding you direct toward supported employment systems change. Opportunities for continued dialogue will also be discussed.</p> <p><b>C. Building a Sustainable System for Benefits Planning: Ingredients for Success</b>  <b>**Room #22AB**</b></p> <p>During this session, participants will discuss how to prepare and plan for building the capacity of the benefits planning/benefits counseling service; the critical components of a work incentives service delivery system; and strategies states are using successfully. Further dialogue will focus on quality assurance mechanisms and quality management structures—namely, what can MIGs do to lay the foundation for this important work? Presenters/facilitators: Becky Banks and Barbara Otto. Susan Suter, Associate Commissioner Social Security Administration (SSA), will be on hand to offer comment.</p>
<p><b>3:30-5:00</b></p>	<p><b>Poster Session and Outreach Video Screening</b>  <b>**Room #12BCD**</b></p> <p>Projects from across the country will display information and materials from a range of MIG initiatives on various topics. The poster session will also provide an opportunity for MIG projects to show their outreach videos on the big screen! Join us for this informal networking session—popcorn and candy provided.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Evening Reception: Joe’s Be Bop Café - Navy Pier</b>  <b>6:00-8:00pm</b></p> <p align="center">***Transportation will be provided to and from the event***</p> <p>Meet in front of the HYATT HOTEL on Martin Luther King Drive. Pickup will begin at 5:30pm; bus will depart for Navy Pier at 5:45pm.</p> <p>Bus will return to Navy Pier at 8pm AND 9pm, picking up at the front gates of Navy Pier, to bring guests back to the Hyatt Hotel.</p>	

## Thursday, September 20

<p>8:30-10:00</p>	<p><b>Breakfast Conversations: <i>Choose One</i></b></p> <p>From the following, choose the informal state discussion you'd like to join to share information, strategies, and updates. Discussions will have a facilitator to support the group.</p> <p><b>A. Developing Roles and Responsibilities for Leadership Councils</b> <b>**Room #23AB**</b></p> <p>States will share how they've developed clear and relevant guidance for steering councils and task forces established to "advise" the Medicaid Infrastructure Grants and strategic planning processes. Facilitator: Susan Wells</p> <p><b>B. A National Message About Employment</b> <b>**Room #22AB**</b></p> <p>States interested in considering options for maximizing a common message about employment will discuss progress to date, existing resources, and new opportunities. Facilitator: Barbara Otto</p>
<p>10:15-11:45</p>	<p><b>Breakout Discussions: <i>Choose One</i></b></p> <p><b>A. Self-Employment Strategies</b> <b>**Room #20AB**</b></p> <p>States will share their latest efforts to enhance self-employment as a viable competitive employment opportunity for people with disabilities. Richard Rainery, Alaska MIG project manager, will describe self-employment initiatives the state is pursuing through STARTUp-Alaska, which provides customized self-employment services and is creating a business incubator, with both physical and virtual resources, for people with disabilities. Susan Wells, Vermont MIG Project Director, will share some strategies the state is beginning this year, including home-based employment opportunities.</p> <p><b>B. Working Session with MIG-RATS: Measuring Benefits Planning Services and Outcomes</b> <b>**Room #23AB**</b></p> <p>MIG-RATS co-directors Anne Reither and Amy Porter will lead this working session with states that wish to operationalize how to measure the different components of benefits planning service delivery and outcomes. Contributing to the efforts that MIG-RATS workgroups have made in this area, session participants will explore concepts to help develop measurement tools and strategies. Participants need not have been part of previous workgroup discussions in order to benefit from or contribute to the conversation.</p> <p><b>C. Business to Business: Working with the Private Sector to Improve Employment Outcomes</b> <b>**Room #22AB**</b></p>

	<p>Larry Glantz and Mark Richards of the Maine MIG will discuss the project's multifaceted strategies for increasing the number of employers hiring people with disabilities. In a largely rural state, with a lot of small businesses and a past history of unsuccessful BLN efforts, the Maine MIG has helped form a dynamic and growing business-to-business organization, and is successfully promoting an initiative to make state government a model employer. Dara Johnson, Arizona MIG Project Director, will share their state's plan to partner with disability benefits and workers' compensation system stakeholders through the "Arizona Return-to-Work/Stay-at-Work" Summit. The Summit aims to improve outcomes of health-related employment disruptions, prevent needless work disability, increase economic productivity and control benefit costs.</p>
<p><b>12:00-2:00</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Presentation: Enhancing Youth Employment Outcomes</b>  <b>**Room #12ABC**</b></p> <p>Jenny Neugart, Wisconsin MIG, will describe efforts to promote youth involvement in developing policy to improve self-image and community participation. She will also describe MIG-funded efforts to implement the effective use of natural supports in high schools around the state. Caroline Leung, a member of Wisconsin's Youth Leadership Council, will participate to share her experiences. Sharon Johnson, Nebraska MIG director, will discuss Project YES! (Youth Employment Solutions) which supports local, integrated teams to develop solutions to identify and overcome employment barriers for young people. Facilitator: Sara Kendall, OR MIG</p>
<p><b>2:00-3:30</b></p>	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <b>**Room #12ABC**</b></p> <p>Joe Razes, Effie Shockley and Steve Hrybyk from the CMS Ticket team will share updates and other information, including results from the Medicaid Buy-In finder files.</p>
<p><b>ADJOURN: 3:30pm</b></p>	