



## Twelve Graduate from CAPS



**Back row: Khyliil Robinson, Ardhika Aziz, Max Woessner, Dana Kilgarriff, Benjamin Hartranft, Councilmember Derek Green, Douglas Ortelere, Katy Kaplan, Denny O'Brien; Front Row: Mary Kay Tuohy, Katie Croce, Max Zukin, Rachel Guttentag, Luke Tomczuk, Matthew Walsh, Gregory Barnett, Alik Koumenis. CAPS participant Adam Salomon is not pictured.**

Twelve adults with autism graduated from the first Community Autism Peer Specialist (CAPS) Training, a pilot program and collaborative effort by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OHMSAS). It is supported by the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disabilities, Community Behavioral Health, ASERT, and Philadelphia Autism Project.

Because they can draw on lived experience, peer specialists can be effective in helping other individuals achieve long-term positive behavioral outcomes. Peer specialists will be paid for the support they provide.

Mental Health Partnerships will now conduct interviews among the graduates to determine their availability for full-time and part-time jobs in September as Community Autism Peer Specialists in Philadelphia. Once hired, CAPS graduates will be paired with other individuals with autism to help achieve personal wellness and community integration goals. Activities are chosen by the participant.

Continued on Page 2

## Skills Opens Respite Home

A new home designed to provide support for caregivers of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities is expected to be fully operational by late summer, reports the Altoona Mirror.

The [Skills of Central Pennsylvania's Respite Home](#) in Altoona will provide short-term relief for caregivers.

The home has seamless floor transitions for wheelchair access, contrasting wall and floor tiles for people with visual disabilities, and more.

Caregivers are encouraged to take care of their own well-being through respite care opportunities.

Respite care is typically paid for through Pennsylvania's Office of Developmental Programs for up to 30 calendar days per year. Learn more at [www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2019/07/home-will-assist-caregivers/](http://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2019/07/home-will-assist-caregivers/).

Have news to share? please send information to:  
RA-PWODP\_OUTREACH@pa.gov



## Twelve Graduate from CAPS, continued from Page 1

“Many people with autism carry trauma related to prejudice, discrimination, and a lack of understanding with both health providers and society as a whole,” said CAPS graduate Alik Koumenis.

“Having been through and overcome many similar challenges, a peer supporter can help undo some of the shame and internal stigmatization from the past,

and foster a sense of normalcy and social connection. Through mutuality and personal choice, which are integral to any peer service, an individual can begin to rebuild their sense of dignity and self-direction while working toward their wellness plan.”

The goal is to expand this pilot program to traditional providers interested in peer-delivered services.

## Self-Advocate Helps Inform State Center Staff

Jolene, a self-advocate and resident at Selinsgrove State Center, helps train new residential service aides as a part of the Center’s staff development program. It is her job to present the self-advocates’ point of view and to highlight effective ways to interact with dually diagnosed residents. Jolene shares her own experiences, including her struggles, her strengths, and her goals.

Jolene has collaborated with State Center staff to develop the training, which consists of a Power Point and a Question and Answer session.

Doris Dressler, Therapeutic Activity Service Supervisor, says that Jolene’s involvement has included implementing many of her own ideas.

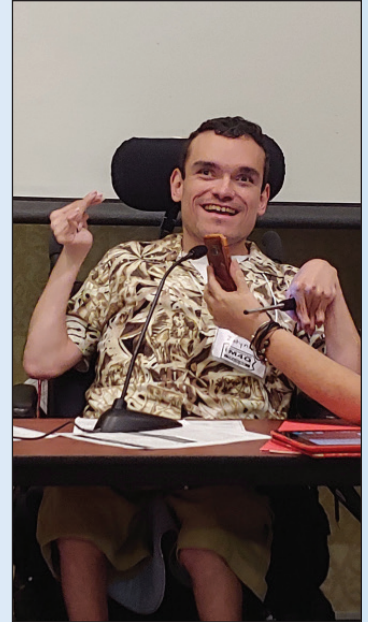
Facility Director Heather Ambrose said that there are five core staff who have also worked alongside Jolene on the project. These include Doris Dressler, Steve Artley, Brenda Reddig, Michelle Rosancrans, and Kathy Schlingmann. Among Jolene’s goals is the aspiration to one day live on her own. She has been a resident at Selinsgrove for 4 years.



**Jolene lives at Selinsgrove State Center and helps train new staff on effective ways to interact with dually diagnosed residents such as herself. She presents a slideshow and then opens up the training to a Question-and-Answer session.**



## IM4Q Training Held, Interviews Begins in the Fall



The 2019 Independent Monitoring For Quality (IM4Q) Annual Statewide Training took place July 16-17. Pictured top left: Jamie-Leonetti of Temple Institute on Disabilities, and Pam Bell from ODP presented “Making Self-Direction a Reality”; center photo: self-advocates James Meadours, Debbie Robinson, and Carolyn Morgan presented “Self-Advocacy Perspectives on the Impact of Sexual and Other Forms of Abuse”; photo at left: self-advocate Robert Zoytynia shared his experience with self-directed services. Materials from the conference will be available on MyODP. IM4Q teams will begin interviews in the fall.

## Resources Available on Transition

More than 700 people attended the [2019 PA Community on Transition Conference-Ignite the Future! Sparking Engagement in Career Readiness](https://www.pattan.net/Graduation-Post-Secondary-Outcomes/Educational-Initiatives/Pennsylvania-Community-on-Transition/PA-Community-on-Transition-Conference-Ignite-the-Future!-Sparking-Engagement-in-Career-Readiness), presented by Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network July 17-18. Most of the attendees were family members. All Department of Human Services offices were represented. Several recorded sessions that are in the process of being edited and closed captioned. Once that work is complete, recorded sessions will be posted on the PaTTAN site at <https://www.pattan.net/Graduation-Post-Secondary-Outcomes/Educational-Initiatives/Pennsylvania-Community-on-Transition/PA-Community-on-Transition-Conference>

In addition, conference handouts, when provided by presenters, can be found at [tinyurl.com/PAComTran](https://tinyurl.com/PAComTran)

Finally, the PaTTAN Pod team recorded several 15 minute or less segments featuring content from the conference and those items will be released on the PaTTAN YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRt8sQ1sfIZGdaiHnZbaOEw>.

## Information, Events, and Resources

**SUMMER FUN:** AMC Waterfront, 300 W. Waterfront Drive, West Homestead, PA, partners with the Autism Society to offer [sensory friendly films](#) each month.



### LGBTQI RESOURCES:

Find trainings and resources for individuals with autism who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or intersex at [www.paautism.org/LGBTQI](http://www.paautism.org/LGBTQI).



## Advancing Technology

On July 26, ODP convened a Technology Task Force (TF), which will focus on advancing technology solutions for Pennsylvania. The TF will develop recommendations to present to Deputy Secretary Ahrens on strategies to expand the use of technology for people with an Intellectual Disability and/or Autism (ID/A). The TF is comprised of advocates, providers, Supports Coordination Organizations, and ODP staff and is charged with evaluating existing service definitions regarding technology and exploring opportunities for the expansion of technology to increase independence among individuals with ID/A.

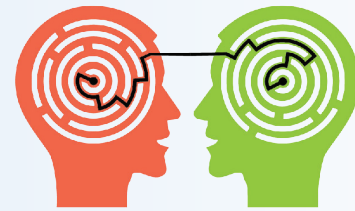
In addition to the TF, two Statewide Conferences on Technology have been planned to give stakeholders an opportunity to explore supportive technology solutions:

- October 8, 2019 David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh
- October 24, 2019 Valley Forge Convention Center, Philadelphia

Details on these conferences will be forthcoming.



## ODP Introduces the New Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations (BSASP)

The Office of Developmental Programs is excited to announce the establishment of a Special Populations Unit and the renaming of the Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) to the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations (BSASP). Through Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q), ODP realized most people who don't use words to communicate lacked a formal way to communicate. Seeing this data, ODP established the Special Populations Unit to oversee the management of the Harry M. Settlement and support efforts to build system-wide capacity to support individuals with communication disabilities. The Bureau will continue to develop and manage services and supports for individuals in Pennsylvania living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and their families.



## Happy Summer from the Special Populations Unit!

### Ideas for Summertime Communication

MODE OF COMMUNICATION	COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITY
American Sign Language (ASL)	Go for a walk and sign about the different colors, sizes, and smells of flowers planted outside
Picture Board 	Create a board with 3 real-life images of the individual's favorite ice cream flavors and have him or her point and choose a flavor when ordering
Visual Calendar 	Create a monthly calendar with a picture of the local pool pasted onto the days you'll be visiting it during that month.

For any questions on the Communication Corner, please contact the Special Populations Unit at [RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov)



## Autism Conference Slated for Sept.

The 12th Annual Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference (PATC) "PATC: Interact 2019" will take place Thursday and Friday, Sept. 5 and 6, at the Lancaster Marriott Penn Square, 25 S. Queen St., Lancaster, PA.



This conference will offer professionals who work directly with children and/or adults with autism the tools, strategies, and resources to provide the most effective support. Opportunities for engagement with providers and experts in the field will be offered throughout this conference.

Find registration details at <https://www.myodp.org/course/view.php?id=1508>. This conference is approved to meet ACT 62 Behavior Specialist licensing requirements, and for continuing education for Board Certified Behavior Analysts, Social Workers, and National Board Certified Counselors. General training hours are also offered.

### Webinars: Adult Protective Services, Mandatory Reporting

ODP is offering five webinars focused on the Department of Human Services (DHS) Adult Protective Services (APS) and Mandatory Reporting. Each webinar will present an overview of APS Law, eligibility criteria, statutory definitions, individual's rights, DHS and Liberty Health Responsibilities, mandatory reporters, general and additional reporting process and requirements.

- Aug 13, 2019 10:30 AM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5732465899958503180>
- Sept 23, 2019 1:30 PM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1217242235675514381>
- Oct 7, 2019 10:00 AM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1594148224607435277>
- Nov 4, 2019 10:00 AM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5236383845708529421>
- Dec 17, 2019 9:00 AM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1041628238487356429>

No credit, no certificate, and no continuing education credits will be offered. Attendance will be confirmed per email address logged into each webinar.

## Information, Events, and Resources

Continued from Page 5



On July 11, The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

forwarded H.R.1058 - Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support (CARES) Act of 2019 (116th Congress) to Full Committee. The current Autism CARES Act, is set to expire on September 30, 2019, provides \$260 million annually to autism research, surveillance, and education programs. H. R. 1058 amends that funding and extends it through 2024. Visit online to see [details and all proposed amendments to H.R. 1058](#).



Video is now available of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living and Office for Civil Rights [celebration of the Olmstead Act](#), the historic victory for inclusion and community living, at the Barbara Jordan Conference Center in Washington, DC (near Metro Center).



## Summary of ODP Communications Issued July 2019, With Links

1. 19-082: [Waiver Amendment Webinar Recording Now Available on MyODP](#)
2. 19-083: [New Regulations to be Explored During Human Services Licensing Renewal Inspections](#)
3. 19-084: [ODP Staff to Contact for Relocation Approval](#)
4. 19-085: [Quality Assessment & Improvement Process, Cycle 1, Year 3: All Self-Assessments Begin July 1, 2019](#)
5. 19-086: [ODP Launches Online Provider Profiles](#)
6. 19-087: [Incident Management Bulletin Draft Public Comment Period Extended](#)
7. 19-088: ODP-BAS-AAW-PROVIDER-SC only
8. 19-089: [Clarifying the Requirement for the Master Provider Index Number for Claim and Service Documentation](#)
9. 19-090: [Continued Guidance: Community Participation Support Implementation](#)
10. 19-091: [Revisions to the Annotated ISP and Related Trainings](#)
11. 19-092: [Periodic Risk Evaluation \(PRE\) Survey](#)
12. 19-093: [Informational Webinar: ODP Processes for Employment-Related Services During a Closure of OVR's Order of Selection](#)
13. 19-094: [Expectations for AAW Supports Coordinators Regarding the Right to be Free from Abuse](#)
14. 19-095: [Training Available on ODP's Provider Profiles for AEs and SCO Leadership](#)
15. 19-096: [Charting the LifeCourse Training for all AAW & ACAP Support Coordinators: Registration is Open](#)
16. [ODP News: July 2019](#)
17. 19-097 : [Office of Developmental Programs' Virtual Training Offerings August 2019](#)
18. 19-098: [Clarification on Identification of Staffing Ratios for Facility Time in the Community Participation Support Service](#)
19. [PA WDB-- WIOA State Plan Listening Sessions](#)
20. 19-099: [Clarification to AAW and ACAP Providers and SCOs about the New SPeCTRUM 2.0 Training](#)
21. [SAVE THE DATE: Everyday Lives 2020](#)
22. [Health Alert: Summer Heat Safety 2019](#)
23. [Community Health Choices Fact Sheet: Service Coordination](#)
24. [OVR Upcoming Webinars](#)
25. ODP 19-100: [Department of Human Services \(DHS\) Adult Protective Services \(APS\) and Mandatory Reporting Webinar Opportunities](#)
26. [Call for Poster Session Submissions for PATC 2019](#)