

It's all
about
community!

21st Annual Points of Transformation Awards

VIRTUAL

September 30 & October 1, 2021

AS Celebration of

**Direct Support Professionals, Supports Coordinators/
Service Coordinators who exemplify: "It's all about community!"**

The program will include:

- * **Jill Bowen, Ph.D.**, DBHIDS Commissioner
- * **Donna Bullock**, State Representative
- * **Kleckner Charles**, Director, Intellectual disAbility Services
- * **Judith R. Dotzman**, Executive Director, SPIN
- * **Laura Princiotta**, CEO, SpArc Philadelphia
- * **William Schoppe**, Intellectual Disabilities Director, PATH
- * **Linda Washington-Brown**, Vice President Developmental Services, Horizon House, Inc.
- * **Amy Mathewson Millar**, Executive Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, City of Philadelphia
- * Citations
- * Entertainment
- * Award Presentations

City of Philadelphia

 **DBHIDS**
DEPARTMENT of BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
and INTELLECTUAL disABILITY SERVICES

Sponsored by: DBHIDS Division of Intellectual disAbility Services



This Points of Transformation program is dedicated to
Denise Taylor Patterson.
In Our Hearts Forever
January 29, 1954--June 21, 2021



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

***DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK
September 12-18, 2021***

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are integral to the physical and mental health and well-being of veterans, senior citizens, and individuals of all ages with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities who receive services for severe chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their family, friends, and community and enable them to live meaningful lives in a community of their choice; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional must build a close, respectful, and trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs on a daily basis, and provides a broad range of support, from preparing meals and medications to personal care to transporting clients to school, work, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the participation of direct support professionals in medical care planning is critical to the successful transition from medical events to post-acute care and long term support and services; and

WHEREAS, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are the primary providers of long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals have worked tirelessly and heroically during the COVID-19 pandemic to support individuals with disabilities and keep them safe. Direct support professionals have put the needs of individuals with disabilities ahead of their own safety, bravely working with individuals who have chronic health conditions and under circumstances which did not allow social distancing.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2021, to be DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize and appreciate the dedication and contributions of these providers to enhancing the lives of their clients.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this thirty-first day of August two thousand twenty-one, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-sixth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services
Promoting Recovery, Resilience & Self Determination

David T. Jones
Commissioner

Jill Bowen, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

Roland Lamb
Deputy Commissioner

Sosunmolu Shoyinka, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

September 30, 2021

Greetings,

On behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 21st Annual Points of Transformation Awards Ceremony. It is with great pride that I congratulate each nominee and wish you continued success in your efforts to achieve meaningful outcomes for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism.

The Points of Transformation ceremony provides DBHIDS an opportunity to honor direct service professionals who have devoted their careers to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities/and or autism. Today's ceremony will highlight dedicated and caring professionals who strive to ensure people with intellectual disabilities and/or autism live, work and enjoy life more independently in the community. We are committed to highlighting the accomplishments of those who exemplify the motto, "It's All About community!"

This year our theme is "Philadelphia Flourishes: A New Day!" The award categories include Residential, Habilitation, Employment, Employment Team, LifeSharing, Support Coordination, Infant Toddler Early Intervention (ITEI), Service Coordination, Communication, Community Integration, Cultural Arts, Environmental, Treatment Staff, Cultural Arts Team, and the Kathy Sykes: It's All About Community Award. Thank you for joining us today as we honor direct service professionals who work diligently to improve the quality of life for the people of Philadelphia.

We want to thank the Public Awareness Committee, awardees, supporters, presenters, elected officials, nominees, and volunteers for your contributions in making today's ceremony a rich experience for all. Congratulations honorees, and thank you for your dedicated service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Bowen, Ph.D." in a cursive style.

Jill Bowen, Ph.D.
DBHIDS
Commissioner



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

*Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services
Promoting Recovery, Resilience & Self Determination*

Jill Bowen, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Roland Lamb
Deputy Commissioner

Tierra Pritchett, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

Sosunmolu Shoyinka, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

September 30, 2021

Dear Awardees, Families, Friends, and Fellow Philadelphians:

Welcome, to our 21st Annual Points of Transformation Awards. Our theme for this year is “Philadelphia Flourishes: A New Day!” This is another momentous occasion where we take the time to recognize some of the best among us. Despite having received nearly 40 nominations this year, we know that this number pales compared to the great individuals among us in our community of support.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the organizing committee, our partner agencies, nominees, and awardees. As a community, we will continue to advance and collectively support the most vulnerable among us to a achieve a most fulfilling life regardless of ability.

God Bless!

Kleckner J. Charles
Director, Division of Intellectual disAbility Services
DBHIDS

DAY 1 PROGRAM – Sept. 30, 2021

Introduction

Loraine Ballard Morrill

Director of News and Community Affairs, iHeartMedia Philadelphia

Welcome

Jill Bowen, Ph.D., DBHIDS, Commissioner, City of Philadelphia

Guest Speaker

State Representation, Donna Bullock, 195th District, Philadelphia County

Entertainment

Award Winners

Honorable Mention

DAY 2 PROGRAM – Oct. 1, 2021

Introduction

Loraine Ballard Morrill

Director of News and Community Affairs, iHeartMedia Philadelphia

Welcome

Kleckner Charles, Director, Intellectual disAbility Services

Guest Panelists

Judith R. Dotzman, Executive Director, SPIN

Laura Princiotta, CEO, SpArc Philadelphia

William Schoppe, Intellectual Disabilities Director, PATH

Linda Washington-Brown, VP Developmental Services, Horizon House, Inc.

Amy Mathewson Millar, Executive Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, City of Philadelphia

Entertainment

Award Winners

Honorable Mention

State Representative, Donna Bullock

195th District, Philadelphia County



State Rep. Donna Bullock, D-Phila., is a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing the 195th Legislative District in North and West Philadelphia. She won the seat in a special election held Aug. 11, 2015.

A lawyer and Temple University alumna (2004), she previously served as special assistant to Philadelphia City Council President Darrell L. Clarke and as the City Council research fellowship director. She joined Clarke's office in January 2011 as his community and economic development coordinator. Before her work for the city, Bullock worked at a private law firm and for Philadelphia Community Legal Services, where she formed and advised nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and community groups.

Rep. Bullock's public service precedes her work in government. She has volunteered and served on several boards, task forces, and coalitions, including the Smith Memorial Playground, the Columbia North YMCA Advisory Board, West Philadelphia Child Care Network, and the Mayor's Office of Community Service Advisory Board.

She and her husband, Otis Bullock, a lawyer, and Temple alum as well, live a life of service in Strawberry Mansion, a community they are proud to call home.

Sept. 30 - Points of Transformation Awards

Winner

Regina Cain-Brown, Walter Glover, Scott Rosenthal, Sheila Grimes, Habilitation Award, Citizen's Acting Together Can Help, Inc.

Employment Services Team
Employment Team Award, SPIN

Donna Heard, Community Integration Award, PATH

Gabrielle Jean, Service Coordination Award, Partnership for Community Supports

Chiong Lin, Cultural Arts Award, SpArc Philadelphia

Carieta Reid, LifeSharing Award, SPIN

Anthony "Tony" Smith, Environmental Award, SPIN

Nominator

Theresa Bynum, CATCH

Kate Schultz

Rebecca Cunningham, PATH

Susan Rice, PCS

Jammie O'Brien, SpArc Phila.

Sarah Arch, Alvina Smith, Brian Edwards, SPIN

Jen Williams

Honorable Mention Award Winners

Ian Fletcher, Quality Progressions

Michelle Golas, KenCrest
Donna Harrison, Comhar, Inc.
Leon Jaskuta, Variety Philadelphia

Ahmed Koroma, Horizon House, Inc.

Tonye Martinez, Partnership for Community Supports
Kenneth Mathias, SPIN
Pierre Milburn, Horizon House, Inc.

Elise Ormord, Quality Progressions

Clifton Ray, Jr., COMHAR
Mia Smith, Horizon House, Inc.

Oana Tomescu, MD, Horizon House, Inc.

Patrick Kunkle
Quality Progressions
Lauren Tilghman, KenCrest
Gina Walsh
Dominique Bernardo
Variety Philadelphia
Sulaiman Saccoh
Horizon House, Inc.
Susan Rice, PCS. Inc
Al Toure, SPIN
Katrina Robinson
Horizon House, Inc.
Laura Cocco,
Quality Progressions
Tracy Murphy, Comhar, Inc.
Terez Mackey
Horizon House, Inc.
Terez Mackey
Horizon House, Inc.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION HABILITATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



REGINA CAIN-BROWN
CATCH

SHEILA GRIMES

SCOTT ROSENTHAL

WALTER GLOVER

These four Direct Support Professionals have worked with the CATCH CPS Program supporting individuals for a collective 122 years! Each of these DSPs would shy away from acknowledging how remarkable they are and how much they have impacted lives during their tenure at CATCH. They display strength, resilience, and courage. Their dedication to individuals they serve is astounding. Before life-course and person-centered planning were introduced, this crew was already providing services that individualized and challenged their participants. Once they identified an area of potential growth, they quickly developed specialized activities to ensure the individual worked on learning and improving. They constantly communicate with each other and do whatever it takes to support participants. They have witnessed medical and behavioral challenges and made necessary program adjustments so services could be provided. They took money out of their own pockets to donate to a participant's family in need and have taken individuals for haircuts and doctor appointments--- all while providing a safe environment.

They have experienced many life transitions with their program participants: medical issues, loss of family members, attending funerals to support one another -- and now consider each other as family. During the pandemic, they continued to call and check on each individual, dropping off food, arts and crafts, and driving by their homes with posters beeping their horns to make sure individuals knew they were missed. This human connection brings about real personal growth, meaningful relations, special memories, and positive change for staff and participants. Incredible letters of support for this team were included with this nomination. Each letter shared the personal impact this team has on their family members. Kudos for 122 years of dedicated service, for setting the example and for a job well done!

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION EMPLOYMENT TEAM AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



SPIN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TEAM

This year has presented numerous challenges and these 18 employment specialists and job coaches have been innovative, solution-focused, and positive as they navigate this new world of service provision. It's difficult to highlight one person when the whole team consistently excels for those that receive service, their families, and our community. At the onset of the pandemic, the SPIN Employment Services team quickly pivoted to create detailed, customized support and development plans for each person to reflect the sudden change to virtual services. Each plan was tailored to the person's career goals while considering their level of proficiency and access to technology. It was a priority to provide a sense of normalcy and consistency during a time when routines and schedules were in a state of upheaval. They supported people to maintain enthusiasm and motivation for finding a job.

The team continued to support people to schedule interviews and be hired. A revamped profile was created for an energetic young man to identify his ideal position through online assessments, videos, and discovery activities. He secured a new job mid-pandemic at Home Depot. He is now part of a team of valued employees and has steadily increased his hours to over 20 a week. He loves going to work each day and utilizing his people skills.

This team planned many creative resources to support job seekers including online assessments, virtual workplace tours, visual resumes, videos on professionalism, mock interviews, and informational interviews with business partners. They helped individuals stay in regular communication with their work site to ensure they were updated on evolving policies and procedures for COVID safety. Whenever a job seeker was offered a new position, the team jumped into action to ensure everyone felt comfortable resuming in person services and going out into the community. SPIN Employment Services supported 30 people to secure a new job during the pandemic while supporting 100 people to remain employed!

This has been a time like no other when all of us struggle with isolation and miss spending time with our coworkers. This team regularly connected to provide words of encouragement, a listening ear, and a place to share ideas and challenges as they navigated this new world. Through all the uncertainties, this team is poised to come out of this experience, stronger and better than ever. The strength of this team lies within everyone's dedication and commitment to those they support.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



DONNA HEARD
PATH

Donna Heard has worked at PATH Adult Day Program for over 25 years. She is a frontline supervisor, so she works directly with individuals throughout the day. Donna has been a big part of meeting PATH's mission of providing opportunities for community inclusion. She demonstrates tremendous initiative and does an excellent job developing a rapport with volunteer organizations, volunteers and individuals. Since PATH's re-opening in April, Donna has been re-establishing volunteer opportunities and assists individuals in meaningful activities while upholding CDC guidelines.

Donna has been the primary staff responsible for community integration since the day program re-opened. She re-established communication with volunteer coordinators such as food pantries and animal rescues to determine if individuals could resume their volunteer opportunities. This allowed individuals to resume activities and maintain previously formed relationships safely.

Feast of Justice, a food pantry, is a location where Donna can assist individuals with organizing food donations and setting up boxes to prepare for community members to pick up. They also assist in watering the garden where some of the food originates. Individuals have developed new relationships with people they meet at this location. They enjoy the friendships and get to know more about other volunteers. She maintains strong communication with the director so all individuals she supports are in a safe environment.

Donna also facilitates volunteer activities with animal rescues. Individuals enjoy socializing with cats to prepare them for adoption. The Greyhound Rescue is a facility where individuals can walk the dogs. At both facilities, she encourages volunteers to develop relationships with the staff. Over a year has passed since individuals have had these community activities, but they are now back to enjoying their community. Donna had definitely brought smiles to the faces of individuals she supports and the friends they have made while volunteering.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION SERVICE COORDINATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



GABRIELLE JEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Gabrielle Jean has been with Partnership for Community Supports for four years in the Early Intervention Department. She has the ability to engage well with others and her caring personality is what helps when it comes to supporting families in this field.

This past year, she encountered families who unfortunately suffered with COVID-19. Gabrielle was able to be a supportive service coordinator to these families and helped them obtain all the resources they could while dealing with this horrible virus. She assisted these families with financial resources including securing utility and rental assistance and solving food insecurities.

Many of the families she supports went through housing situations because they lost employment during the pandemic. She made sure to do weekly check ins with them and thankfully these families were able to beat the virus.

Gabrielle not only assisted them in providing Early Intervention Services, but made sure their basic needs such as food, clothing and housing were also supported.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION CULTURAL ARTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



CHIONG LIN
SpArc OF PHILADELPHIA

Chiong Lin is a talented, committed, and visionary staff member of the Cultural Arts Program at SpArc Services. She constantly brings new and creative ideas to the table to further the personal and professional goals of participants in the program and follows through with great energy and passion.

Chiong came to SpArc Services with a background in architecture. She changed careers because she was seeking to serve individuals in our community. She not only developed many new opportunities for participants at SpArc, but she also executes on making those ideas a reality. One of most popular initiatives is Poetry Club, where participants create community by working together to write a group poem. Chiong also created a Fiber Arts program to introduce participants to a new creative outlet. She developed methods that were accessible and inclusive, like beginner crochet, bowl making, weaving, and papier mache classes. Her classes are consistently full. Her initiatives never stop including color field design, gel printing, art appreciation classes, and “Our Built Environment” that draws on her architectural background.

Chiong’s compassion shines through, as she quickly learned how to form relationships with individuals and their families. A particularly significant relationship developed between Chiong, a young man and his close-knit family. Chiong helped him become an employed artist. He is now experiencing a valued social role as an artist. At his June exhibit, he sold all of his artwork and took in proceeds from the sales. His family never knew he had this talent and attributes his new success to Chiong’s support.

Chiong is so enthusiastic about sharing the importance of SpArc Services’ work and the talents of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. She is a tireless advocate for the people we serve, creating communities and educating the public about how to connect and support people with disabilities and their artistic endeavors.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION LIFESHARING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



CARITA REID SPIN

Carita Reid met two gentlemen while working as a DSP and occasionally supported the young men in their community living arrangements. In her time with them, their friendships blossomed and, years down the line when they were looking for new living arrangements, Carita didn't hesitate to offer them places in her home, in her family, and in her heart.

These young men enjoyed their real family life with visits to the Jersey Shore for summer vacations, visits to the dog park with their chihuahuas, meals at IHOP with friends, and holidays and summer nights spent with extended family. They soon felt like brothers, with Carita as a sister, and her entire family as their own.

One of the individuals, David, was diagnosed with early-stage dementia within the 10 years of moving in with Carita. He would eventually need more intensive support, but in the meantime, they continued their daily routines. As the pandemic spread across the world, Carita added new but safe activities to their lives. David continued to decline as Carita ensured that both his mind and body remained active.

In March 2021, Carita experienced her own medical concerns. Her family quickly jumped in to support these gentlemen. Weeks later, the individual with dementia experienced a change in his mental status and was in the same hospital as Carita. He was discharged to hospice and placed in a SPIN CLA. As Carita healed, she and the other gentlemen resumed their normal activities, but truly missed his friend in hospice. A few hours after Carita's visit with her friend, David, where they held hands and shared memories, he passed away in his sleep.

Carita and her friend helped each other cope with their grief as they continued to engage in daily activities and often talked about the memories they had of their friend who had passed. Carita remains kind and giving as she continues her support with empathy, commitment, dedication, and passion. She has been described as the "Gold Standard as a Lifesharing Provider."

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



ANTHONY "TONY" SMITH SPIN

Anthony "Tony" Smith is a high performing lead direct support professional who supports an individual -- keeping him safe, included, and celebrated. His everyday life has blossomed under Tony's care, and he's become an active part of the community. Tony supports him to be a patron, a collector, a hobbyist, a comic enthusiast, a neighbor, a volunteer, a foodie, a brother, an uncle and maybe an employee.

Tony adjusted his hours to ensure Ken had what he needed throughout the pandemic. This positive influence has paved the path for this individual to flourish. When Ken came to SPIN, he needed two supporters, one on each side for comfort and safety. Now he and Tony take on the world side by side, masked up and ready to socialize and engage in his city. Initially the mask was a real issue. When Tony suggested a variety of superhero masks, Ken enjoyed picking out his favorite, including Black Panther. Tony helped him match his shirts with his masks each day for full effect.

During the pandemic, walks together in the neighborhood resulted in a serious new hobby. They both enjoyed the flowers they saw on their strolls. With Tony's help, a flowerbed was planted. Then they started taking pictures of the flowers they saw. The Bucks Beautiful Facebook page shared one of the Ken's photos sitting among the newly bloomed daffodils.

Tony made sure birthdays were celebrated with homemade cards, banners, hoagies and cake. They made Facetime video calls so family and friends could connect and celebrate. Community connections remained important for Ken and Tony made sure it happened.

They started a new adventure as they designed a train table. They used miscellaneous items from the household and the dollar store to create a train table even Mr. Roger's would envy. Soon Ken began to barter with fellow hobbyists and store owners to fulfill his visions. He continued to build community relationships and thrive under Tony's support.

Tony's unique ability to connect with this young man has helped him gain confidence and skills that initially seemed impossible.

Oct. 1 - Points of Transformation Awards

Winner

Nancy Browning, Ivy Frajerman, Lisa Garcia,
Lauren Slawecki, Early Intervention Team Award, SPIN

Diana Hochner, Employment Award,
Community Integrated Services

Alyssa Krisak and Capri Wagner
Cultural Arts Team Award, SPIN

Bob Lutts, SPIN
Kathy Sykes "It's all about community!" Award

David Owens, JEVS, Communication Award

Susan Polin, Partnership for Community Supports
Supports Coordination Award

Phyllis Tarplay, Residential Award, PATH, Inc.

Stacey Zalenski, Treatment Staff Award, SPIN

Nominator

Mary McGovern
Kim Mormello, Michele Dwyer,
SPIN

Susan Schonfeld, CIS

Laura Silsby, SPIN

Judy Dotzman, SPIN

Alycia Keeports, JEVS

Racheal Townes
Rober Yeager, PCS

Christie Maher, PATH, Inc.

Jennifer Dragon, SPIN

Honorable Mention Award Winners

Morgan Davis, Quality Progressions

Lance Ellis, Natasha Kearner-Gonzalez, Jacqueline Lewin,
Cortez Phillips, Zenia Wilson, Kindred Hearts

Lea Fosco, Quality Progressions

Waltseña Gardner, Horizon House, Inc.

Aqila Goosby, KenCrest Services

Katherine Hunter-Weatherly, Quality Progressions

Bahiyah Johnson, Comhar, Inc.

Stacey Jones Tymes, Horizon House, Inc.

Joyce Luo, Partnership for Community Supports

Priscilla Perry, PATH

Abu Saidu, Horizon House, Inc.

Sally Smith, Horizon house, Inc.

Justine Johnson
Quality Progressions
Lynn and Ryan Youngman

Jennifer Dragon, SPIN

Terez Mackey and
Krystle Foster

Lauren Tilghman
KenCrest Services

Daisy Christie
Quality Progressions

Donna Harrison, Comhar, Inc.
Raushanah EL Shabazz,
Horizon House, Inc.

Susan Rice, PCS
Zanetta Calzadilla, PATH

Eileen London
Horizon house, Inc.

Mia Smith, Horizon House, Inc.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION EARLY INTERVENTION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



NANCY BROWNING,
SPIN



IVY FRAJERMAN,



LISA GARCIA,



LAUREN SLAWECKI

This team consisting of speech therapists; Nancy Browning, Ivy Frajerman and Lauren Slaweki, as well as special instructor Lisa Garcia works tirelessly to support the children in Early Intervention and Pre-K programs. They help children learn the skills and concepts essential for future school success. This team is also an important part of our teacher support system, providing strategies, ideas, and suggestions for the classroom teachers. They've made a difference in the ability to be successful in the classroom.

During the past year, everyone has experienced many disruptions and changes to their lives. Teaching children virtually is not easy, but there is an added layer of difficulty when working with children who have deficits in their development. This team has met these challenges and discovered new and creative ways to support children and their families. They provided families with strategies and activities that can be implemented at home, using common household items. Many times, they used their own money and time to mail or deliver resources and supplies to families. They worked flexibly to accommodate varied schedules and different technological platforms in the families' homes.

Each member of this team is an experienced professional and all have worked at SPIN for many years. Nancy, Ivy, Lauren, and Lisa collaborate with the classroom team and families to ensure the children's individual needs are met. They are advocates for the children they serve and a valuable resource for families and staff.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT 1ST, EMPLOYMENT NOW AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



DIANA HOCHNER

COMMUNITY INTEGRATED SERVICES

Diana is the manager of employment training at Community Integrated Services. Diana has supported a young man at his job, where he's been working since 2017. His work routine had changed since automated check-out and then the pandemic. Diana has been the key support in his changing work environment, helping him develop skills to take on new roles and responsibilities. His mom continues to express gratitude for Diana's thoroughness in her work with him, for her advocacy and encouraging him to be his own advocate. Those sentiments sum up what we hear about Diana all the time: that she's exceptional in her work, thoughtful, committed, and creative in helping people become fully integrated at workplaces across Philadelphia.

A young woman wanted to be connected with a theater, so Diana and the individual's mother took a step on an onboarding plan. They worked together every step of the way to make sure this plan aligned with the goals of integration, independence, and work in response to the employer need that they established together. This plan helped this young woman feel more confident at work while giving her the room to work independently and form strong relationships with her co-workers. She was hired right before the pandemic closed all theater doors. Diana continued to communicate and connect all so when the theater reopened, this young woman's position was waiting for her.

Diana's methods manifest in large and small ways, from helping another individual develop a stronger rapport with his colleagues, to creating visual task lists so participants can become more efficient at work, to creating a picture board for an individual at Marshall's so they could communicate more easily with co-workers.

With Diana, it's truly "all about community." Not only does she help participants feel at home and at ease in their work community, but through her mentoring role at CIS, she helped form a tight-knit network of coaches who can rely on each other for mutual support and sharing best practices. Along the way, she's helping participants live more everyday lives at work and at home.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION CULTURAL ARTS TEAM AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



ALYSSA KRISAK
SPIN



CAPRI WAGNER

Alyssa Krisak and Capri Wagner plan enriching experiences for individuals receiving services from SPIN. They worked as specialists in Community Participation Supports but were reassigned to the Residential team during the pandemic. Alyssa and Capri are certified in Therapeutic Recreation and took charge of the difficult tasks of getting people safely connected back to their communities. They assessed goals, interests, and passions for each person during a time when people felt isolated. Through their use of technology, they were able to incorporate each individual's love for arts and culture as well as safe outdoor activities. They involved the whole team in the process to support the person to the fullest. They were part of a pilot program that schedules each individual's calendar through Outlook on an iPad so activities could be evaluated and changed if needed. This pilot rolled out to all residential homes in August.

Capri is a singer/songwriter when she is not working at SPIN. She shares her passion with the individuals she supports. There is a particular individual who writes lyrics and records his songs. She supports him to pursue his passion. He then happily shares this with his team and others. She encourages him to enhance his skills with the plan that will assist in relationship building and possible employment. He loves music and Capri's mentoring. This young man shared: "Hearing the music I recorded is the best feeling in the world."

Alyssa has supported another individual and his DSP to enhance his community activities. He has flourished in the community by delivering food packages to those in need. He expanded his activities by taking photographs. His picture was framed and was featured in a photography contest on social media. Alyssa continues to help others explore meaningful arts and culture in their communities.

Alyssa and Capri have excelled in their positions to engage individuals and in the community of arts and culture. A behavior specialist has shared that their efforts enabled many individuals to not only connect to their peers but pursue personal interests and discover new interests from the comfort of their homes. Their talent and passion have made a positive impact on the lives of those we support.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION

KATHY SYKES "IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY" AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



BOB LUTZ

SPIN

Over 37 years ago, Bob Lutts came to SPIN and he has helped people be valued members of the community ever since. To Bob it IS "all about community." He supported many people moving out of Pennhurst to live

in the community and then he became a community builder helping each of them learn, access, and contribute within their communities.

SPIN's pillar of People First is demonstrated in all that Bob is and does. His role of ombudsman with the Quality Assurance Team allows him to champion each person, ensuring that SPIN is meeting the expectation of families and individuals for excellent person-centered services.

Bob has an incredible way of getting to know people, identifying their interests, passions, wants, needs, and desires. He has supported people to live self-determined lives, realize their personal outcomes, and increase their relevance in their communities. When people talk about social capital, Bob was already supporting people having valued social roles. His passion for advocacy supported individuals becoming volunteers with the Committee of Seventy on Election Days assuring that polling places were accessible to people with disabilities.

The stories are endless of how Bob invested and supported people to be engaged in their community. Josh loves music and had a dream of becoming a DJ. Bob worked to create a studio in Josh's basement so that DJ Hotsauce could practice and turn his tunes with his great following on Instagram. Josh and his studio were highlighted on Fox 29 News for the impact he had on people with his music during the pandemic.

Another individual was transitioning to Philadelphia from another area, and he was anxious. Bob connected with him prior to the move to ease his fears and develop a connection to his new community. An individual needed to have dialysis during a major snowstorm and it was Bob who picked her up and got her to her appointment. Bob's generous heart and spirit are his trademark. To know Bob is to know true kindness and caring. His approach is an example to all.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION COMMUNICATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



DAVID OWENS JETS

David Owens is a direct support professional who works in a community residential rehabilitation site with three males. While each resident has challenges, David has had a significant impact on one particular individual. This individual was referred to the program after being homeless for a period. His behaviors followed those who have lived on the streets, such as eating out of trash cans, smoking items found on the ground, hoarding items, poor hygiene, and approaching others for food, cigarettes and money. His primary language was Spanish with little spoken English. His transition to this residential site was not easy and he reverted to his previous tendencies. He would often leave the site, coming back wearing different clothes, intoxicated, and carrying items he found on the streets. He would take items from a local store and become physical when approached. His safety in the community was a big concern.

David was one staff member who stepped up to support this individual. He worked extra hours to provide support and eventually formed a positive relationship with him. When the individual would leave the site, David followed him to ensure his safety. David encouraged him to improve his hygiene and a communication board was set up to help each of them communicate. Due to David's patience and continuous support, there has been noticeable change in the individual's habits and behavior. He is becoming more productive in his living space and in the community.

David has maintained an attitude of gratitude and holds himself accountable for any mistakes or failures of the individuals he supports. He continues to take challenging situations and turns them into positive outcomes. He is always willing to do more than what's required. His commendable performance seems to come naturally because he really loves what he does.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION
SUPPORT COORDINATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



SUSAN POLIN
PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

On a daily basis, Susan Polin makes sure the individuals she supports receive the care and advocacy they need. Susan has developed meaningful relationships with individuals along with their support teams. The individuals she supports know they can reach out to her at any time with an issue big or small. She will do her best to resolve whatever the issue may be. Susan makes herself available day and night.

Recently, she helped an individual find emergency respite after their LifeSharing Provider passed away unexpectedly. Susan was notified by police in the middle of the night and, without hesitation, she went to work to make sure the individual had a safe place to go.

She is constantly going out of her way to do nice things for the individuals she supports. Susan has painted a Philly Phanatic mural in the bedroom of a Phillies fan she supports. She understands the importance of relationships between individuals who live together. When an individual had passed away, she recognized that his housemates were grieving. She was able to get a priest to spend time with these men and help them through the grieving process.

It is through her kind and caring nature that she exemplifies all that a supports coordinator can be. Susan puts into action those aspects of life that show us the greatest of humanity.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION RESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



PHYLLIS TARPLAY, PATH

Phyllis Tarplay's decision, over 30 years ago, to serve, assist and support a person in need has been the decision of a lifetime. It has filled her days with meaning and purpose. She never dreamed that the vocational currents of life would take her on a deep journey of what it really means to be human. She has a big heart and a compassionate and caring presence.

Phyllis supports three individuals at their beautiful split-level single home in Philadelphia. In May 2020, all three women tested positive for COVID-19. Two remained asymptomatic and remained home in quarantine. So much was unknown at that time as fear spread throughout the staff, providers, and the nation. Phyllis volunteered to quarantine at the site with her individuals for several weeks after their positive diagnosis.

One individual required hospitalization for a month as a result of COVID. She had been an active person who would walk to the local store, attend wrestling matches, spend time with her boyfriend, showered and dressed independently, and could care for herself with minimal help. When she was discharged from the hospital, she was in a very fragile state. She required a wheelchair or walker, could only take a few steps, and had to live on the first floor. Phyllis stayed with her individual, giving her care, comfort, and support around the clock, as she nursed her back to her former self.

Phyllis got to work and helped convert the living room to a bedroom to make a useful space for this young woman. She helped her bathe, cooked her healthy meals, and made sure she was getting stronger. She worked closely with visiting nurses and physical therapists to motivate this woman to complete strength-building exercises. Phyllis encouraged her to do her breathing exercises, wear her oxygen and build her lungs. All of this assistance was labor intensive and taxing for Phyllis, but she did it with love and care while risking her own health.

With commitment and dedication, this individual improved every day. Phyllis was able to nurse her back to her previous self. She was slowly able to walk, regain her strength and get back to her second-floor bedroom. Phyllis is a true everyday hero who sacrificed her own wellbeing to ensure that this individual received the best care she could provide.

2021 POINTS OF TRANSFORMATION TREATMENT STAFF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



STACY ZALENSKI
SPIN

Stacy Zalenski is a behavior specialist who is full of energy, has a great sense of humor, a strong work ethic, and a kind heart. She mostly supports those in SPIN's Behavioral Health Unit; however, her expertise extends across all programs. She attends meetings for community participation supports and offers creative suggestions on how to tailor activities to a

person's outcomes and interests. She recognizes health concerns and initiates ways to improve health and enhance teamwork, communication, and problem solving.

Stacy understands person-centered approaches in all aspects of her clinical profession. When needed for complex situations, she proves her excellence and shines through with passion and authenticity. She makes others feel comfortable and appreciated while maintaining the epitome of teamwork.

Although Stacy has invested 14 years in her profession, she continues to learn ways to improve her skill set. She volunteers to lead weekly group therapy sessions and during the pandemic scheduled consultations when things were in lockdown. She's available for calls in the evening and on weekends. When someone needs her, she is there.

Stacy's down to earth approach is why she's able to make such strong connections with those on her caseload. She connects with people by taking an interest in what inspires them. If someone likes sports, she's up to date with all the matches and games. If you like music, she is there with a lyric and dance move to match. She caters her support to bring out the best in people. She's a strong advocate as she speaks up in meetings and provides recommendations and wonderful ideas. Stacy strengthens relationships and processes within her department. She's open to training and wants her co-workers to be successful. She listens without interruption or judgment. She is a champion for all as she supports a life of possibilities for people.

Special Thanks to Nominators

Department of Behavioral Health Intellectual disAbility Services wishes to thank:

IDS Public Awareness Committee

Bonnie Squires, Publicity

Loraine Ballard Morrill, Mistress of Ceremonies

Andrea Imperatore, Meeting Planner

Jessica Stover and Joe Murphy, Virtual Program Coordination

Wendy Williams, IDS Advisor and Coordinator

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Amy Millar

Mary Rose Cunningham

Tammy Carter

Diana DiAntonio

Andrea Imperatore

Bonnie Squires

Lauren Tilghman

Lynette Savoy

Monique Thomas

Jessica Stover

Joe Murphy

Catherine Wilson

Cheryl Nichols

Christopher Florence

Wendy Williams, IDS Advisor and
Coordinator

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 **DBHIDS**

DEPARTMENT of BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
and INTELLECTUAL disABILITY SERVICES