



Y-TAC Virtual Convening Bios

Plenary Speakers

Hasan Davis, Hasan Davis Solutions, LLC

Growing up in inner-city Atlanta in the 1970s and '80s, Hasan Davis “was a tough kid.” After his 7th-grade year, he was placed in an alternative school and was later expelled in his senior year before anyone discovered that he suffered from dyslexia and attention deficit disorder. Hasan persisted through multiple life challenges to eventually receive his GED and went on to served in U.S. Army Reserved, earn a college degree, and a law degree. Hasan was a consumer of Vocational Rehabilitation Services during his postsecondary years. From 2012-2014, he served as Commissioner of Juvenile Justice for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He has been internationally recognized as a speaker, educator, and advocate for youth. Learn more at <https://hasandavis.com/>.

Venita King, Southeast Division Director, Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Venita is a licensed counselor who has been practicing in the field of rehabilitation since 1985. She began her career at Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, where she worked as a vocational evaluator, work adjustment specialist, and supervisor of the work skills unit. She has worked for Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) for over 32 years. The first 16 years at MRS she worked as a VR counselor working very closely with youth in transition. She also worked with individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health disabilities. Other VR assignments included working as a placement specialist and business services representative. Since 2003, she has worked as manager in VR which included providing guidance, coaching, mentoring, and training to staff. In January of 2019, she transitioned to the role of Division Director for MRS, where she provides support to 22 managers in 6 districts in 15 counties in southeast Michigan.

Krysta Esquivel, Executive Director, Executive Director of YMCA Youth and Family Services, YMCA of San Diego County

Krysta Esquivel has developed evidence-informed programs and interventions for youth based on experience gained over 18 years serving foster and homeless youth. She has spent much of her career in residential and community-based settings, assisting youth in their quest for strong emotional and social well-being. Krysta is dedicated to knowledge sharing for the purposes of enriching the youth-serving workforce and enhancing program design.



Panelist Bios

Day 1- Session 1

Charles (Chuck) Beard, Right Turn Case Manager & Employment Specialist, Oasis Center

Chuck Beard is a case manager and employment specialist for the Right Turn program working with 18- to 24-year-olds who have current or previous court involvement. Chuck has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Centre College and a master's degree in creative fiction from Sewanee's School of Letters. He has worked with youth involved in the juvenile and adult justice systems for the past seven years.

Elizabeth Glaser, Right Turn Case Manager, Peckham, Inc.

Elizabeth Glaser is a case manager for the Right Turn program working with 18 to 24 year-olds who have current or previous court involvement. Elizabeth has her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University and has worked with youth involved in the juvenile and adult justice systems for the past six years.

Wade Grost, Warehouse Worker, Peckham, Inc.

Wade Grost is 23 years old and works at Peckham, Inc. as a scanner and packager in the warehouse. In the past he considered himself an opportunity youth with documented disability and involvement with the criminal justice system. Today, he is the father of two daughters and has long-term career goals of becoming a psychologist.

Thomas Thompson

Thomas Thompson is 20 years old and currently looking for steady employment, while also meeting with staff from Nashville's Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Thomas is an opportunity youth with documented disability and criminal justice system involvement. He loves creating original music and his long-term goals involve holding down steady work and pursuing music on the side.

Day 1, Session 2

Karen Bazan, Freestate Challenge Program (MD), Youth Participant

Christopher Davis, Freestate Challenge Program (MD), Youth Participant



KariLynn Dunmeyer, Freestate ChalleNGe (MD), Program Director

Muhammed Wishnoff, Freestate ChalleNGe Program (MD), Youth Participant

Adene Karhan, Yang Tan Institute, Cornell University

Adene Karhan is a Licensed Masters of Social Work (LMSW) with over five years of experience in private practice psychotherapy and over 22 years of work in the field of human services. Areas of professional interest include the impact of trauma on individuals, impact of early childhood attachment on lifelong relationships, and co-occurring mental health and developmental disability. Adene approaches most work from a family systems perspective, recognizing that individuals are highly relational and that interventions targeted at the entire family are most successful in bringing about lasting change.

Day 2 - Session 3

Melissa Cupp, Juvenile Justice Specialist II, Office of Juvenile Affairs

Melissa is currently a Juvenile Justice Specialist II for the Office of Juvenile Affairs. Melissa graduated from East Central University Ada, Oklahoma in 2004 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. She began her career as a Juvenile Justice Specialist in Pottawatomie County in 2004. Melissa has worked with at risk youth for fifteen years. Melissa lives in Harrah, Oklahoma. In her spare time Melissa enjoys reading, spending time with family, traveling, and cooking.

Katie Decker, Career Manager, WIOA Program

Katie Decker is a career manager for the WIOA Program in Stillwater, OK. Katie works with the Dislocated Worker Program, Youth Program, and Adult Program and has been a career manager for over a year now. Katie helps youth, young adults, and dislocated workers achieve their employment goals. Katie graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science in applied sociology.



Jamie Hooper, Rehabilitation Specialist, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

Jamie Hooper is a rehabilitation specialist with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and is currently serving opportunity youth at the Southwest Oklahoma Juvenile Center and the Cedar Canyon Adventure Program. Jamie started with DRS in 2010 and has worked with opportunity youth since 2016. Jamie holds her master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Langston University and a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in entrepreneurship and business development. Jamie also maintains her certification through the Commission of Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRC).

Billy Lane, Youth Resident, Cedar Canyon Adventure Program

Billy Lane is an 18-year-old youth resident at the Cedar Canyon Adventure Program, a residential group home for adjudicated adolescent males. Billy recently aged out of Department of Human Services (DHS) custody and will soon age out of Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs (OJA) custody. Billy grew up in a rough environment and hopes to utilize the services from the different agencies to turn his goals into a reality and break the cycle from his past. He has received certification for completing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's 10-hour safety courses. He also has received a construction education and research certificate (NCCER) through the CareerTech at Cedar Canyon. Billy plans to move to Stillwater Oklahoma to pursue a degree in agricultural business at Oklahoma State University.

Day 2 - Session 4

Jackie Carrillo, JVS Youth Leadership Council Member, Jewish Vocational Service

Jackie is a first-generation college student attending City College of San Francisco. She is an alumna of Lowell High School and is a proud member of San Francisco's Latino Community of Guatemalan Mayan descent. Today, her cultural home and support system is rooted in San Francisco's Mission District. In the summer of 2010, she became a member of the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco, Mission Clubhouse, where she discovered community work and social justice. At the start of the 2014 school year, she was elected as the Academic Success Chairperson for the Keystone Club. Keystone is a national youth leadership program for Boys & Girls Clubs of America, committed to organizing, educating, and serving their peers and community. She later became Keystone president from 2015-2016



Ivan Corado-Vega, Manager, High School & Bridge Programs, Jewish Vocational Service

Ivan is a manager of the High School and Bridge Program at Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) in San Francisco. He helps young people with disabilities reach their employment goals by providing them with job readiness training, financial literacy support, and paid subsidized internships in over 100 industry partner sites. His school and community partners for this work include San Francisco Unified School District, local charter high schools, private high schools, My Path, and San Francisco Financial Credit Union. JVS and the High School and Bridge program also work with the local vocational rehabilitation (VR) department as a vendor for adult and youth services. Most recently Ivan has collaborated to build infrastructure with local VR to provide paid work experience for VR customers enrolled in student services.

Andrew Moore, Director, Youth & Young Adult Connections, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, National League of Cities

Andrew O. Moore serves as Director of Youth and Young Adult Connections at the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families. This foundation-funded "action tank" helps municipal leaders implement practical solutions on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities. Moore leads initiatives focused on equitably connecting children with nature, reducing jail populations and juvenile justice involvement, and expanding the growing national network of dropout reengagement centers.

Moderator Bios

Alicia Bolton, Minds That Move Us Project Director, Institute for Educational Leadership

With over 15 years of diversified experience, Alicia brings a unique blend of skills and experiences that all map to her passion for building solutions that drive impact for youth and adult learners. Alicia supports Y-TAC on issues related to career pathways and also serves as Project Director of IEL's Minds that Move Us Initiative and Adult Career Pathway Design Challenge. Through the design challenge, ten cross-sector teams from around the country were selected to design innovative career pathway programs for adults over 26 who do not have any formal postsecondary training or education and lack the skills necessary to put them on a career path.



Karin Grandon, Y-TAC State Technical Assistance Liaison, Institute for Educational Leadership

Since joining IEL in 2017, Grandon has provided subject matter expertise on programs for youth who are Blind or low vision to a wide range of state and local youth service professionals in workforce development agencies, post-secondary institutions, special education transition programs, state education, and vocational agencies, and other human service agencies. Grandon developed multiple technical assistance guides, briefs, and other publications for Y-TAC on topics relevant to youth who are Blind or low vision. Currently, she is also working with several other local and international agencies in the area of youth transition: including First Place, a program focused on building community and housing for individuals with Autism and other special abilities; as well as serving as the Ombudsman for the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Francine Francis, Program Director, Right Turn, Institute for Educational Leadership

Francine is the Program Director for the Right Turn Program, a career-focused transition initiative for youth who have been previously involved and/or currently involved in the justice system. She is responsible for providing technical assistance to sites across the country to help implement the Right Turn program model which utilizes individualized career planning, mentoring, education, training, and workforce development strategies. Prior to joining IEL, Francine was a Youth Specialist with the Right Turn program at Peckham in Lansing, MI. She provided case management, supportive services, mentor matches, and established community partnerships. She also worked in a transitional living program (TLP) as a Case Manager for homeless youth in Lansing. Francine has a Master of Science in Administration: Leadership Studies degree from Central Michigan University.

Andrew Karhan, Y-TAC State Technical Assistance Liaison, Cornell University's Yang-Tan Institute

Andrew comes to the Yang Tan Institute on Employment and Disability with over 20 years of experience in the field of vocational rehabilitation. Andrew has a B.A. in psychology from Messiah College, a master's in public administration from Pennsylvania State University and master's in pastoral counseling from Liberty University. Throughout his career Andrew has administered employment services programs to individuals with disabilities in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York, as well as provided technical assistance on the implementation of best practices in employment services across several other states. These efforts have consistently focused on the delivery of high-quality employment supports, utilizing core principles of customized employment, individualized placement and support, work-based learning, and more "traditional" supported employment to youth and adults with disabilities.



Mindy Larson, Y-TAC Project Director/ Deputy Director, Center for Workforce Development, Institute for Educational Leadership

Mindy Larson is Deputy Director of the Center for Workforce Development at the Institute for Educational Leadership. She currently serves as Project Director for the Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center (YTAC) and previously managed the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth), a federal technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy. Since joining IEL in 2010, Mindy has provided technical assistance on a wide range of youth transition issues to state and local youth service professionals nationwide. Prior to joining IEL, Mindy worked with youth involved with the justice system at the District of Columbia Department of Rehabilitation Services as program manager for a juvenile re-entry project.

Kim Osmani, Y-TAC State Technical Assistance Liaison, Cornell University Extension Associate, Yang-Tan Institute

Kim Osmani is an extension associate at Cornell University's Yang-Tan Institute serving as a technical assistance liaison on the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC). Kim provides technical assistance, training, and support to state VR agencies. Kim has extensive experience working with youth with disabilities--first as a special education teacher for ten years, then as an Associate State Director of Special Education Services at the Oklahoma State Department of Education and finally as the Statewide Transition Coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services. She holds two master's degrees in special education and educational administration and is currently working toward her doctorate in special education transition. Kim Chairs the Oklahoma Transition Council and is Chair of the Division on Career Development and Transition's (DCDT) Policy and Advocacy Committee.