



**Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

CH2M HILL Alumni Center, 725 SW 26<sup>th</sup> St, Corvallis, Oregon, 97331

## Agenda

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- 8:15 a.m. CHECK-IN & NETWORKING  
*Breakfast pastries, seasonal fruit, orange juice, coffee & hot tea*
- 9:00 a.m. WELCOME TO THE 2025 SUMMIT
- 01 Keynote: Guy Stephens** "Behavior is Biology: The Need for Trauma-Informed, Neuroscience-Aligned, Relationship-Driven, and Collaborative Approaches"  
*There will be a 15-minute break during the keynote.*
- Noon LUNCH
- 1:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 02 Unpacking Systemic Ableism** *Jeni Canaday, Amy Fellows*
- 03 My Autism Journey + Knowledge** *Gillis Williams*
- 2:00 p.m. BREAK  
*Iced tea and water*
- 2:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 04 Communication Access Barriers** *endeavor\* corbin*
- 05 Let's Talk About Sex** *Dr. Jennifer Cork*
- 3:15 p.m. BREAK  
*Assorted baked goods, iced tea & water*
- 3:30 p.m. CLOSING SESSION
- 06 Keynote: Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin**
- 4:30 p.m. SUMMIT CLOSING & DOORPRIZE DRAWINGS!



## About the 2025 Summit

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- Learn more about [parking on the OSU campus](#). Daily parking permits are required, and they can be [pre-purchased online](#).
- **Each of the presentations at this year's Summit is informed by lived experience.** Each speaker brings a unique perspective on intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD), mental health, and how we can support young people living with both. Thank you to our presenters!
- The Summit is coordinated and hosted by **The Arc Oregon**. Contact us with questions or feedback at [info@thearcoregon.org](mailto:info@thearcoregon.org) or by phone at **(503) 581-2726**.
- We are grateful to our Summit sponsors who enable us to offer free registration to anyone who needs it.

## Presentation Details

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### **01 Behavior is Biology: The Need for Trauma-Informed, Neuroscience-Aligned, Relationship-Driven, and Collaborative Approaches**

*Join us for a compelling keynote challenging conventional discipline models and advocating for trauma-informed, neuroscience-aligned, neurodiversity-affirming, relationship-driven, and collaborative practices. The session will introduce "The Five Principles To Better Supporting All Children," providing practical strategies for fostering safety, connection, and positive outcomes for all children, particularly those with disabilities, neurodivergent identities, or trauma histories.*

#### **Presented by: Guy Stephens (he/him)**

Guy Stephens is a passionate advocate and a nationally recognized expert on restraint and seclusion. In 2019, Guy founded the Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint (AASR), a highly respected national nonprofit organization. AASR's mission is to inform changes in policy and

practice to reduce and eliminate the use of punitive and exclusionary discipline and outdated behavioral management approaches and end the school-to-prison pipeline. Guy promotes trauma-informed, neuroscience-aligned, neurodiversity-affirming, relationship-driven, and collaborative approaches to working with children. He has presented at conferences and events across North America and regularly speaks as a guest lecturer for undergraduate and graduate courses. Guy currently serves on the board of directors for The Arc of Maryland and PDA North America. Guy believes that we can do better for all children and adults; if we can, we must. Guy understands that we must embrace neurodiversity and neuroscience to create safe and inclusive environments and ensure equal rights and opportunities for all.

## **02 Unpacking Systemic Ableism**

*Working as a team, presenters Jeni Canaday and Amy Fellows have created an Unpacking Systemic Ableism training that combines the lived experience of the trainers with historic and current policies and practices to create an impactful understanding of ableism and systemic ableism. Attendees will gain a better understanding of what ableism is and how it operates in systems, and understand why listening to and supporting those with lived experience can lead to less institutional harm/ableism. A quote shared by an attendee last year: "I appreciated how they shared personal stories, combined with the information, engaged both my brain and heart equally and in unison."*

### **Presented by Jeni Canaday (she/her) & Amy Fellows (she/her)**

Jeni Canaday is a neurodivergent parent of three neurodivergent children who advocates for relationship-based supports and interventions. Jeni has many years of lived experience navigating ableism in systems with her oldest son who is Blind and Autistic. Jeni works together with her son to advocate for the autonomy, choice, and safety of all Disabled humans, sharing from their lived experience to influence policy at the school board, state legislature and national levels.

She is a trained IEP advocate, has worked as a Family Support Specialist, and sits on several statewide advisory committees.

Amy Fellows, MPH is a neurodivergent parent of an intersectional Autistic teen who has been impacted by racism and ableism in the education, medical and mental health systems. Amy is the Executive Director of We Can Do Better, a small healthcare civic engagement organization. Amy serves as an advocate for disabled Oregonians on the Oregon Universal Health Plan Governance Board and several other legislative and policy committees statewide.

### **03 My Autism Experience + Knowledge**

#### **Presented by: Gillis Williams (he/him)**

Hello! My name is Gillis Williams, and I am a 24-year-old autistic self-advocate whose mission is to spread education and inclusiveness in autism and neurodiversity communities.

I was diagnosed with autism at the age of five years old. Through all the challenges, drawbacks, therapy sessions, and constant meetings with my teachers came a lot of positives, which included finding help through outreach sources, making friends who understood my disability, and, most importantly, tapping into my talents as a speaker and educator.

I started my venture into the world of autistic self-advocacy right out of high school, and I have grown from just doing in-person speaking engagements to collaborating with autism organizations on social media, promoting acceptance both in-person and online, and doing street vending to get the word out about my business and services.

### **04 Communication Access Barriers in Mental Healthcare: An AAC User Perspective**

*People who use AAC (augmentative/alternative communication) often face barriers to accessing equitable healthcare services, and mental health settings can pose specific additional barriers. Everyone has a role*

*in preventing the harm of restricted AAC for youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

**Presented by: endever\* corbin (they/xe)**

endever\* corbin is a semispeaking autistic self-advocate who is multiply disabled, trans, and queer. They enjoy sharing their lived experience as an AAC user with professionals, caregivers, and peers. Xe is proud to contribute to academic work as a community research partner and as a presenter in professional, educational, and community settings.

**05 Let's Talk About Sex! Information for IDD Youth to Support Healthy and Safe Romantic Relationships**

*Participants will learn information related to IDD youth and how to support themselves and/or their loved one in having healthy and safe romantic and sexual relationships. Information will include historic and current barriers that IDD youth face in this area, along with information that they or their families need to know in order to support them as they explore their sexuality.*

**Presented by Dr. Jennifer Cork (she/her)**

Dr. Jennifer Cork is a Doctor of Social Work (DSW) and Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), specializing in the treatment of neurodivergent individuals with co-occurring mental health diagnoses. Jennifer is a late-diagnosed autistic adult and has 20 years' experience working with individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities. She has worked in the education, disability, and mental health settings. She has a certificate in disability studies from Eastern Washington University, is a certified autism specialist (CAS), and ADHD-certified clinical service provider (ADHD-CCSP). Increasing mental health awareness and access to mental healthcare for the neurodivergent community is one of her many passions. Besides therapy, education, and advocacy work, Jennifer enjoys trips to the Oregon coast, hikes with her family, cooking, baking,

and is an avid reader. She is also the mom, spouse, and sister of some awesome neurodivergent humans!

## **06 Keynote: Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin**

### **Presented by Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin (she/her)**

Sara Gelser Blouin was sworn into the Oregon House in 2005 where she served until she was elected to the Oregon State Senate in 2014. She is Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee. She also serves on the Judiciary Committee, the Education Committee and is a member of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and the Human Services Subcommittee of Ways and Means.

Sara entered public services through the disability rights community. She is a consistent champion for those often not heard or seen in the halls of the legislature, including children in care, people with disabilities, those with mental illness, people living in poverty and the aging. She is a national leader in the effort to reform abusive residential programs for youth that comprise what is known as the Troubled/Exploited Teen Industry. Sara's legislative accomplishments include spearheading legislation to end Oregon's backlog of untested rape kits, dismantling discrimination in health care delivery, improving staffing and services in memory care facilities, establishing a Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights, eliminating discriminatory use of abbreviated school days in Oregon schools, establishing statewide standards for modified and extended diplomas and implementing clear, enforceable policies to limit the use of physical restraint and seclusion in public schools and residential programs.