



LOOKING FORWARD

2021 Virtual Transition Conference

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

A Collaboration Between the Down Syndrome Association of
South Texas and the Parent Resource Network



Welcome!

Welcome to the *Looking Forward: 2021 Virtual Transition Conference*. We hope you enjoy our keynote speakers, breakout sessions and panel discussion options! Please review the program and make your choices for your breakout sessions. Enjoy and let's all learn together!

GET READY TO BEGIN YOUR EXPERIENCE

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please click on link on the "Exhibitor" page to access pamphlets, flyers, etc. from all exhibitors.

PROGRAM AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 Gather your materials and review your choices to be ready to begin at 9:00 for the Keynote Address for all participants.

9:00 – 9:45 Main Room – KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
Jo Mascorro Consultant for Education	Jo Mascorro Independent Consultant	Join us to hear this national speaker, trainer and author! Insightful reminders will be given for all participants to have a productive future.

9:45 – 9:50 5-MINUTE BREAK

9:50-10:45 Main Room

AGENCY	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
Vendor: AACOG IDDS	Antonio Martinez Health & Wellness Coordinator	AACOG IDDS provides programs & services which include support with behaviors, community supports, respite, nursing, audiology, counseling, employment & specialized therapies & can also assist clients with ICF group home placements, CFCPASHAB services & classes for caregivers.
AACOG/AAA/ Aging & Disability Resource Center	Enrique Guerrero	

PLEASE CHOOSE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Room #1

Transition 101 | Sam Gonzalez, Transition Consultant, Region 20 Education Service Center

Overview of the Transition process that schools begin & continue annually to help families & students to meet postsecondary goals & be successful after graduation.

Breakout Room #2

What's Next? | Raeme B. Greer, Founder/Executive Director, Care Warriors

Provides essential skills for independence, accommodations, services and job explorations with staff support including a personalized program.

10:45-10:50 5-MINUTE BREAK

10:50-11:45 Main Room

AGENCY	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
The Arc of San Antonio	Heather Long Director of Family Support Services	The Life Enrichment Program is for individuals after they exit the school system and provides case management & support services to help families navigate from school to community.
Education Service Center-Region 20	Claudia Vargas Family Engagement Consultant	Resources and trainings for parent are provided & district liaisons on the topic of transition. "I work closely with our Transition Consultant @ ESC-20 & our College, Career, & Military Readiness specialists."

PLEASE CHOOSE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Room #1

10 Basic Financial Steps for Special Needs Caregivers | Jeffrey McCracken, Chartered Special Needs Consultant, Mass Mutual Financial Group

Planning for the ultimate transition – death – and what are we doing now to ensure the care of our loved ones?

Breakout Room #2

Finding Your Purpose | Natalia Jasso, Executive Director, Inclusion is Sweet

As your adults with disabilities, transition into independent adult life, it is important that they have a sense of direction. Participants will be guided through combining their passions, personality and skills to find their purpose.

11:45-12:00 Main Room

AGENCY	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
Disability SA	Brittany Ewing Executive Director of Development and Outreach	Fiesta Especial is a leadership & educational program where participants learn valuable life skills that they will need for independent living skills & adulthood.
Mass Mutual Financial Group	Jeffrey McCracken Chartered Special Needs Consultant	Focus will be on the planning needed today for the continued care of our loved ones & death of the caregiver.

12:00-12:30 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

Feel free to return and enjoy your lunch during the afternoon keynote speaker. The MAIN ROOM will be open throughout the lunch slot so you can just return to us quickly.

12:30 – 1:15 Main Room KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
Bloom Consulting	Dr. James Williams Chief Operating Officer	<u>“Top 10 Mistakes to Avoid in Transition Planning/ Evaluations”</u> – Session will focus on identifying, understanding & avoiding mistakes. Emphasis will be placed on using vocational evaluations & student involvement to foster self-determined choices and empower all.

1:15 – 1:20 5-MINUTE BREAK

1:20-2:15 Main Room

AGENCY	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
Bloom Consulting	Natalie Hulsey Regional Director	Services provided by Bloom Consulting will be discussed to include vocational services and evaluations for people with disabilities.
Assessment Intervention Management	Mary Eitniew	The organization serves students with disabilities both privately and in public schools. A variety of services provided include evaluations and related services.

PLEASE CHOOSE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Room #1

Focusing: Begin with the End in Mind | Regina Earls, Transition Coordinator and Teresa Pena, 18+ Lead Teacher, Judson ISD Transition Team

Planning for the future can be scary, overwhelming, challenging and yet rewarding. Just as parents must think about their child’s future early so does the school. Session will present how parents and school and community agencies can work together.

Breakout Room #2

Cultivating Interests and Talents | Lisa Rogers, Director, Educating Diverse Learners

When children are young, they are asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Those seeds of a dream may continue to bloom and grow over time. Session will provide tools and supports for families as they celebrate and nurture those dreams that stem from interests, talents and strengths to a path of fulfillment.

2:15 – 2:20 5-MINUTE BREAK

2:20-3:15 Main Room

AGENCY	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
Community First Health Plans	Maribel Mota Representative	The STAR Kids health insurance is for people who are 20 yrs. or younger who have a disability and use Medicaid. It is provided in Bexar County and the 7 surrounding counties.

PLEASE CHOOSE 1 OF THE FOLLOWING TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Room #1

Transition Panel Discussion | Sam Gonzales, ESC-20 Transition Coordinator, Jacob Ulczynski, AACOG Senior Director, Tony Ritter, Advantage Care Center, Yolanda Fuentes, Arc of SA Director of CLASS, and Adriana Martinez, Texas Work Force

Panel members will answer questions in the area of Transition that include transition in the schools, state services for individuals, home-care options, CLASS and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. While each panel member will be given specific questions, each will make their own closing remark.

Breakout Room #2

Matthew's Journey | Joe Montalvo, Special Education Coordinator, Edgewood ISD, Jose Paz, and Patricia Valdez

See and experience the Journey of Matthew and his family and how they prepared to transition to postsecondary. A toolkit will be shared to help organize important timelines and daily activities.

3:15 – 3:30 Main Room - Closing Remarks

AGENCY	PRESENTER	TITLE/DESCRIPTION
Looking Forward: Virtual Transition Conference	Planning Committee Members	Join us for closing remarks, announcements, and completion of conference evaluations.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME	AGENCY	EMAIL	PHONE
Jo Mascorro Consultant for Education	Jo Mascorro Independent Consultant	stresskillsneurons@gmail.com Website: jomascorro.com	210-912-8584
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PANEL DISCUSSION CONTACT INFORMATION

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Adriana E. Martinez Regional Counselor III	Texas Workforce Solutions	adriana.martinez@twc.state.tx.us	210-238-3592

EXHIBITOR CONTACT INFORMATION

[CLICK HERE FOR EXHIBITOR RESOURCES](#)

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On behalf of the “Looking Forward-2021 Virtual Transition Conference” planning committee, we would like to thank you for joining us for this great event. We hope you were able to benefit from the information that you received today. We value your feedback and feel free to contact any one of us to provide us any ideas for future planning. Have a wonderful day and please stay safe and healthy!

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Thanks to our collaborating co-sponsors!!

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