

# Disability Advocacy & Youth Development Conference

Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 10am-4pm at ABGU CONFERENCE CENTER Yerevan, Armenia 0010,2,2 Meliq Adamyanyan



## Advocacy & Supporting Families

Guest speakers providing an introduction to the variety of models around the world that are used to support families with children & adults with disabilities. We will discuss certain aspects of popular models used and benefits & disadvantages of each. We will also discuss advocacy and the importance of disability awareness at family, community, and governmental levels.



## Independence & Inclusion in Our Youth & Communities

Discussing the nature of Independence for individuals with disabilities, as well as Inclusion into their communities. This lecture is designed to provide generalized strategies for both caregivers and individuals themselves to evaluate their environments at home, in their community, and employment settings. We will re-examine the nature of a caregiving relationship, and consider how to amend this relationship to include impactful teaching elements. We will then review a number of examples of individuals maximizing their independence and what they have been able to achieve as a result.

## Purpose: Sharing Ideas & Networking Together with You

- ❖ If you are a community member, organization or department that provides services or resources to individuals with disabilities you are welcome to set up a table with your information and share about your work at this conference. Please contact: Yelena Kirakosyan at (093)-80-70-60 or [jermikankyun@gmail.com](mailto:jermikankyun@gmail.com) to reserve a space.
- ❖ Armenian and American guest presenters and self-advocates will share on disability advocacy and panel discussions throughout the event. Individuals with disabilities & families are encouraged to attend.

## Person-Centered Thinking

Panel discussion that will touch on the meaning as well as the importance of viewing someone with a disability as a person rather than someone who is defined by their disability. Sections of this discussion will focus on tools with which to interact with people with disabilities from this approach, the importance of autonomy for this population, and the impact of self-empowerment in their lives.



## Sustainable Family Planning & Youth Development

In this section we will look at developing individualized planning & goals alongside an individual with disabilities and their family. We will discuss why sustainable & documented planning is important to capture information for future caregivers & providers. As part of this presentation, we will discuss processes for identifying “what is important *to*” the individual and “what is important *for*” the individual. We will also discuss formats for communicating this information and capturing key aspects of needs, wants, and goals that will assist with long term progress.

