



2024 Paul W. Spooner Generational Leadership Summit

September 23rd – 25th, 2024

Marlborough, MA

#GenLeaders24 #PWSGL24





Statement of Purpose

The idea behind this summit came when Dan Shannon from the MDDC, Bill Henning from BCIL and Charles Carr from DPC continued the discussions that have been ongoing among disability advocacy leaders. At the memorial service for Paul W. Spooner, it was agreed that the time was here to move forward with a transitional leadership summit. With the help of staff from each organization, the Summit became a reality in 2023.

The Summit is designed to learn and understand from younger leaders what they need to continue growing and successfully address issues and how our collective communities can support their work in the years to come. As experienced leaders age out of the movement or pass on, the disability community can't afford a gap in planning, knowledge, and creating a blueprint for change. Now is the time to prepare for the future!

Virtual Binder

Content used during the Summit is available for you to access online.
To download the virtual binder, please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://bit.ly/24PWSGL-binder>



If you experience any issues accessing the binder, please contact:
Jackson Crilley, MDDC Communications Coordinator
(617) 770-7676 ext. 104





Summit Schedule & Session Descriptions

Monday, September 23rd (Alumni Only) -

3:00-4:00 PM: Alumni Arrival/Check-in

4:00-5:00 PM: Welcome Opening Session for Alumni –

Craig Hall, Jennifer Bertrand & Harry Weissman

5:00-6:00 PM: Alumni Roles and Mentorship –

Kaitlin Stober

In this session, we will discuss the roles that alumni will play as leaders, mentors, and role models for the new participants when they arrive the following day. We will learn the importance of mentorship and best practices.

6:00-7:00 PM: Dinner

7:00-8:30 PM: Building Leadership Teams – Harry Weissman & Nesther William

Expanding on our own strengths and diverse identities as leaders, we will explore different leadership types and styles, and how they can be compatible with one another. We will learn how to build teams of leaders that take advantage of everyone's diverse strengths, abilities, and expertise.

Tuesday, September 24th -

9:00-10:00AM: How to Cut an Issue – R Feynman & Samantha Fein

In this session, participants will learn how to move from big issues to specific advocacy projects. We will practice breaking down topics, identifying smaller steps, and making SMART goals.

10:00-10:30 AM: Morning Break for Alumni; New Emerging Leaders Arrive & Check In

10:30-11:30 AM: Welcome/Opening Session with New Emerging Leaders –

Craig Hall, Bill Henning & Winifred “Winnie” McGraw

11:30-12:30 PM: What is a Leader? – Tamara Huntley, Cody Rooney & Andre Williams


Learn about leadership qualities and what it means to be a leader. Participants will identify their leadership strengths and weaknesses and reflect on what motivates them and what holds them back.

12:30-1:30 PM: Lunch

1:30-3:00 PM: Telling Our Own Stories in Advocacy –

Gyasi Burks-Abbott & Nini Silver

Learn about the importance of storytelling in effective self-advocacy. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own encounters with disability discrimination while reflecting on how these personal experiences can lead to societal change.





Tuesday, September 24th (Cont.) -

3:00-3:15 PM: Group Photograph

3:15-3:45 PM: Afternoon Break

3:45-4:45 PM: Issue Topic Introductions & Selections –

Jennifer Bertrand & Harry Weissman

Participants will hear from subject matter experts on three core issue areas and choose which issue area to work on for the remainder of the summit. We will then break up into issue groups to brainstorm how to take action on that topic, and begin to make a plan.

The 2024 Issue Topics are:

- *Affordable/Accessible Housing: People with disabilities have a right to live in their communities. We need affordable and accessible housing so this can happen. – Benji Kemper*
- *Transportation: Reliable and accessible transportation is important so people with disabilities can access their communities. Transportation can include cars, trains, planes, and more! – TBD*
- *Rights & Advocacy: People with disabilities need to be able to advocate for our rights in order to improve our lives and live independently. Engaging the disability community in advocacy, and making advocacy accessible, is important for everyone's voice to be heard. – Nini Silver*

4:45-6:00 PM: What is a Campaign? – Desi Forte & Harry Weissman


Learn the key elements of a campaign for social change. We will define concepts such as strategy, target, tactic, and momentum, and learn how they fit together to accomplish specific goals.

6:00-7:00PM: Dinner

7:00-9:00 PM: Knowing Our History: How to Build a Movement –

Desi Forte & #TeachDisabilityHistory Team

Learn about a powerful initiative led by self-advocates to spread awareness about disability history. During this presentation, participants will view the film "The Great Fight for Disability Rights" and learn about the #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign and efforts to promote teaching disability history in schools. Participants' knowledge of disability history will be tested in a fun interactive game.





Wednesday, September 25th -

9:00-9:45 AM: Building Connections – Kaitlin Stober

The day will begin with an energizing team building activity to further build connections and galvanize the group.

9:45-11:00 AM: Issue Group Work Session

Issues groups each meet individually and continue to break down the issues to create a concrete, winnable, short-term plan of action.

11:00-11:30 AM: Morning Break (check out from hotel)

11:30-12:30 PM: Voting Rights – Nini Silver & Brianna Zimmerman

Learn about the importance of voting, knowing your rights, engaging with candidates, and the barriers people with disabilities still face today. Participants will also learn about and begin creating a plan to vote. Voter registration and assistance will also be available during the session.

12:30-1:30 PM: Lunch/Working Lunch

1:30-2:30 PM: Next Steps & Issue Group Presentations

Each issue group will present their plan for after the summit, and how other people can get involved. We will also discuss next steps for all participants and alumni to continue building leadership and connections.

2:30-2:45 PM: Afternoon Break

2:45-4:30 PM: Closing Session & Certificate Ceremony



Keep in touch and work towards our shared goals.

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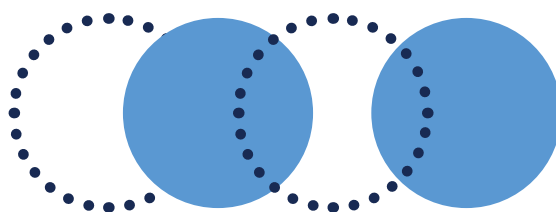
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Stay connected with host organizations.

Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL):

Online: www.bostoncil.org

Facebook: @bostoncil

X/Twitter: @bostoncil

Disability Policy Consortium (DPC)

Online: www.dpcma.org

Facebook: @DPCMA

X/Twitter: @DPC_MA

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

Online: www.mass.gov/mddc

Facebook/Instagram: @massddcouncil

X/Twitter: @MA_DDC

