

EDUCATION AND CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital

UPMC | WESTERN PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL

Voices Values Visibility: Advancing Disability Equity Together Conference ^(EC43)

Friday, October 23, 2026

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM – Virtual Program

Course Director:

Kimberly Mathos, DO, MPH

Recovery and Wellness: The Journey Starts Here

**A Joint Effort Sponsored by Community Care Behavioral Health Organization and UPMC
Western Psychiatric Hospital**

Introduction

This event is free for students, interns, residents, patients, and family members. American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available on Zoom during the conference.

This conference aims to highlight the critical importance of developing and strengthening cross-disciplinary partnerships in the care of our most vulnerable patient populations. Researchers and advocates will share insights into the barriers to care and the distinct challenges individuals with disabilities face related to social determinants of health. Presentations will also explore the necessity of expanding interdisciplinary training opportunities, promoting awareness of universal design principles, and recognizing the essential role that individuals with lived experience play in shaping effective and inclusive treatment plans.

We are pleased to offer this educational activity with the support of UPMC, community, and university.

Program Overall Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this conference, participants should be able to:

1. **Recognize the lived experiences**, perspectives, and priorities of individuals with disabilities and the importance of elevating disability voices in shared decision-making and care planning.
2. **Explore strategies to expand community-engaged research** focused on promoting equity, disability justice, and inclusive healthcare and community environments.
3. **Advance actionable approaches** to promoting visibility, representation, and equity in the care of individuals with complex medical and mental health needs.
4. **Discuss how telehealth modalities can reduce systemic barriers** to healthcare access for patients with disabilities, including physical, sensory, and cognitive impairments, and identify at least one actionable step to expand equitable virtual care within their practice setting.
5. **Recognize the challenges of the diagnostic odyssey** often faced by patients with co-existing multi-sensory and/or physical disabilities and mental health conditions, and apply strategies to foster interdisciplinary collaboration that centers the patient's lived experience throughout the evaluation and treatment process.
6. **Support individuals with disabilities and their families** in developing and using skills to effectively advocate for their needs, rights, and priorities as they navigate systems and engage relevant stakeholders to drive meaningful changes in their own lives and communities.

Who Should Attend:

Students, advocates, mental health and physical health providers, payors, case managers and stakeholders who are passionate about the care of people with disabilities.

Supporting Organizations:

Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
Healthbridges
LEND

Course Director

Kimberly Mathos, DO, MPH
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Planning Committee

Kathy Kelly, PhD, PT

Associate Professor
Associate Dean, Academic Outreach and Advising
University of Pittsburgh – School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

Rebecca Kronk, PhD, MSN, CRNP, FAAN, CNE, ANEF

Professor
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Duquesne University School of Nursing

Ashli Molinero, D.Sc.

Director, Disabilities Resource Center
UPMC Health System

Michelle Schein, PhD, LPC, CRC

Associate Professor
Associate Program Director for Education
Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
University of Pittsburgh

Keynote Speaker

Rob Oliver, BA, MA

Author, Podcaster, Educator

Speakers

Sarah Ailey, PhD RN FAAN PHNA-BC CNE

Professor, Department of Community, Systems, and Mental Health Nursing
Rush University
Chicago, Illinois

Steven Albert, PhD, MSc, MA

Department of Behavioral & Community Health Sciences
School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Makoto Ikegami, DSW, LCSW

Founder & Clinical Director, Deaf Multicultural Counseling, LLC
Adjunct Faculty, Arizona State University & Gallaudet University

Kim MacDonald-Wilson, Sc.D., CPRP

Senior Director, Community Engagement and Recovery
Community Care Behavioral Health
UPMC Insurance Services Division

Dori Ortman

Family Faculty and Advocacy Training Director,
LEND Pitt, University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Children's Hospital

Samantha J. Reznik, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington
Director, Seattle Children's Hospital Psychosis Program

Kennedy Sheppard, BS

Epi Research Coordinator
Community, Systems, and Mental Health Nursing
Rush University

Kristy Trautmann

Executive Director, FISA Foundation

Melissa Watson, PhD, LPC, CDI

DEAFinitely CAN Counseling & Services LLC

Adjunct Professor

Villanova University

Jackie White, MPH

The PEAL Center (Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center)

Conference Agenda – October 23, 2026

8:15 am	Log onto Zoom
8:30 – 8:45 am	Welcome, Introduction and Background <i>Kim Mathos, DO, MPH</i>
8:45 – 9:45 am	Keynote: Creating Connections: Linking Practice, Purpose, and People <i>Rob Oliver, BA, MA</i>
9:45 - 11:15 am	Elevating Family Voices in Disability-Informed Care <i>Dori Ortman & Jackie White, MPH</i>
11:15 - 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	The Diagnostic Team Starts in the Community: Building Partnerships and Reimagining Care in the Age of AI <i>Kennedy Sheppard, BS & Sarah Ailey, PhD RN FAAN PHNA-BC CNE</i>
12:45 – 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 – 2:45 pm	Advancing Equity in Telehealth through Person Centered Care <i>Melissa Watson, PhD, Makoto Ikegami, DSW, LCSW, Kim MacDonald-Wilson, Sc.D., CPRP Samantha Reznik, PhD</i>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Catalyzing System Change through Community Engagement <i>Steven Albert, PhD, MSc, MA, Kristy Trautmann, Ashli Molinero, D.Sc.</i>
4:30 - 4:45 pm	Wrap up

All presentations are introductory to intermediate instructional levels.
For additional information regarding the speakers and/or presentations, contact Nancy Mundy at mundnl@upmc.edu.

Continuing Education and Continuing Medical Education Credits

Continuing Education Credit Information

In support of improving patient care, the University of Pittsburgh is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physician (CME)

The University of Pittsburgh designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Other Healthcare Professionals: Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

Psychologists



As a Jointly Accredited Organization, University of Pittsburgh is approved to offer psychology continuing education by the American Psychological Association. University of Pittsburgh maintains responsibility for this course. Psychologists completing this course receive 7.0 continuing education credits.

Counselors



Education and Consultative Services of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 5059. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Education and Consultative Services of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs. This conference is approved for 7.0 hours.



Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification

Conference has been approved for 7.0 hours in CE by CRCC

Licensed/Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists LSW/LCSW/LPC/LMFT:

As a Jointly Accredited Organization, University of Pittsburgh is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. University of Pittsburgh maintains responsibility for this course. Social workers completing this course receive 6.0 continuing education credits.

Other Healthcare Professionals

Nurses and other health care professionals are awarded .7 Continuing Education Units (CEU's). One CEU is equal to 10 contact hours. Nurses: For attending this program you will receive a Certificate of Attendance confirming 7.0 hours of continuing education. These hours may be considered eligible for completing the 30 hours of continuing education required for biannual nursing re-licensure in Pennsylvania. Peer Specialists: This program fulfills requirements for Certified Peer Specialist continuing education.

- Please retain your certificates in a safe place. Replacements cost \$30 for those that come from our office (CRCC; Gen. CEU; NCC).
- Participants requesting continuing education credits must attend the entire day. Variable credits are only awarded to AMA PRA Category 1 credits. Your attendance is recorded on the Zoom attendance list.
- Although the evaluation is not mandatory, we appreciate your participation. Please expect the certificates from our office in four to six weeks post-conference. Those obtained from the registration site can be accessed immediately after the event.

Registration Information

Please register *by noon on October 22, 2026* at: [Voices Values Visibility: Advancing Disability Equity Together Conference | UPMC - Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences](#)

Fee Schedule

Physicians and Professionals (not affiliated as noted below)	\$40
UPMC, Pitt, WPH, WBH Network, VA, State (PA), Community Mental Health Professionals	\$30
Students/Interns/Residents (No continuing education/no continuing medical education credits)	No fee
Patients/Family Members (No continuing education/no continuing medical education credits)	No fee

Tuition includes:

- All registration and online conference materials
- Continuing education credits at the professional tuition

UPMC/WPH/WBH employees who would like to be sponsored by their department can request this from their manager. Please have your manager complete the form found [here](#). Participants paying with a Departmental Transfer will still need to register online with the code found on the form at the link above, which will bring your conference fee to \$0. Your department will be charged. Your work e-mail address will need to be used when registering. All registrations with this code will be matched against the department transfers that are sent to us from your supervisor or manager.

Full tuition must accompany registration. A \$10 administrative fee will be deducted from all refunds for cancellations. No refunds can be issued once the program has begun.



We encourage participation by all individuals. If you have a disability, advance notification of any special needs will help us better serve you. Please notify us of your needs at least two weeks in advance of the program by contacting Nancy Mundy at mundnl@upmc.edu.

Close Captioning and American Sign Language Interpreters will be available on Zoom.