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| TUESDAYAUGUST26The Carter CenterAtlanta, GAHOSTSA person smiling at camera  AI-generated content may be incorrect.RITA YOUNG Executive Director, PDAGA person smiling at the camera  AI-generated content may be incorrect.MITZI PROFFITTDeputy Director, PDAG | **LEADING CHANGE:The Participant Directed Advocacy Forum****CONFERENCE AGENDA** |
| 8:30 – 9:30 AM | Coffee & Networking for New PD Families |
| 9:00 AM | Conference Registration Opens |
| 10:00 AM | **Welcome & Overview***Participant Directed Advocates of Georgia* |
| 10:15 AM | Keynote*Olivia Nickens, Family Support Manager, Division of Developmental Disabilities, GA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities* |
| 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Panel:Homes that Empower: Grassroots Voices in Disability Housing*Panelists: Rick Thompson, Champions Community Foundation; Meghan Burke- Abowd, parent advocate; Jacque Thornton, Two Sparrows Village; Dr. Tim Sass, Better Living Together; Brian Dewey, Twin Magnolias Investment LLC; Harrison Gross, SPECS Development, LLC; Pam Blanton, Partners 4 Housing; Robert Rosen, parent advocate* |
| 12:00 – 1:00 PM | Lunch & Networking |
| 1:00 – 1:50 PM | Panel: Best Practices in Self-Direction: (Budgeting, Hiring, Goal Writing, Organization)*Panelists: Clementine Rivers, Board Chair, PDAG, GAPD; Kathy Simmons, GAPD; Debbie Anderson, GAPD; Kevin Stringfellow, Board Member, PDAG; Stefanie Smith, Parent Advocate and Executive Director, Alexsander Academy* |
| 2:00 – 2:50 PM | Panel: From Worries to Action: Tools for Long-Term Planning*Panelists: Anna Maki, Bobby Dodd Institute; DJ Jeyaram, Jeyaram and Associates; Greg Corneille, Choice Wealth Management; Anita Gardner, Georgia Community Trust, Bobby Dodd Institute; Dana Lloyd, The Georgia Advocacy Office* |
| 3:00 – 3:50 PM | Panel: Living Fully: Self-Determination, Independence & Employment*Panelists: Christine Gudgin, Community Life Engagement Manager, Division of Developmental Disabilities, GA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; Bradley Carlisle, DSAA Board Member, Self Advocate; Danny Bryant, Self Advocate; Shelly Simmons, Executive Director, Statewide Independent Living Council; LJ Young, Uniting for Change* |
| 3:50 – 4:00 PM | Final Remarks & Closing*Rita Young, Executive Director, Participant Directed Advocates of Georgia* |

