4/6/2019

9am

**Sibling Support of Disabled Brothers and Sisters**

**Presented by: Walter Suskind**

-Made up of a panel of siblings who have a brother/sister with a disability

-Siblings shared difficulty talking about their sibling’s disability

-‘People’ are busy and don’t always understand and/or want to learn why someone may appear different

-1:1 time with parents is very valuable

-As siblings get older, they have a better understanding of things that once may have frustrated them

-Siblings may not have an outlet and someone to talk to about their feelings

-Misconceptions:

-They don’t have to worry about their sibling’s future

-Awareness is needed in regards to how to care for them in the future

-Need ways on how to advocate

-Siblings don’t always feel heard

-Frustration is okay to feel but should be able to be talked about

-Siblings may feel like a 3rd parent

-Take away(s):

-If teachers talk to students about disabilities it will help others understand

-Schools may not talk about a range of disabilities or mental illness that is present in public schools

-If more general educators were aware, it would help

-Siblings wear a lot of ‘capes’ not ‘hats’ because they are superhero’s