

FREE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

“Supporting People with Disabilities in Engaging in Community and Developing Personal Friendships”

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 from 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Zoom Meeting Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3TN4hJU>



Join us for this FREE informational and interactive Zoom meeting and discussion featuring international experts: Angela Amado, Ph.D., Lynda Kahn and Jack Pearpoint

A good quality of life is connected to the supports, relationships and community connections we have developed as part of our everyday lives. People with disabilities need friends and relationships just as much as anyone else so they can live the best life possible. Real inclusion is important for a person to feel valued and respected and more importantly, they feel like they “belong” and are accepted for who they are as a person.

Angela, Lynda and Jack will share their personal experiences, practical ideas, and strategies for supporting people with disabilities in RI in building meaningful friendships, positive relationships and becoming connected in local communities. Participants will also have opportunities to share information on the successes of their Transformation Project’s activities and participate in small group discussions. Let’s learn more about “*belonging and inclusion*” and how we can move forward together with action steps for transformational systems change to support people with disabilities in engaging in community and developing meaningful personal friendships in Rhode Island.



Angela Novak Amado, Ph.D., works to support communities to be fully inclusive of all people. She has been working on implementing person-centered approaches for people with developmental disabilities for the last 20 years. She has conducted training about friendships between people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and ordinary community members in more than 30 states, Canada, Australia, Israel, and five European countries. Angela has been a senior Research Associate with the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) at the University of Minnesota for over 35 years. She is the author of a number of publications including “**Friends – Connecting People with Disabilities and Community Members**”. Download a copy [HERE](#) and “**Friends: Connecting People with**

Disabilities with Community Members – A Manual for Families”. Download copies of the manual/worksheets [HERE](#).



Lynda Kahn, Co-Director at Inclusion Press International (inclusion.com) and former Director of the RI Division of Developmental Disabilities (1996-2005). In 1993 she helped close the RI’s state’s institution, the Ladd Center, collaborated on individualized funding for folks with developmental disabilities, and was a founding member of the *Service Quality Network* and *Facilitator’s Forum*. With John O’Brien and husband and partner, Jack Pearpoint, Lynda co-authored “*Person Centered Ways to Build Community with PATH and MAPS*” in 2010. Since May 2020 Lynda and Jack are offering virtual workshops hosted by Inclusion Press, as well as the *Ideas that Matter* series co-sponsored by Inclusion Press and the Marsha Forest Centre.



Jack Pearpoint is an independent Canadian Publisher and catalyst for Inclusion, Diversity, Teamwork and CHANGE! Jointly with his wife and partner, Lynda Kahn, Jack conducts workshops, consults with agencies and collaborates with people with disabilities and their families, to engage in positive change that honors the gifts and contributions of all. Jack, his late wife Marsha Forest and John O'Brien, collaborated to create person-centered approaches such as PATH, MAPS and Circles of Friends. The collaboration continues now with John and Lynda. Jack’s fifty years of experience include 7 years in Africa implementing post-war reconstruction; 16 years as President of Canada’s oldest literacy organization, Frontier College; and over three decades as a full-time publisher/presenter.

Jack is the founding director of the *Marsha Forest Centre: Inclusion, Family and Community* and its Executive Director. Jack and Lynda work internationally beyond Canada and the US including Australia, England, India, Korea, Scotland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Uganda.

This event is an activity of the *Transformation Learning Collective* sponsored by the RI Cross Disability Coalition and RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) and funded as one of DDD’s Transformation Grants. Thank you to the Sherlock Center for assisting with organizing this important presentation! For more information or questions contact Sue Babin, Special Projects Coordinator, RIDDC, at suebabin@riddc.org or 401-523-2300.

