



State Representative
Dan Miller

42nd Legislative District

District Office:
650 Washington Road, Suite 102
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
(412) 343-3870

Capitol Office:
121 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202042
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2042
(717) 783-1850

RepDanMiller.com

 @RepDanMiller42

 @RepDanMiller



April 18 & 19, 2024
DisabilitySummit.com

Paid for with state funds



A Message from Rep. Dan Miller

Welcome to our annual Disability & Mental Health Summit!

Now in its 11th year, the Summit has touched thousands of lives, educating legislators from both sides of the aisle, while helping to inform families and working to increase opportunities for self-advocates across the board. The Summit is designed to bring resources and experts out of their offices and into an easy-to-access environment, where people can meet face-to-face to better solve problems.

This event would never be possible without the countless volunteers, community partners, and our fantastic hosts at the Beth El Congregation who have always opened their doors to us!

Each year the Summit differs in form and content. This year we are back to a two-day event with sessions and resource fairs on both Thursday and Friday. Each day will feature a keynote speaker, and both will have a Legislative Panel. We are also teaming up with the AIU and a number of area school districts, including Mt. Lebanon, Keystone Oaks, Upper St. Clair, Baldwin-Whitehall, Bethel Park, South Fayette, Carlynton, and ACLD Tillotson School to host a special Futures Fair for high schoolers on Thursday evening, along with our Festiv-ALL – which is a celebration of art and music created by local artists from our disability and mental health community!

This Summit stands on the shoulders of countless heroes, and we thank them all for their work. We also know that for every person who can attend, there is a parent who couldn't get off work, a self-advocate who couldn't get an accessible ride, and a child in school today who simply hopes that their peers will talk to them. We still have a way to go and promises to keep, but we will get there as long as we work together. Thank you for attending and I hope you enjoy your time here!

Dan Miller
State Representative
42nd Legislative District

Cover art: "Seasons of the Mind" by Morgan Overton, Pittsburgh

From the artist: "Seasons of the Mind" is a mixed media piece that captures the ranges of mental health experiences - whether they are blossoming, grey, cold, or colorful. The interpretation is left to the viewer especially if they have their own lived experience.

About the artist: As a staunch advocate of gender, racial, and economic justice, Morgan Overton holds a demonstrated commitment to uplifting intersectional lived experiences, and its ability to foster collective impact. Currently, she serves as Workforce Director for CREATE PA: Pittsburgh Film and Theater Works - a new program with Pittsburgh Public Theater and the Pittsburgh Film Office to grow and diversify crew work talent to support the growing arts industry of Pittsburgh. Additionally, Morgan serves on the board of Planned Parenthood Western Pennsylvania and Governor Shapiro's Commission on Women.

Summit-at-a-Glance

Thursday, April 18 – Resource Fair 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

8:30 a.m.

Rep. Dan Miller Welcome

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Protections for Individuals with Disabilities Under the Law

Dating for People with a Diagnosis

#NotAshamed: PRIDE in the Intersectionality of Mental Health and LGBTQ+

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Your Child's First IEP

Transportation: Issues, Advocacy, and Resources

The Loneliness Epidemic: Embracing the Power of Social Connection

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Special Guest: Gov. Josh Shapiro

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Don't Count Me Out! Reducing Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion

An Early Reach into Transition

"Normal Nerves," Anxiety, or OCD?

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Access to Quality Assurance Checks for Complex Wheelchair Users

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Mental Health and Foster Care: Unmet Needs and Untapped Opportunity

Thursday Evening

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Festiv-ALL

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Student/Parent Panel

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Futures Fair

Friday, April 19 – Resource Fair 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Sara Innamorato

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Veterans

Navigating Technology in Mental Health Treatment

Waivers 101: An Overview of ODP IA/A Waivers

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Provider Alliance Member Meeting

Diagnosed as an Autistic Adult

Individual Advocacy and Systemic Change in Healthcare

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

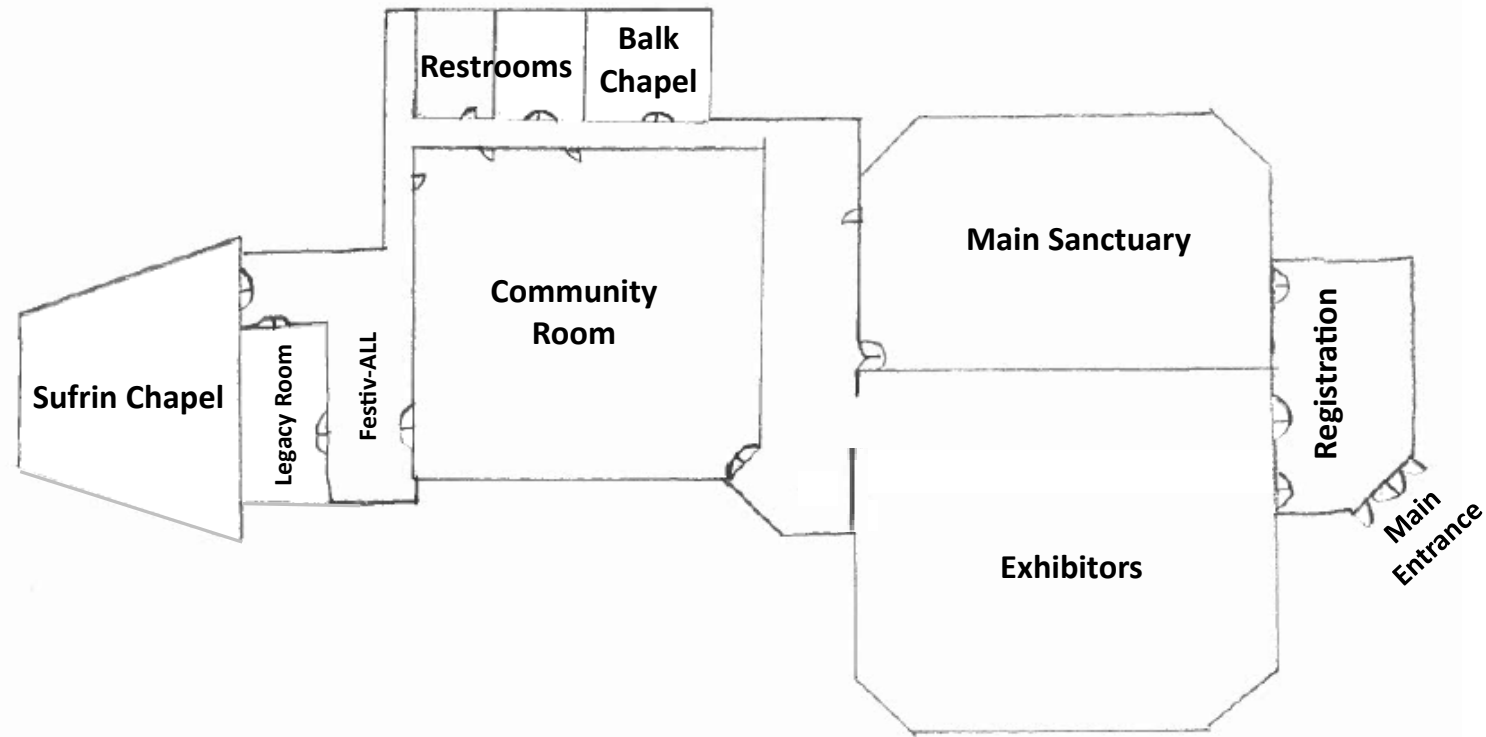
Mental Health Staffing 101: Building for the Needs of Tomorrow

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Disability and Mental Health Needs of Incarcerated People

2024 Disability & Mental Health Summit hosted by Rep. Dan Miller

Venue Map



Thursday Schedule

8:30 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Summit Kickoff and Legislative Review

House Majority Whip Dan Miller

Join Representative Miller as he kicks off the 2024 Summit! He will provide a brief update on some of the key disability and mental health legislation and the budget currently being considered in Harrisburg, as well as highlight some of the summit's sessions and the special event that will be taking place this year.

9 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Protections for Individuals with Disabilities Under the Law (CLE)

Adrian Garcia, Meredith Millard, and Morgan Williams, Esq.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has been enforcing the Commonwealth's anti-discrimination laws since 1955. This session will explore the rights individuals with disabilities have to be free from discrimination in employment, education, public accommodations, and housing and commercial properties.

Sufrin Chapel

Dating for People with a Diagnosis

Shawn McGill

Puberty and dating are daunting for anyone but can present even more challenges for those who are also managing neurodivergence and other core clinical issues. This training was developed to focus on critical areas to discuss and review as a support to anyone (young or old) who is beginning to consider jumping into the dating world.

Community Room

#NotAshamed: PRIDE in the Intersectionality of Mental Health and LGBTQ+

Joyce Bender and Scott Hammerstrom

The Bender Leadership Academy's #NotAshamed campaign promotes understanding of the lived experience of members of the LGBTQ+ community who also live with mental health disabilities and explores how these two communities can utilize shared experiences from bullying to unemployment to promote empowerment, pride, and personal and professional success.

10 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Your Child's First IEP (CLE)

Jeff Ruder, Esq.

This session will provide you with basic tools and understandings of how the IEP process works, as well as to help you understand your rights under special education law.

Sufrin Chapel

Transportation: Issues, Advocacy and Resources (CLE)

Jeff Iseman and John Tague

In this session, transportation issues, appropriate venues and tools related to systems advocacy at various levels of government, and transportation resources (funding and related programs) will be shared by the PA Transportation Alliance, an ad-hoc disability focused grassroots organization.

Community Room

The Loneliness Epidemic: Embracing the Power of Social Connection

Dr. Eric Golden

This session looks at the role all members of society can play to address the burden of social isolation, by raising awareness on the impact of loneliness, enacting policies to strengthen social infrastructure, and fostering a culture that promotes social connection.

11 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Special Guest Speaker: Governor Josh Shapiro

We are thrilled to welcome Gov. Shapiro to talk about his administration's approach to mental health in the commonwealth.

1 p.m.

Main Sanctuary

"Normal Nerves," Anxiety, or OCD?

Amanda Meredith and Ashley Montrenes

This session seeks to help you understand the various manifestations of anxiety and to provide an outline of the different evidence-based treatment models available to target anxiety. Additional local, international, and online resources will be provided to further assist you.

Sufrin Chapel

Don't Count Me Out! Reducing Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion (CLE)

Ashley Harland, Jeff Ruder, Esq., and Valerie Williams

Participants will learn about the legal rights of families and young children with disabilities and/or mental health needs, support practices that can be utilized to build continuity across the school-home community continuum, and local resources to promote inclusive early learning experiences and kindergarten readiness.

Community Room

An Early Reach into Transition

Mae Buckley, Lindsay Coulehan, Brett Glavey, and Andria McCourt

Led by Pittsburgh OVR's Early Reach Coordinators, this session will educate the audience on the Pre-Employment Transition Services and Outreach opportunities provided by Early Reach. Year-long and seasonal programming will be discussed. The audience will get a chance to participate in examples of interactive activities offered to high school students with disabilities in Allegheny County.

2 p.m. Legislative Panel

Main Sanctuary

Access to Quality Assurance Checks for Complex Wheelchair Users (CLE)

Matt Berwick, Vincent DeMarco, Stephen Katich, and Dr. Mark Schmeler

This session will include a review of the challenges that complex wheelchair users have with traversing their daily personal and professional lives, and what can occur if their wheelchair needs to be repaired. We will review House Bill 183, Complex Wheelchair Quality Assurance, including how periodic wheelchair "well check" visits can help prevent catastrophic breakdowns for individuals using this equipment for their daily lives.

3 p.m. Legislative Panel

Main Sanctuary

Mental Health and Foster Care: Unmet Needs and Untapped Opportunity (CLE)

Mary Carroll, Laura Maines, Esq., and Kelley Swift, Esq.

There are almost 400,000 children and youth in foster care nationwide and mental health is the largest unmet health need for those in care. This panel will discuss the mental health needs of these vulnerable youth, the barriers to meeting those needs, and how a holistic, child-focused approach can make a difference.

Rep. Dan Miller
presents



Thursday Night Special Events

New for 2024!



The Festiv-ALL
 Thursday, April 18th
 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

New for 2024! Join us for a celebration of art and music created by local artists from our disability and mental health community! Featuring Band Together Pittsburgh, Creative Citizens Studios, and more! See something new, break down stigma, and have some fun!



**Student/Parent
 Transition Panel**
 Thursday, April 18th
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

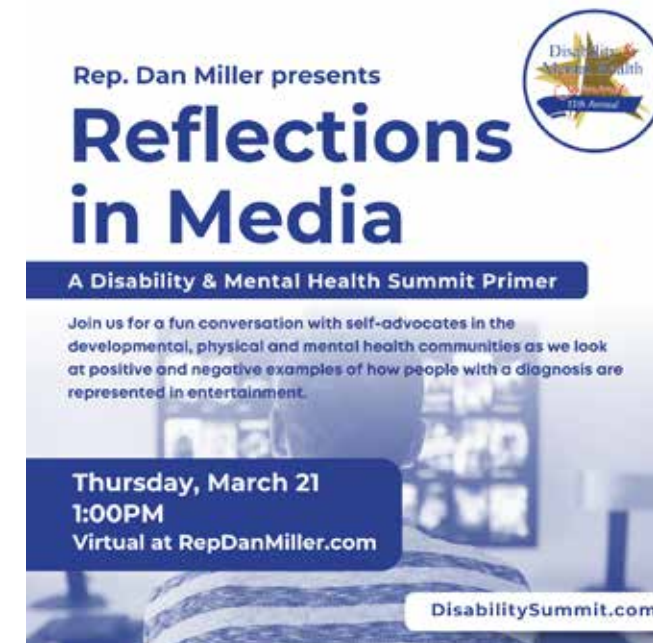
We are pleased to offer a unique opportunity for parents and students who are currently working through the process of transition to learn from their peers. For the first time, the Summit will host a transition-focused panel discussion facilitated by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The panel will be made up of individuals and families who recently completed the transition from school age to adult services who will provide information and share insights about their unique experience.

The Futures Fair
 Thursday, April 18th
 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Also new for 2024! We are so excited to team up with the Mt. Lebanon, Keystone Oaks, Upper St. Clair, Baldwin-Whitehall, Bethel Park, South Fayette, and Carlynton school districts; ACLD Tillotson School; and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) to offer an evening Futures Fair, a transition fair focusing solely on the needs of high schoolers and young adults as they work hard to transition into adulthood, greater independence, and greater opportunity!

Disability & Mental Health Summit – Digital!

The Disability and Mental Health Summit is more than just a two-day event each spring. On our webpages you can find resources from previous summits, as well as special digital events we held throughout the year. Scan the QR codes below to find out more!



This virtual event was a fun conversation with three self-advocates looking at positive and negative presentations of people with a diagnosis in television, film, theater, video games, and other media, with the goal of understanding and reducing stereotypes and stigma.



SCAN HERE



This virtual event featured a panel of experts who dug into Governor Shapiro's proposed state budget and discussed how it will impact the disability and mental health community in PA. Together we examined the various line items in these areas and looked at what is being spent, how it's being used, and what we can do to make it even better.



SCAN HERE

Previous Summits on the Web

You can also find materials from previous Summits, including programs and recorded sessions and keynote addresses by scanning this QR code.



SCAN HERE



Friday Schedule

9 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Keynote Speaker

Sara Innamorato, Allegheny Co. Executive

Join Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato and Allegheny County Department of Human Services Director Erin Dalton, for a discussion moderated by Rep. Miller about the county's approach to addressing the needs of residents across a spectrum of services. Introduction by Lt. Governor Austin Davis.

10 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Waivers 101: An Overview of ODP IA/A Waivers

Brian Dengler and Michele O'Toole

This presentation will cover the basics about ODP's Intellectual Disability and Autism (ID/A) Medicaid Waiver(s), will provide an overview of different types of waivers, including the Adult Autism waiver, the Consolidated waiver, the Person/Family Directed Support waiver, and the Community Living waiver. Learn who may be eligible, how eligibility is determined, what documentation is required and so much more.

Sufrin Chapel

Supporting the Mental Health Need of Veterans

State Senator Devlin Robinson and

Major General Tom Jones, USMC, Retired

Join us for a discussion led by veteran and state Sen. Devlin Robinson and Major General Tom Jones as we discuss how mental health services are provided in the service, how veterans are transitioned home in relation to mental health needs, how care is accessed, and what we can do to make sure that no veteran is left without the help they need.

Community Room

Navigating Technology in Mental Health Treatment

Christine Michaels and Joel Richard

The use of technology has opened the door to a lot of new options for mental health treatment – telehealth, therapy apps, mindfulness apps, virtual support groups, social media, etc. This presentation will discuss the variety of services that are available and the pros and cons of using them, including privacy and insurance coverage.

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11 a.m.

Main Sanctuary

Individual Advocacy and Systemic Change in Healthcare (CLE)

Matt Berwick and Monica Albert Still

Whether there are developmental, physical, mental, or intellectual needs, all disabled people need access to quality healthcare. This session will review how self-advocacy can lead to systems change, how healthcare systems can improve access to healthcare, and teach not only the strategies to utilize when accessing healthcare but how to empower your child to transition to self-advocacy.

Sufrin Chapel

Diagnosed as an Autistic Adult

Dr. Jessica Maher and Tessa Watkins

This session will explore how an adult diagnosis is reached, the ramifications of such a diagnosis, and what this diagnosis can mean to the individual. In addition to the professional perspective, this session will feature a self-advocate who will describe their journey as an autistic adult.

Community Room

The Provider Alliance Member Meeting

The Provider Alliance (TPA) is a dedicated community of inspired care, supporting agencies that support individuals and families with intellectual disabilities and autism (ID/A) across Pennsylvania. Join us for an informative session with our membership where we will cover the latest policy, budget, and service news affecting the ID/A community. This session will also serve as our annual Legislative Appreciation and ID/A Awareness Forum with our lawmakers and stakeholders from across the state and region.

1 p.m. Legislative Panel

Main Sanctuary

Mental Health Staffing 101: Building for the Needs of Tomorrow

Gretchen Kelly, Dr. Michelle Schein, and OMHSAS

Deputy Secretary Jennifer Smith

This session is designed to help legislators and attendees better understand the professional staffing that makes up our mental health system and where staffing shortfalls are today and tomorrow. We will discuss regulatory challenges and recruitment issues, pay and reimbursement impediments, student debt and other issues that need to be addressed for our state to move forward proactively on mental health.

2 p.m. Legislative Panel

Main Sanctuary

Disability and Mental Health Needs of Incarcerated People

Jason Beasom, Renee Madden, Leigh Owens,

Luciana Randall, Melinda Murphy, and Alec Wright, Esq.

This session will explore research and advocacy focused on the prevalence of mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, or cognitive impairment diagnoses in jails and prisons, what supports and programming exist, and what is still needed to ensure that the disability and mental health needs of those who are incarcerated are adequately met.

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Continuing Education

Forms available in the registration area – look for the continuing education sign

Act 48 Credits for Educators

All sessions are approved for Act 48 credits for educators through the AIU. A maximum of 10 credits can be earned at this Summit. Please remember to provide your seven-digit PPID number when completing your form. There is no cost to obtain these credits.

CEU Credits for Rehabilitation Counselors

All sessions are approved for credit through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and will satisfy CRC requirements of continuing education for rehabilitation counselors. A maximum of 10 credits can be earned at this Summit. There is no cost to obtain these credits.

CEU for Social Workers

All sessions are eligible for credit up to 11 hours for Social Workers at a cost of \$15 for NASW members and \$25 for non-members. NASW-PA Chapter is a co-sponsor of this workshop. NASW has been designated as a pre-approved provider of professional continuing education for social workers (Section 47.36), Marriage and Family Therapist (Section 48.36) and Professional Counselors (Section 49.36) by the PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.

CLE Credits for Attorneys

Select sessions (noted with CLE in the title) are approved for up to 7 credit hours – only \$1.50 per credit hour. Individuals will be responsible for completing and mailing all forms, along with the appropriate fee (payable to PACLE), to the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. The certification fee is \$1.50/credit hour or partial credit hour.

Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed during the Summit sessions are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of any entities we represent. All content is for informational purposes only, and no material presented is intended to be a substitute for professional advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who played a role in helping to plan the Disability & Mental Health Summit this year! Thanks to all the members of our Planning Committee, who spent months helping us shape this program to make it as impactful as possible. Also, we could not have made this event happen without the efforts of the many volunteers who offered to help; the many testifiers and speakers who shared their expertise with us, and our friends at Beth El for being so accommodating. Also, we are grateful to Joe Polk from Thirteen Ball, who volunteered his time to update and manage our website. There can be no doubt that all of these people and organizations helped my office to help others, and I am truly grateful for everyone's efforts.

