



# Targeting Autism for Libraries



This project is made possible in part by the IMLS and Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois State Library.

Illinois State Library ♦ Gwendolyn Brooks Building  
300 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701-1796  
May 17-18, 2018  
A G E N D A

## Thursday, May 17, 2018 – Day 1

- |            |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 a.m.     | <i>Registration</i>                                                                            | Coffee and Continental Breakfast available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8:30 a.m.  | <i>Welcoming Remarks</i>                                                                       | <b>Suzanne Schriar</b> , Associate Director, LAT, <a href="#">Targeting Autism Project</a> PI, Illinois State Library and <b>Russ Bonanno</b> , CEO of <a href="#">LifeDesigns, Inc.</a> , and Advisor for the Targeting Autism project.                                                         |
| 8:45 a.m.  | <i>Journey Into Autism Adulthood: Creative Insights &amp; Strategies for a Fulfilling Life</i> | <b>Susan Senator</b> , author, blogger, journalist, and educator will share her insights and strategies for living a fulfilling life as a parent of three sons, the oldest of whom is diagnosed with autism.                                                                                     |
| 9:45 a.m.  | <i>Break</i>                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:00 a.m. | <i>Librarians on the Spectrum: On Helping Make Libraries Inclusive</i>                         | <b>Gyasi Burks-Abbott, Stephanie Diorio, Erin Miller, Charlie Remy and Mitch Silverman.</b> Among the topics discussed, panel members will share their insights about how they promote positive change in the workplace and how libraries can improve the hiring process for people with autism. |
| 12:00 p.m. | <i>Lunch &amp; Grant Announcement</i>                                                          | Lunch & announcement of the 2018 “Autism Welcome Here” grant winners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1:00 p.m.  | <i>At the Intersection of Being Black, Female and Autistic</i>                                 | <b>Morénike Giwa Onaiwu</b> is a community advocate, writer, Christian, wife, mom, and educator. She is also a contributing author/editor of several publications, abstracts, and books focusing on community engagement, disability, diversity, and nontraditional leadership.                  |
| 2:00 p.m.  | <i>Building Community Engagement</i>                                                           | <b>Amanda Marti</b> , Community Advocate, will take forum participants through an interactive exercise in developing community needs assessments and establishing sustainable multi-stakeholder collaborations.                                                                                  |
| 3:00 p.m.  | <i>Break</i>                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3:15 p.m.  | <i>Autism &amp; Libraries in Ghana</i>                                                         | <b>Samuel Senyo Dogoe</b> , Executive Director of                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

Contemporary Consultancy Organization will share his efforts to create the first diagnostic/ treatment clinic and school to serve children with autism in the Volta Region.

4:15 p.m. *Debriefing: Opportunity for Diving Deeper*

**Participant led table talk** to share insights from the presentations and/or to discuss topics not addressed.

5:00 p.m. *Closing*

**Suzanne Schriar**

## Friday, May 18, 2018 – Day 2

- 8:15 a.m. *Welcome Day 2* **Suzanne Schriar**
- 8:30 a.m. *Journey to Adulthood on the Spectrum* **Kerry Magro**, best-selling author, national speaker, movie consultant and non-profit founder had a very uncertain future growing up. Diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) a form of autism, at age four, he was non-verbal and required countless hours of therapy and support. Kerry will discuss overcoming obstacles and provide tips for living a successful life on the spectrum.
- 9:30 a.m. *Advocating That All Be Served: the U.N., IFLA, A Survey and Library Service to People with Disabilities* **Nancy Bolt** has worked actively in the library profession for over 35 years. Nancy will share her research findings, her work with the International Federation of Libraries and Institutions (IFLA), and the United Nations and what it means for serving people with disabilities.
- 10:45 a.m. *Break*
- 11:00 a.m. *Autism & Libraries in Trinidad* **Sujin Huggins**, Associate Professor at Dominican University School of Information Studies will present on autism and library services in Trinidad.
- 12:00 p.m. *Lunch*
- 1:00 p.m. *Panel: Collaborative Models* **Holly Jin, Cathy Hoffman, Deb Sherrick, Kathy Claybaugh and Julie Ozier** will share how they have formed partnerships in their communities to enhance and expand library services to people with disabilities.
- 2:15 p.m. *Break*
- 2:30 p.m. *Where Do We Go From Here?* **Small group discussions** to assess and report on the impact of the forum(s) to create positive change in your library or other workplace. How will you share what you have learned? What will you do to ensure the sustainability and growth of this support network?
- 4:30 p.m. *Wrap-up* **Suzanne Schriar**