

Colleagues:

The Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) will host its 42nd Educational Conference and Expo October 11-13, 2017 at the recently renovated Crowne Plaza Springfield in our membership headquarters center - Springfield, Illinois. The IARF Education Committee is pleased to announce the opening of our process for selecting conference sessions.

The Call for Proposals for the IARF Conference is open and the submission deadline has been extended to May 25, 2017. You can access the proposal system by:

1. Visiting <https://www.firmems.com/iarf/>;
2. Logging in or creating an account;
3. Clicking on the IARF Conference button;
4. Completing the "My Profile" tab; and then
5. Submitting your summary under "my abstracts" tab.

Once your summary has been submitted, you will receive an email confirming that we have received your submission. Proposals selected for presentation will be notified by June 30, 2017.

A range of professionals attend the IARF Conference - front line staff serving children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (both DSPs and QIDPs); mental health professionals providing case management services; QMHPs assessing individuals with serious mental illnesses and providing treatment services and supports; human resource professionals, staff development directors, senior management, and executives. The IARF Conference draws a range of individuals working in community-based settings.

IARF's goal is to offer attendees a creative learning environment where they can increase skills, problem-solve, network and celebrate the work they do. The committee is looking for proposals that will accomplish the following:

- Provide relevant content for an audience with the range of responsibilities described above;
- Stretch current thinking and provide new approaches with specific "how-to" takeaways;
- Advance the use of data to achieve value-based outcomes and allow for agency benchmarking;
- Deliver content in an engaging and interactive way that draws on the experience of attendees; and
- Utilization of case studies and discussion of lessons learned from the experience.

2017 Session Focus Areas

Suggested focus areas are listed below but please don't limit your proposal by these suggestions. We are seeking the very best, most relevant, and most thought-provoking ideas pertinent to the profession and attendees. Our conference theme, "***Finding Focus***," should also guide your consideration of proposal submission.

2017 Presentation Focus

Research suggests that interactive sessions increase attendees' experience, opportunities to network with peers, and retention of the information that is presented. When submitting a proposal, please consider formatting your presentation for such interaction. We realize that not every subject is conducive to this presentation style so you should not be dissuaded from submitting a proposal if that is the case.

PEOPLE

Employees are an organization's most valuable resource. What are the newest trends in employee retention, training, interview techniques, skill development, flex scheduling, innovative benefit packages, efficiency, and other strategies to make the human services workplace thrive? How can agencies grow and retain a workforce in financially restricted environments?

PERFORMANCE

As more reimbursement models are based on value versus volume, it is increasingly important that organizations measure their performance – not just for government funders but for multiple payers that now are part of payment systems. Additionally, performance measures are important to track progress towards

organizational goals and demonstrating effectiveness in achieving outcomes to individuals and families. Interest will be strong for programs that discuss quality measurement and integration of quality throughout all levels of organizations.

PRACTICE

Innovative approaches to services and supports provided to persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders, dual diagnoses (DD/MI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), aging, and autism. The latest strategies for integration of services – into the community, into healthcare settings, into business settings – all would be of interest.

PURPOSE

Whether it's your organizational mission or your personal mission, we're in the fields we're in to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. This track will focus on topics such as how to overcome obstacles to achieving our missions and developing mission driven policies, procedures, training, and other practices.

PASSION

Presentation of methods to ignite employees' sense of fulfillment with the job they do are on target for this focus area. Increasingly, research and discussion on topics of burnout, lack of motivation, over-stimulation, and inability to say "no" appear in journals and business magazines. Sessions could focus on recognition, engagement, performance review, or organizational culture as examples.

Ignite Sessions

One of the highest rated sessions at recent conferences, Ignite Sessions are fast-paced and packed with information. If you are not familiar with Ignite, participants are given five minutes to speak about their ideas and professional passions, accompanied by 20 slides. Each slide is displayed for 15 seconds and then automatically advances. Want to see it in real time? Click [here](#). The Ignite motto is, "Enlighten me, but make it quick!" If you have a topic and you have the energy...this format is for you!

Submission Overview

You do not need to be a member of IARF to submit an abstract. Commercial content, product or service-related advertisements are not permitted. Session content must be educational. Please share this with other colleagues who may be interested in presenting!

Questions: Contact Rebecca Schnorf at rschnorf@firminc.com or call (217) 753-1190 ext. 160.

To enter a conference proposal, go to: <https://www.firmems.com/iarf/>.