



New York State Association  
of Day Service Providers

[www.nysadsp.org](http://www.nysadsp.org)



# 2024 Symposium *PROGRAM*

November 6th, 7th, and 8th 2024  
The Saratoga Hilton  
Saratoga Springs, New York



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WESTERN

# 04

## Symposium ESSENTIALS



### ABOUT THIS EVENT

Join us for the NYSADSP 2024 Symposium, a three-day in-person event that will take place from November 6th to November 8th at The Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, NY, USA. This symposium is a unique opportunity to connect with industry professionals, learn about the latest trends in the field, and share your insights and experiences. Don't miss out on this exciting event where you can expand your knowledge, network with like-minded individuals, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Saratoga Springs. Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable experience at the NYSADSP 2024 Symposium!



### SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

A 2024 Symposium Registration Form has been included in the email with this brochure. To register please email your completed registration form to Wendy Schoenfeld at [wschoenfeld@lifespire.org](mailto:wschoenfeld@lifespire.org) by October 1st, 2024.

Checks payable to:  
New York State Association of Day Service Providers

Mail payment to:  
NYSADSP  
1820 Lemoyne Ave.  
Syracuse, NY 13208



### ONLINE REGISTRATION:

CLICK HERE



### HOTEL REGISTRATION

To reserve a room at The Saratoga Hilton for the 2024 Symposium please click the link or scan the QR code below. For additional reservation questions please get in touch with the hotel directly by phone. The group rate expires October 1st, 2024 and a limited number of rooms are available under the group rate, so don't delay.



Saratoga Hilton  
534 Broadway  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



518.584.4000



Register Online:

CLICK HERE



# 05

## 2024 NYSADSP Symposium

### FLOOR MAPS

LOWER LEVEL PLAN



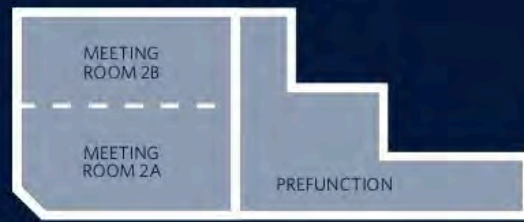
### KEY

- Full Service Restaurant
- Hotel Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Saratoga Springs City Center Rooms

2024 NYSADSP Symposium Sessions in these rooms.

Lunch on Thursday, 11/7 in Saratoga Ballroom.

SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY CENTER UPPER LEVEL PLAN



# 06

## Agenda *OF THE SYMPOSIUM*

JOIN  
US!

Wednesday  
November 6th | 2024

11:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Conference Check-In/ Registration

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Session I

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM  
Session II

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
Session III

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Please join fellow attendees in the 534 Bistro to connect and discuss the day's sessions. One complimentary beverage on behalf of NYSADSP. Cash bar available as well.

**Enjoy a complimentary  
beverage (soda, beer, or wine)  
on behalf of NYSADSP  
in the 534 Bistro.**

*One drink token per person provided  
at registration.*

Thursday  
November 7th | 2024

09:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
Continental Breakfast available in the Saratoga Foyer/vendor area.

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Welcome and Awards Presentation

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM  
Keynote Consuelo Senior

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Lunch in the Saratoga Ballroom

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Session I

# 07

## Agenda *OF THE SYMPOSIUM*

Thursday  
November 7th | 2024

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM  
Session II

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

All Symposium attendees are invited to join us for the Trade Show Reception and Raffles in the Saratoga Foyer/Vendor area. Light hors d'oeuvres are available. Use the complimentary beverage tickets provided at check-in/registration.

Two 1-night stays at The Hilton Saratoga to be raffled!  
(Must be present to win)

Friday  
November 8th | 2024

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast available in the Saratoga Foyer/Vendor area.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Session I

Thank you!

**WORC**  **FORCE**

Building Confidence. Finding Purpose.

WORC Force is a multi-purpose, community-based center that helps people of all abilities master in-demand skills for the workplace and beyond. Our goal is to give every individual who desires it the opportunity to discover their passion, find purpose, and cultivate talents they never knew they had or could develop into a fulfilling career.

NYSADSP extends its heartfelt gratitude to WORC Force for their incredibly generous donation of an iPad, which will be raffled off to one fortunate recipient at this year's Symposium!



# 08

## 2024 Awards Presentation

*THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH*

*9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

### *LEADERSHIP AWARD*

The Leadership Award is for those who provide direct supervision of Direct Support Professionals. It is awarded to leaders who have provided strong and consistent leadership for direct support staff and exemplifies these qualities consistently.

### *DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR*

The Direct Support Professional of the Year Award is for those staff who provide direct support services for individuals in some capacity. It is awarded to DSPs who have demonstrated exemplary performance over the course of his/her employment, and who have been dedicated to assuring quality and promoting independence.

### *INNOVATION GRANTS*

Every year NYSADSP awards grants to provider members who submit proposals that will be used to develop new creative programming ideas that exemplify quality programming and identify best practices. Innovation Grant winners are asked to present or host a vendor table at the Annual Symposium to share these unique ideas with other providers who can also utilize these ideas in their own programs.





# 09

## 2024 Award Recipients

### *LEADERSHIP AWARDS*

Patricia DiScenza  
Liberty Arc



Shavonna Holman  
Abilities First



Sharon Morris  
YAI



Roxann Murphy  
Lifespire



Tara Paquette  
The Arc of Monroe



Casey Scharett  
The Arc of Ontario



# 10

## 2024 Award Recipients

### *DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARDS*

John DeFrancisci  
ACLD



Jared Drew  
SUS Inc.



Giuseppe DePalma  
Arc of Westchester



Colleen Sondel  
People Inc.



Jason Schwartz  
Exceptional Family Resources



Mark Spencer  
JM Murray



11

# 2024 Award Recipients

## *INNOVATION AWARDS*

Achieve



AHRC NYC



Center for Disability Services



Liberty Arc



Mozaic



SUS Inc.



# 12

## Wednesday, November 6th

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Jessica  
*FRANCESE*

Director of Day Services

[jfrancese@cpofnys.org](mailto:jfrancese@cpofnys.org)

Ryan  
*LYNCH*

Associate Director of  
Job Development

[rlynch@cpofnys.org](mailto:rlynch@cpofnys.org)

### 1. Kindful Movement and Peer Companion

Kindful Movement by Limitless Health Institute (LHI) is a movement expression that fits each person supported in day hubs' intellectual, emotional, and physical disabilities and capacity. The emphasis in Kindful Movement is to develop a Kindful daily movement practice that helps the body and mind refresh and recharge at any time. Creative movement sessions during program hours incorporate traditional adaptive yoga asanas, and dance techniques, that are performed with focus on empathy and compassion towards self and others.

As part of our SEMP program, the Peer Companion allows for persons supported by CP Unlimited to be trained and work with people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within the agency.

Currently, one of the Peer Companions works in one of CP Unlimited's ICF in Queens, and he escorts individuals who use wheelchairs to area stores, parks, libraries, and other settings of individuals choices for joyous events and daily experiences.

The other individual works at CP Unlimited's Day Hab Without Walls setting working with fellow participants with their vocational skills during program hours.

\*\* these presentations split into 30 minute blocks (Peer Companion & Mindful Movement)

CP Unlimited & Peer Companions



Saima  
*MANZAR*

Self-Direction/Fiscal  
Intermediary Coordinator

[smanzar@familyres.org](mailto:smanzar@familyres.org)

### 2. Self-Direction: Ensuring Quality of Service Provision

This presentation will address the human connection in a virtual world and importance of maintaining relationships with Self-Direction participants, Self-hired staff, and families while offering quality services to each person.

Family Residence and Essential Enterprises Inc.

# 13

Wednesday, November 6th  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM



### 3. Creativity Without Limits: Empowerment Through Volunteerism & The Arts

Ken  
*REEDY*

Supervisor of  
Curriculum & Workforce  
Development

Kenneth.Reedy@YAI.ORG

Laurie  
*SILVER*

DSP-2

laurie.silver@YAI.ORG

We have embraced a creativity curriculum for people with disabilities designed to foster artistic expression and skill development, led by dedicated volunteer instructors. Participants explore various art forms, including painting, music, photography and drama, tailored to accommodate diverse abilities and interests. Volunteer instructors bring their own expertise to support and inspire each person we support, ensuring an inclusive and engaging learning environment. The program emphasizes personal growth, self-confidence, and the joy of creative discovery. Ultimately, it aims to empower individuals with disabilities to express themselves artistically and connect with their community through the transformative power of the arts. This training will explore the arts, the benefits and creating new exciting avenues for community inclusion.

Participants in this training will learn about the benefits of teaching different art forms, how to network in the community and the skills that can be taught through the prism of different art forms.

YAI



# 14

Wednesday, November 6th  
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM



Engelic  
*EVERETT*

Author

engelicwriter@gmail.com

People Inc.

#### 4. My Journey

Author Engelic Everett, will take the audience through her inspiring journey and the many roles she has fulfilled including entrepreneur, a playwright and author.



John

*GALLAGHER*

Senior Director of  
Community Services

jgallagher@familyres.org

#### 5. Innovations in Vocational Programming

In my presentation I will discuss the many creative strategies we have implemented in our vocational programs that allow us to provide an enriching and holistic experience to our participants, while still heavily focusing on their skill development. Our goal is to ensure that the people that we support are engaged in their learning while they focus on their goal of obtaining employment that is gainful, meaningful, and integrated. We strive to keep the opportunities that we offer fresh and exciting, while also considering the wants and interests of those we serve. Our collaborative efforts and synergy between staff and participants are a guiding light for us, and it leads the way in providing the most fulfilling experience possible.

Family Residence and Essential Enterprises Inc.

# 15

Wednesday, November 6th  
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM



Laurie  
*SILVER*

DSP-2  
laurie.silver@YAI.ORG

Ken  
*REEDY*

Supervisor of Curriculum  
& Workforce Development  
Kenneth.Reedy@YAI.ORG

Madelyn  
*TOLEDO*

DSP-2  
madelyn.toledo@YAI.ORG

YAI

## 6. Unique Boutique: An Out of the Box Approach to Employment Skills

Participants will learn about the process used to develop a Craft Boutique in a Day Habilitation Program and how it was developed from the entrepreneurial program developed over a year ago. They will see images of the dedicated space that allows the people we support to learn retail skills while also building independence and confidence. Participants will see the development of this Boutique from the ground up and understand the process in which we created this supportive, learning environment that also focuses on their individual creative passions.



Consuelo (Connie)  
*SENIOR*

Asst. Director of YAI Knowledge  
Mental Health Clinician  
connie.senior@YAI.org

YAI

## 7. Don't Count The Days, Make the Days Count": The Mental Wellness Continuum.

These famous words uttered by Muhammed Ali, resonates especially in this post pandemic, post quarantine era. When you make every day count, your life takes on a new quality and this becomes contagious in life and work. Wellness is a process and exists on a continuum. The mental health continuum is a tool that helps us to be proactive and intentional about our wellbeing, moving through the stages of Drowning, Struggling, Surviving to Performing and Thriving; a state of optimal wellbeing. Mental wellness is a resource. Mental wellness can mitigate mental illness.

# 16

Wednesday, November 6th  
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Elizabeth  
*PAGEDAS*

Coordinator of  
Accessibility & Assistive  
Technology

[elizabeth.pagedas@heartshare.org](mailto:elizabeth.pagedas@heartshare.org)

Will  
*GREEN*

Director of Arts  
Programming

[will.green@heartshare.org](mailto:will.green@heartshare.org)

## 8. Arts, Access and Innovation

We are on a path of revolutionizing our programs to prioritize accessibility and hopeful to make a societal impact as well. By focusing on user experience and human centered design we look to cultivate empowerment, inside and outside of the agency. We have partnered with students and faculty from institutions including The Ability Project NYU and Tandon Engineering programs to bring in an additional clinical and design focus/tech application. Our goal is to re-imagine services, programming, devices, and environments that align with the social model of disability (defining disability by societally constructed barriers instead of a medical diagnosis). This personalized, human experience is integral to any design process and must be implemented from inception through the development and physical creation of spaces, tools, and art. We need to establish that access is not a box to be checked for the sake of compliance, it's human right. Universal design (the design of buildings, products or environments to make them accessible to people, regardless of age, disability or other factors) and the social model of disability are ideological cornerstones of our collaborations. Our goal: to examine environments, products, and services and encourage society to design "with" instead of "for". We are actively seeking to spark dialogue and encourage further conversation about these ideas with other service providers, inviting all to be a part of this process and ultimately, the larger movement. This partnership with NYU is one piece of a larger collaboration between entities to build pathways to accessibility, community, and engagement.

HeartShare



# 17

Wednesday, November 6th  
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Office for  
People With  
Developmental  
Disabilities

Brian  
*O'DONNELL*

Statewide Director Bureau  
of Program Certification

Brian.ODonnell@opwdd.ny.gov

OPWDD

## 9. OPWDD Updates

OPWDD Presenter will discuss the HCBS standards and regulatory updates.



Mike  
*HOLLIS*

Vice President of  
Community Food Security

mholllis@sus.org

Services for the Underserved

## 10. Urban Farms: Agriculture as a Pathway for Employment & Community Integration

This presentation will provide an overview of urban agriculture as an integrated service program for the people we support, drawing from the experience of Services for the UnderServed's award-winning Urban Farms Program as a case study.

# 18

## Key Note Speaker

*THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH*

*10:45 AM - 11:45 AM*



### *CONSUELO SENIOR, LMSW, CSE, MACM*

Ms. Senior has over 27 years of experience working in the field of neurodevelopmental disabilities and mental health. Ms. Senior brings vast experience from the following areas within the field; psychotherapist, international consultant, staff trainer, curriculum and program developer, case manager, administrator, educator, and dynamic conference speaker. Ms. Senior has trained and developed curricula for a wide range of topics of importance to the disability field and is certified in areas of Sexuality, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Schema Therapy, Grief and Loss. In addition, she has trained extensively on Dual Diagnosis-(MH & I/DD), Aging, Dementia/Alzheimer, Professional Development, Leadership, Effective Teaching, Supporting People with Profound Disabilities and Complex Needs, Diversity and Inclusion, Emotional Intelligence and Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset. Ms. Senior practices both group and individual psychotherapy (18 years). Ms. Senior is an Adjunct Professor at City College of New York (9 years) and an educator for 35 years. Ms. Senior has presented at numerous conferences and workshops and consulted nationally and internationally, the most recent in South Korea and Saudi Arabia. Ms. Senior has presented at symposiums, webinars, radio programs and panel discussions as an expert Mental Health Clinician as well as a sexuality expert and a disability expert. Ms. Senior is an agency (YAI) representative to the United Nation's Economic and Social Council and has presented at UN side events in the US and South Korea. Ms. Senior is published in The Autism Spectrum News. Ms. Senior is also a contributor to the UNFPA published International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out of School Comprehensive Sexuality Education. She also has been cited/featured in training materials for the state Office for People with Developmental Disabilities-Workforce Transformation, the New York University Review of Law & Social Change, Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, Broadly VICE Magazine, The Atlantic Magazine, and other publications.

### *EMPLOYING THE TENETS OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND EMBRACE CHANGE.*

Relationships are the basis for life. This talk will navigate through 5 strategies that will help you to build stronger relationships, beginning with the relationship with self; increase productivity personally and professionally and turn intention into action. Being able to better handle emotions gives you the ability to guide, motivate and help people. Most importantly it helps you to be happier and more successful. The more positive you feel, the more productive you are and the better able you are at embracing change. Change is the only constant in life. When change is necessary, not to change is destructive. Are you allowing yourself to become hostage to your emotions?

## Thursday, November 7th 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM



### 11. Transition Academy; Road to Independence and Employment

The Arc of Westchester will provide an overview of their Supported Employment services and provide information on the Transition Academy and its unique components.

Jacie  
*FEUER*

Transition Services  
Director

[ijfeuer@arcwestchester.org](mailto:ijfeuer@arcwestchester.org)

Shari  
*LEWITT*

Director of Career  
Development & Supports

[slewitt@arcwestchester.org](mailto:slewitt@arcwestchester.org)

Arc Westchester



Christina  
*ABBINANTI*

Senior Vice  
President

[cabbinanti@lifesworc.org](mailto:cabbinanti@lifesworc.org)

Grace  
*CHIANG*

Director of Day Services  
[gchiang@lifesworc.org](mailto:gchiang@lifesworc.org)

Life's Worc

### 12. Color Wars

Color Wars is a day designed for the day habilitation participants across all programs to get together to compete against each other in fun activities that will encourage teamwork, communication, social experiences and most importantly fun! In this presentation, the audience will be inspired to create their own version of Color Wars and take part in games.

# 20

Thursday, November 7th  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM



Sarah

*SORCI*

Therapeutic Gardening  
Facilitator

ssorci@aspirewny.org

Michelle

*FOTI*

Coordinator of Day  
Service Opportunities

mfoti@aspirewny.org

Aspire of WNY

### 13. Therapeutic Gardening at Aspire

This presentation will offer an inside look at the Beautiful Blooms Garden Program at Aspire of WNY. The audience will learn strategies that work well for their 20+ Day Hab participants, as well as limitations they creatively work around. The presenters will spotlight adaptive gardening infrastructure that the NYSADSP Innovations Grant has provided for the program, plus other beneficial tools. For those interested in incorporating gardening into Day Hab programming, Sarah and Michelle will share tips for acquiring donations of seeds, plants, garden amendments, and more.



Diane

*SALOME*

Art Studio and  
Community Coordinator  
salome-diaz@acld.org

Frenal

*MEZILAS*

Team Coordinator  
frenal-mezilas@acld.org

Adults & Children with Learning  
& Developmental Disabilities

### 14. Sensory Art Masterpieces

Creating art within our programs is a wonderful way of expression. Over years of running an art studio program and working with different levels of ability, we have touched upon so many mediums of art. Many of our attendees enjoy the sensory and tactile forms of art and experimentation. In this hands-on workshop we will share 2 easy projects you can bring back to your program or to teach your DSPs to incorporate into some fun creative days!

# 21

Thursday, November 7th  
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM



Tom  
*ESS*

Senior Vice President  
tess@people-inc.org

People Inc.

## 15. Addressing Threats in the Workplace

This presentation will use the case study method to review actual threats that have occurred in the workplace of human service agencies. Participants will be given the ability to engage with these scenarios and work through the best possible method for mitigating the concerns. The presenter will lead the group through best practices using his experience in law enforcement and threat assessment. Participants will be more prepared to handle active threats in the workplace using a risk based approach and a trauma informed method.



Sonji  
*PHILIPS*

Principal & CEO

Ilia  
*KARANADZE*

Training Coordinator

Briason  
Associates

## 16. Mastering the Craft of Workforce Development: Developing an Effective Training Curriculum for Employees

This one-hour training session is specifically designed for management-level employees responsible for overseeing care providers of individuals with developmental disabilities. The program focuses on equipping agency leaders with effective strategies and tools to train their personnel, ensuring that staff are well-prepared to deliver high-quality, empathetic care.

# 22

Thursday, November 7th  
2:45PM - 3:45 PM



Angelo  
*GRISAFI*

Recreation Assistant  
angelo.grisafi@ddiny.org

## 17. 3D Printing Innovations

During this presentation the audience will learn about the benefits of 3d printing classes and the positive impacts that they have had with the participants involved. During class participants are taught how to use the 3d printing software to design and create anything from vases for our luncheons to id badge holders for new staff orientation.

Developmental Disabilities Institute



Donna  
*CELARDO*

Senior Director of Day, Clinical,  
& Community Services  
celardod@acld.org

Jeanne  
*CHELIUS*  
Assistant Director  
Day Services  
cheliusj@acld.org

Patrick  
*CLASSEN*  
Content Creator from-Besser Rooms  
classenp@acld.org

## 18. Immersive Room Experience

This presentation will describe how ACLD collaborated with a content creator to blend our knowledge of developmental disabilities and sensory modalities to create various virtual experiences. It will describe what an immersive room is, and what it can do. It will include hands on demonstrations of its use. Participants will be transported to a serene beach at sunrise, with the gentle sound of waves and the warmth of the sun on your skin, experience racing down winding roads in a sports car or navigating the open sea in a boat. Presentation participants will learn that whether a person is on the Autism spectrum, seeking therapy for someone with Alzheimer's, or a person has physical challenges how an immersive room can unlock boundaries and make dreams a reality.

ACLD

## Friday, November 8th 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM



Julia  
*KELLY*

Director, Employment &  
Meaningful Community Activities

Julia.kelly@opwdd.ny.gov

OPWDD

### 19. OPWDD Updates

OPWDD Presenters will provide updates and discussion on employment, creative work readiness and the continuum of services.

James  
*MACNAUGHTON*

Statewide Coordinator, Day and Community Services  
Employment and Meaningful Community Activities Unit  
Service Access, Program Implementation and Stakeholder Support

James.macnaughton@opwdd.ny.gov



Ken  
*REEDY*

Supervisor of Curriculum  
& Workforce Development

Kenneth.Reedy@YAI.org

YAI

### 20. The Zombie Uprising-An Inclusive Filmmaking Adventure

"How do we make a movie with people like us...they don't make movies with people like us" As this statement from one of the people we support hung in the air, all of us knew we HAD to make this movie! No prior filmmaking experience and yet we were determined to make this happen. This presentation will show one dayhab's journey from classroom to the big screen. Our presentation showcases the journey of creating a zombie movie led by talented individuals with disabilities and their amazing staff. This unique project highlights the importance of inclusion in the film industry, emphasizing creativity and collaboration. Ultimately, this project demonstrates how diversity and inclusion can lead to innovative and compelling storytelling, breaking barriers and redefining what's possible in day hab when you embrace a vision.

# Thank You to Our 2024 Symposium Planning Committee Members

*CHRISTINA  
ABBINANTI  
LIFE'S WORC*

*STEPHANIE  
BERTA,  
PEOPLE INC.*

*MANDY  
BOYD,  
ARC MADISON-  
CORTLAND*

*DALINDA  
CACERES,  
ARC  
WESTCHESTER*

*NANCY  
CHAMPLIN,  
CENTER FOR  
DISABILITY  
SERVICES*

*BRUCE  
DRAKE,  
EXCEPTIONAL  
FAMILY  
RESOURCES*

*KAREN  
GANDOLFO,  
CENTER FOR  
DISABILITY  
SERVICES*

*MICHELLE  
GREENLAY,  
EXCEPTIONAL  
FAMILY  
RESOURCES*

*LINDSEY  
ROSENBERG,  
PEOPLE INC.*

*WENDY  
SCHOENFELD,  
LIFESPIRE*

*MEGAN  
WOODS,  
MOZAIC*

*HEATHER  
ZEINER,  
EXCEPTIONAL  
FAMILY  
RESOURCES*

## Interested in Joining the 2025 Symposium Planning Committee?

The NYSADSP is currently seeking interested parties to participate in the  
2025 Symposium Planning Committee.

Planning begins in March of each year. Meetings are held virtually and occur monthly  
for the first 4-5 months and gradually increase to bi-weekly, and then weekly as  
the symposium date draws closer.

Connect with one of NYSADSP's current planning committee members or a Board  
Member to find out how to get involved in next year's symposium!



Thank  
You

**On behalf of the NYSADSP Board of Directors and the  
2024 Symposium Planning Committee, we would like  
to thank you for attending this year's symposium.**



New York Association of Day Service Providers

1820 Lemoyne Avenue

Syracuse, NY 13208

[www.nysadsp.org](http://www.nysadsp.org)