

IDD & IA Handout 2

2019 WV FAMILIES CONFERENCE

SUMMARY



The 2019 Families Conference has been another success. Not counting vendors, speakers and committee members, we had over 112 individuals in attendance. Conference provided Respite/Activity Center for individuals with disabilities to allow parents and family members to attend various sessions.

Friday night was our kick-off with registration, live music, and pizza. Families were able to wind down after their travels across the state to the Resort at Glade Springs.

Saturday sessions started off with our Keynote Speaker, Steve Wiseman, Executive Director of the WV Developmental Disabilities Council who talked about this history of Family Support and the need of inclusion in our society.

There were 10 different breakout sessions: The first break out session included Support Decision Making (BBH), Assisted Technology (WVU CED), Employment (DRS). The second breakout sessions after lunch includes Positive Support for Parents/Caregivers (WVUCED), ABA: Autism Services (WVU CED), and Employment Incentives (WVU CED). The third breakout sessions included WVABLE Account (WV Treasurer's Office), IDD Waiver Program (KEPRO), Autism Services (WV Autism Training Center), Self-Advocacy: People First (Arc of WV). The last session was a panel session with Vendors and Speakers to answer individuals' questions and concerns.

After Dinner, Families enjoyed time at the Recreation Center to swim, bowl or play basketball. The families and Conference organizers were able to sit back and relax and talk with each other. Sunday morning, we closed with Breakfast, final words and several door prizes donated by various places and people.

Several new friendships were made, and old ones reunited during this wonderful weekend of learning and networking. Many in attendance stated they looked forward to next years conference.