

# ACCESS NOW! COMMUNITY ORGANIZING SUMMIT



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017**

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT

Location: 634 S. Spring Street, First Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

## Agenda

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| 9:00 a.m. | <b>Check In and Mingle</b><br>Participants can meet one another, enjoy some morning refreshments, pick up their materials and find out their geographic huddle assignment. |
| 9:30 a.m. | <b>Welcome and Summit Kick Off (Large Group)</b><br><i>Presented by</i><br><i>Cynde Soto, Communities Actively Living Independent and Free</i>                             |

*Ted Jackson, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers*

*Jeanette Heitman, Service Center for Independent Life*

The summit will begin by then reviewing the agenda and collectively develop our summit ground-rules. Participants will sit in their geographic huddles for a team building exercise and plan their priorities for the day.

10:00 a.m.

**Guest Speaker: The Media and Disability in the Season of Resistance** (Large Group)

*Presented by*

*Liz Plank, VOX Media*

*Via Skype*

The Summit will kick off with guest speaker Liz Plank, senior producer and correspondent at VOX Media and contributor on both CNN and MSNBC. After speaking about her reporting on disability civic engagement, Liz will engage participants in an interactive discussion on coverage of disability advocacy in the media.

10:30 a.m.

**Morning Session: Protecting Our Healthcare and Independence** (Large Group)

*Presented by*

*Merrill Friedman, Anthem, Inc.*

*Patrick Cokley, Anthem, Inc.*

*Sharon Lewis, Health Management Associates*

Healthcare and LTSS advocacy requires navigating a changing and complex landscape in terms of policy, funding and politics. Participants will learn how to analyze the current healthcare debate, get in on the conversation and be a part of impacting change in three parts: 1) Focus on current trends and policies affecting healthcare, Independent Living, and Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS); 2) Review of important proposals and legislation including the Disability Integration Act; and 3) How to effectively work in coalition, use data and share information with stakeholders to move them towards action.

12:00 p.m.

**Break**

*Accessible restrooms are available on the first floor.*

- 12:15 p.m.      **Lunch** (Large Group)  
*Facilitated by*  
*Elizabeth Campbell, Dayle McIntosh Center*  
Lunch will be available for pick up in the lobby.
- 12:30 p.m.      **Lunch Presentation: Becoming Real in 24 Days**  
*Presented by*  
*Hollynn D'lil, Author of "Becoming Real in 24 Days"*  
Participants will learn about the planning and execution of the 504 Protest, one the disability community's most significant protest successes in American history.
- 1:15 p.m.      **Break**  
*Accessible restrooms are available on the first floor. Please return for your afternoon breakout session by 1:30 p.m.*
- 1:30 p.m.      **Afternoon Sessions** (Breakouts)
- Protecting the ADA**  
*Presented by*  
*Patricia Barbosa, Esq., Barbosa Group Civil Rights Litigation*  
*Hollynn D'lil, Accessibility Consultant and Author of "Becoming Real in 24 Days"*  
This session will begin by exploring efforts in California to delay justice and access civil rights for people with disabilities in the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws. Participants will learn how they can organize against these efforts to protect and expand access rights. In the second half of the session participants will discuss the advocacy history with the California State Architect's Office and updates on measures to erode physical access. Then they will train on action plans to organize for upcoming opportunities to engage decision-makers and take action to protect access in California.
- Organizing with Transition Age Youth**  
*Presented by*

*Christina Mills, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers*

*Jessica Jimenez, YO! (Youth Organized) Disabled and Proud*

Independent Living Centers have an opportunity to engage and introduce youth with disability to the positives of disability community and culture. Organizing youth specific activities is one of many ways to get youth to your ILC. Together we will discuss existing campaigns that make it easier to build different size youth specific events that you are comfortable with in your local community. Participants will work together to develop a strategy that engages youth in time for National Disability Mentoring Day.

3:00 p.m.

**Break**

*Accessible restrooms are available on the first floor. Please return for your afternoon breakout session by 3:15 p.m.*

3:15 p.m.

**Closing Session (Large Group)**

*Facilitated by*

*Summit Huddle Leaders*

*Ted Jackson, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers*

After a day of learning, discussing and exploring priority issues and action plans for creating greater access, participants will re-group in their huddles for sharing. Then each huddle will give report-outs to the large group and claiming their commitments. The day will finish by engaging a facilitated discussion on how to bring home what they learned at the summit and implement it into their advocacy plans.

4:00 p.m.

**Adjourn: Thank You and Farewell!**

## Speaker Biographies

### Guest Speaker

#### **Liz Plank, VOX Media, CNN, MSNBC**

*The Media and Disability in the Season of Resistance 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*



Liz is a senior producer and correspondent at Vox Media where she is host and creator of an upcoming video series and podcast. She is also the host of an award-winning series about the presidential election called *2016ish* where she interviewed important figures such as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Michael Moore, Hope Solo and Senator Murphy. Liz is amongst *Mediaite's 2016 Most Influential in the News Media*, and presented a TedxTalk, *How to Be a Man: A Woman's Guide*. In 2016 she developed a specific focus on voters with disabilities and featured members of the DOnetwork in work, since then she has been focusing on the disability community space for important national political issues. Prior to Vox, she was a Senior Correspondent at *Mic* and co-creator of *Flip The Script*, an award-winning weekly video series confronting social issues. In 2015, she was a correspondent for *MSNBC's Krystal Clear* and was named one of *Forbes' 30 Under 30 in Media*. She regularly appears on national and international television programs to provide a perspective on politics, gender issues, and reproductive rights, including *The Today Show*, *The Daily Show*, *MSNBC*, *Fox News*, *ABC News*, *CNN*, *Fusion*, *Al-Jazeera American* and *BBC World*. Before working as a journalist, Liz was a research assistant and behavioral science consultant at the London School of Economics, from which she holds a master's degree in policy with an emphasis in global gender politics.

## **Trainers and Facilitators**

*Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Name*

### **Patricia Barbosa, Esq., Barbosa Group Civil Rights Litigation**

*Protecting the ADA 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Breakout)*

Patricia Barbosa is an experienced civil rights attorney who has specialized in disability rights for the last 29 years. As a federal trial attorney, Patricia Barbosa started her career as a deputy attorney general with the California Attorney General's Office, before enforcing the ADA with private lawsuits. As counsel for the California Building and Standards Commission, the Division of State Architect, and the Historic Building Commission, she has firsthand knowledge of how public participation can promote civil rights for persons with disabilities. She is an expert in federal and state law and with government agencies charged with removing barriers and eliminating discrimination. An experienced trial attorney, Patricia Barbosa has brought major cases against cities and counties, private and public universities and iconic public accommodations such as, the Queen Mary, The Honda Center, the Rose Parade, Dancing with the Stars, the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, the Dr. Phil Show and LA County Fair. Barbosa Group obtained the highest damages award by a jury under the Unruh Act for a single incident of discrimination--\$160,000. Recently, Barbosa Group has filed lawsuits to require colleges to provide accessible educational software for blind students. She also works to enforce the FHA, FEHA for housing discrimination against disabled persons

### **Patrick Cokley, Disability Policy Engagement Manager, Anthem, Inc.**

*Protecting Our Healthcare and Independence 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

*(Large Group)*



Patrick Cokley is the Disability Policy Engagement Manager at Anthem Inc. In his role, he supports Anthem's continued

engagement and communication with stakeholders on issues related to disability and provides guidance on how changes in legislation and policy may affect care for individuals with disabilities. Prior to joining Anthem, Mr. Cokley worked at the U.S. Department of Labor, where he served as Director of the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) at the Office of Disability Employment Policy. The WRP works with colleges and universities to connect students with disabilities to an opportunity for Federal employment. In addition, Patrick was an Employer Policy Advisor in the Office of Disability Employment Policy where he provided in depth analysis on current public policy, policy priorities, policy development, and policy coordination of topics concerning employers and the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workplace.

### **HolLynn D'Lil, Author and Accessibility Consultant**

*Lunch Presentation: Becoming Real in 24 Days 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*(Large Group)*

*Protecting the ADA 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Breakout)*



Since 1981, HolLynn D'Lil has worked to shape access regulations, including the first California accessibility standards for public accommodations, historical buildings, and housing. She has participated on committees for The U.S. Access Board, The National Fire Protection Association, the California Secretary of State, the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the State Fire Marshall and served as a member of the State Historical Building and Safety Board. She is a member of the board of Designing Accessible Communities. Her publications include articles in *Ms Magazine*, *Mainstream Magazine*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, *Sacramento Magazine*, *The Santa Rosa Press Democrat* and *The Orange County Architect*. She is the author of *Becoming Real in 24 Days*, <http://becomingrealin24days.com/> and a main contributor to the "Patient No More" exhibit sponsored by San Francisco State University Paul K. Longmore Institute. She is the recipient of numerous awards,

including the 2017 National Council on Independent Living Advocate of the Year award. Currently she is the President of the Graton Green Group and was elected to the Board of Directors of the Graton Community Services District in 2013, serving through 2016.

**Merrill Friedman, Senior Director, Disability Policy Engagement, Anthem, Inc.**

*Protecting Our Healthcare and Independence 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
(Large Group)*



Merrill leads the Disability Policy Engagement team and advocacy strategy for Anthem and its affiliate health plans. She works collaboratively with consumers, advocates and stakeholders to ensure the diverse interests and preferences of older adults, individuals with disabilities, inform Anthem's health benefits approaches and health care programs. Ms. Friedman advances the integration of the independent living philosophy, principles of self-determination and the National Advisory Board (NAB) on Improving Health Care Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities' six foundational principles throughout programs, individual interactions and business practices. In addition, she leads strategic partnerships with national and local organizations to advance the development of inclusive public policy. Her extensive experience in program development, strategy, new business growth and operations management informs the innovation and development of HCBS.

## **Jeanette Heitman, Systems Change Advocate, Service Center for Independent Life**

*Welcome and Summit Kick Off 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Large Group)*



Jeanette Heitmann came to Service Center for Independent Life (SCIL) as a volunteer and worked her way to Independent Living Specialist. Three years ago, she also became SCIL's Systems Change Advocate organizing for greater accessibility. She is also a member of the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters' Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee and advocates for homeless persons as well as parolees and probationers striving toward re-entry.

## **Ted Jackson, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers Summit Organizer and Facilitator**



Ted Jackson recently returned to California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) as the Community Organizing Consultant. He worked for CFILC for nearly five years as the Community Organizing Director and leading the Disability Organizing Network. As a disability advocate in California Ted is most proud of the successful collaboration in the DOnetwork to increase access to voter education materials and online voter registration, redesign the Bay Area Rapid Transit's new train cars, and accessibility for outreach at Covered California. He was appointed to serve on the California

Secretary of State's Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee by both Secretary Debra Bowen and Secretary Alex Padilla, where he worked on the development of the Voters' Choice Act (SB 450). In 2016, Ted moved to Washington, D.C. to return to electoral politics, serving as the ADA and Disability Community Engagement Specialist for the Democratic National Convention Committee. Following the convention, he served as the National Director of Disability Community Engagement for the Democratic National Committee and Hillary For America Victory 2016. Prior to working in disability advocacy and policy, Ted became a known LGBTQ activist working on gay rights and marriage equality campaigns across the nation including No on Prop 8 in California (2008) and the successful Repeal Article XII campaign in Ohio (2004). Since the 2016 election Ted has kept active volunteering with the DNC's Disability Caucus, and working with the Women's March, the Equality March for Unity and Pride, the March for Racial Justice, and the Mass-Based Resistance Coalition for electoralizing the Resistance Movement.

**Jessica Jimenez, YO! (Youth Organized) Disabled and Proud**  
*Organizing with Transition Age Youth 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Breakout)*



Jessica Jimenez, from California. 2014 California State University, Long Beach Graduate with a Dual Degree in the Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Disability, Reproductive and Environmental Advocate. Former Youth Caucus Chair for the National Council on Independent Living, Alumni for YO! Disabled and Proud & 2016 *Young People For* Fellow. 2016 and 2017 Disability Ambassador for the World Institute on Disability. Women's Caucus Co-Chair for the National Council on Independent Living. Self Advocate Advisory Committee board member for the Special Hope Foundation. In her free time, she enjoyed going to comedy shows, binge watching Netflix, dancing and playing the ukulele. Jessica has epilepsy and a learning disability.

**Sharon Lewis, Principal, Health Management Associates**

*Protecting Our Healthcare and Independence 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
(Large Group)*



Sharon Lewis is a nationally lauded expert in disability policy spanning home and community-based services (HCBS), education, employment, independent living supports, and person-centered services. At HMA, she works with federal partners, states, providers and consumer advocates to advance opportunities for people with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of community, across the lifespan. Sharon is a collaborator and consensus builder with a natural ability to put policy into practical perspective. Sharon has served in presidentially appointed leadership roles at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) including principal deputy administrator of the Administration for Community Living, senior disability policy advisor to the HHS Secretary, and commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She also has extensive experience on Capitol Hill as a senior disability policy advisor to the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor and as a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families.

**Christina Mills, Deputy Director, California Foundation for  
Independent Living Centers**

*Organizing with Transition Age Youth (1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Breakout)*



Christina Mills is the Deputy Director of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and has been an active member of the disability rights community since her involvement in the California Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities in 1995. In 2001, she was appointed by the California Governor to serve on the State Independent Living Council. She also served as chair of the National Council on Disability, Youth Advisory Committee and was a Project Consultant for the National Family Voices, Kids as Self Advocates (KASA) program. In 2006 Christina began working for California Foundation for Independent Living Centers as the Statewide Community Organizer of the Systems Change Network and is a co-founder CFILC's youth organizing program, Youth Organizing (YO!) Disabled & Proud. In 2008, she was awarded Regional IX "Advocate of the Year" by the National Council on Independent Living and awarded the California Coalition for Youth Sue Matheson Mentoring Award in 2011. Christina is a board member of the Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DREDF) and the ADA Legacy Project. She is an advocate, an activist, a wife, a mother of two young children, a part-time blogger, novice photographer, a serious scrapbooker and proudly identifies as disabled.

## **Cynde Soto, Systems Change Advocate, Communities Actively Living Independent and Free**

*Welcome and Summit Kick Off 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Large Group)*



Cynde was born with Arthrogryposis, and sustained a spinal cord injury over a decade ago. Currently she works as a Community Organizer for Communities Actively Living Independent & Free. Her job enables her to work for positive policy change concerning people with disabilities and participate in bringing to light violations of civil rights of people with disabilities on an ongoing basis. **Her resume includes experience in team leadership, advocacy and coordinating. She has held board and membership positions on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Council, Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities for the City of Long Beach, the ADA Transition Plan Committee for the City of Long Beach.** Currently Cynde is a member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for Metro and Board President for Housing Long Beach, a small nonprofit working to promote affordable housing. Cynde believes that it is crucial that we never let others define who we are or who we can become.