

## Presenter Bios

**Deanna Yost** is most typically known in places where social services are being discussed as Toby's mom. She and her husband have three children, all now living in their own homes and apartments. That her son Toby, a man with significant needs also has the kind of community life his sisters have is what keeps her busy promoting full citizenship solutions. She is currently the Developmental Disability Program Manager at New Horizons North, a community and employment support agency that led inclusive practices for adults with disabilities since the 1980's. She is also a project magnet and likes to try our new ventures. While not working or stirring things up, she enjoys a beautiful view of rolling tree filled hillsides and glimpses of Lake Superior on walks down country roads near her home between Washburn and Bayfield.

**John Agosta, Ph.D.**, is a Vice President at the Human services Research Institute ([www.hsri.org](http://www.hsri.org)). He completed his doctorate in Rehabilitation Research at the University of Oregon, specializing in research methods and community supports for people with disabilities. Employed at HSRI since 1983, he has been involved with nearly all efforts at HSRI surrounding family support issues and self - advocacy, facilitated development of strategic plans, conducted analyses of state systems for people with developmental disabilities (e.g., Florida, Illinois, Texas, North Carolina), and studied specific facets of the field (e.g., supported employment, managed care, self - determination). He is a nationally recognized expert in topic areas such as family support, self - advocacy, self - directed supports and community systems regarding policies that affect individuals with developmental disabilities. Recently, he helped to establish a center in Oregon for families of children with developmental disabilities ([www.juntospodemos.org](http://www.juntospodemos.org)) and found The Riot!, a free national newsletter for self - advocates ([www.theriotrocks.org](http://www.theriotrocks.org)). Presently, he leads efforts at HSRI to assist states to establish individualized budgets or allocations for people with developmental disabilities based on objective assessments of support needs.

**Dennis Harkins** has worked within Wisconsin and across North America for the past 40 years on developing support and services for citizens who need long-term support. He has worked extensively on the design and implementation of Self-Directed Supports within both Family Care and IRIS. His primary work is focused on how we continue to learn to bring together the strengths of the citizens we serve, their families and friends, their communities, and our service systems to help people live fulfilling lives within our communities.

**Julie Strenn** has an extensive background in long-term care, having provided direct care services to individuals with developmental disabilities, service coordination case management leadership at the county level, Quality assurance and improvement support within the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, and leadership as Director of Resource Center Services and Interim

Executive Director of the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin. Currently, as Director of Provider Network Services with Community Care of Central Wisconsin, Julie is responsible for building and enhancing provider relationships, administering long-term care service contracts, overseeing provider network/contract development, and directing quality assurance efforts within the Provider Network Division.

**Kate Norby** has worked in the education and human service field since 1992. Her professional focus changed to Family Care when central Wisconsin began planning for Family Care expansion as a multicounty entity. Kate brings to her work a passion for self determination, self-directed supports, employment for people with disabilities, community development and person- centered system transformation. She is currently employed by Community Care of Central Wisconsin as a training and development manager and is a board member of InControl Wisconsin.