



Supported Life Institute  
presents our:

38th Annual Conference  
**SUPPORTED LIFE 2024**



**Empowering  
Independence:  
Innovation is  
at the Heart**

*Empowering All People  
with Developmental Disabilities  
to be Fully Included in the Community*

**Oct. 17 – 18, 2024**

**Wyndham Sacramento Hotel**

**“A Place to Train Your Staff  
-- in an Inclusive Environment”**

**Supported Life 2024**  
**Empowering Independence:**  
**Innovation is at the Heart**  
**Keynote Speakers**



**Willy Duncan** has been President since 2011 of Sierra College, a community college in Greater Sacramento. He serves on the Board of Directors of the California Policy Center for IDD. He will tell about an innovative Learning Independence for Future Employment (LIFE) Program, linking education, transition, and employment for self-advocates.

**Cody Clark** is a 30 year old professional magician / autistic self-advocate from Louisville, KY. Diagnosed with autism at 15 months old, his parents were warned he'd never walk, talk, hold down jobs, or tell them he loved them. His parents' tenacity combined with therapy services from both autism specialists and his schools allowed him to surpass all expectations!



**Joe Xavier** Director of Dept. of Rehab. (DOR), has 38 years of experience in business & public administration plus many years participating in advocacy & community organizations. As an immigrant, a blind consumer, & a beneficiary of DOR's services, Joe has experience. He understands the challenges & opportunities for individuals with disabilities, & the services required to maximize a person's full potential.

**Diva Johnson** recently appointed Associate Executive Director for Tri-Counties Regional Center, began her 33-year career in the field as a DSP then manager of various programs, joining TCRC in 2005 as a Service Coordinator. She has recently utilized her creative talents in the production of an amazing Animation series making the HCBS Final Rule relatable for all!



**38th Annual Conference**



**Early  
Sponsors**

**Include:**



Trust Management Services



**PPL**

**Supported Life Conference:**  
*Professionals, Families, and Self-advocates  
coming Together to  
Learn about Supports for people to be  
Fully Included in the community...*





## Thursday October 17, 2024

7:45 – 9:10 Registration  
 7:45 – 9:10 Exhibit Hall Preview  
 9:10 – 10:10 Welcome / Keynote Address

**Willy Duncan, President, Sierra College**  
*"An Independent LIFE:  
 A Community College Empowerment Model"*

10:20 – 11:25 Concurrent Sessions 1A - 1F



**1A The Sierra College LIFE Program: The Student Experience.** Willy Duncan, *Sierra College*



**1B Building "Leadership Culture" & Why it Matters.** Mary Ellen Sousa, *Creative Support Alternatives, Mountain Ranch*



**1C BUILD Advocacy & Social Skills - Engage in New Social / Rec. Opportunities.** Andrew Flaherty, *Compass SLS / ILS, Charlotte, NC*



**1D Lessons Learned: 5 Years into My Self-Determination Journey.** Daniel Meadows, *Supported Life Institute, Sacramento*



**1E Let's Work! California Activity Guide: Use in the Classroom.** Valerie Wiltse, *California Transition Alliance, Hollister*



**1F Living Your HCBS Rights** Kaitlin Olson, *Alo Consultation, Benicia*

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11:35 – 1:25 Luncheon / Keynote Address

**Cody Clark, Cody Clark Magic, Self-Advocate, Speaker, Entertainer, Louisville, Kentucky**  
*"A Different Way of Thinking  
 Autism Advocacy Magic Show"*

1:25 - 2:10 Exhibit Hall Spotlight  
 (Plus Buy Raffle Tickets, Choose Prizes)

2:10 – 3:15 Concurrent Sessions 2A - 2F



**2A Perspective on 48 years of Professional Services.** Jeffrey Popkin, *Bakersfield*



**2B Beyond Self-Care Basics for Professionals.** Rosalind Henderson, *Bellflower*



**2C Racial Equity in Access to Social Recreation and Camping Services.** Vivian Haun, *Disability Rights California, Los Angeles*



**2D Self-Determination Program: Your Life, Your Choices, Your Services.** Katie Dempsey, *CA Dept. of Dev. Svcs - Chief, Self-Det. Program, Costa Mesa*



**2E Positivity of Happiness, Joy & Success Being Grateful to Have Cerebral Palsy!** Wayed Kabir, *Reg. Ctr. of Orange Co. - Peer Advoc., Irvine*



**2F Finding My Voice Through Advocacy.** Brandon Gruber, *Self-Advocate; TASH Bd Member, Brentwood*



3:25 – 4:30 Concurrent Sessions 3A - 3F

**Thursday Exhibit Hall:  
 7:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

4:30 – 4:45 Raffle **THURSDAY Only**

**Buy Raffle Tickets Early!**

4:45 Conference Day 1 Concludes



**3A Q&A with Our Luncheon Keynote.** Cody Clark, *Cody Clark Magic, Louisville, Kentucky*



**3B Autistic Cultural Competency Training.** Derek Hearhtower, *Autistic Empowerment Guild, Rohnert Park*



**3C Silent Strength: Empowering Through ASL (American Sign Language) Basics.** D'yann Crosby, *Sign with Me, Inc., Los Angeles*



**3D Financial Management Services for Self-Determination Program.** Jessica Mercado, *PPL, Alpharetta, Georgia*



**3E Saving and Investing with a CalABLE Account.** CalABLE Staff - *CalABLE, Sacramento*



**3F Where to Live: A Discussion of Living Options.** Scott Barron, *Disability Rights CA/Office of Clients' Rights Advoc., Los Angeles*



## Friday October 18, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:00 Welcome / Keynote Address

**Joe Xavier, Director, California State Department of Rehabilitation**

*Evolution of Employment and Community*

10:10 – 11:20 Concurrent Sessions 4A - 4F



**4A Positive, Proactive, and Person-Centered Social-Sexual Supports.** Shanya Luther, *Among Friends, LLC, McMinnville, Oregon*



**4B HCBS: Thinking Beyond Compliance.** Carol Carlson, *Progressive Employment Concepts, Citrus Heights*



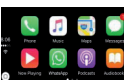
**4C Voting Rights.** Ibrahim "Bebo" Saab. *Disability Rights CA/Office of Clients' Rights Advoc., Los Angeles*



**4D Unleashing Your Potential** Mary Hellen, *Self-Advocate, SDP Participant, Roseville*



**4E Regional Center Efforts to Promote Housing Security** John Decker, *Alta California Regional Center, Sacramento*



**4F The Art of Mentorship.** Kristine O'Keefe, *Supported Life Institute / CTEC, Sacramento*

Register For the Conference Now ...



11:30 – 1:20 Luncheon / Keynote Address

**Diva Johnson, Associate Executive Director, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Santa Barbara**

*Empowering & Training People With Engaging Animation* **Friday Exhibit Hall: 8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

1:20 – 1:45 Friday Free Prize Drawings

1:45 – 2:55 Concurrent Sessions 5A - 5F



**5A Animation: The Possibilities are Endless.** Diva Johnson, *Tri-Counties Regional Center*



**5B Thriving in the World of Work - Pathways to Independence, Equality, & Employment.** Elizabeth Musgrove, *CA Dept. of Rehabilitation, San Bernardino*



**5C Health and Wellness.** Renard Stanford, *Self-Advocate, Los Angeles*



**5D California's Continued Transformation to Person Centered and Directed Services.** Tony Anderson, *Assoc. of Reg. Ctr. Agencies, Sacramento*



**5E Coordinated Family Supports Compass: Pilot Program Experience.** Joshua Flom, *Compass SLS and ILS, Redding*



**5F 20+ Ways to be a Healthier You Today.** Gordon Durich, *Sage Services, Team Trainer (and Self-Advocate), Thousand Oaks*



3:05 – 4:15 Concurrent Sessions 6A - 6E

4:15 Conference Concludes

*We really appreciate your participation in our 38th Annual*

*Supported Life Conference:*

**Empowering Independence: Innovation is at the Heart**



**6A HCBS (Home & Community-Based Services) Final Rule in Practice.** Susie Crow, *CA Dept. of Developmental Services, Sacramento*



**6B Technology and Person-Centered Approaches for Quality Services.** Melanie Anderson, *Compass SLS & ILS, El Dorado Hills*



**6C 2024 Legislative Story, What Happened, What Can You Expect in 2025.** Tony Anderson, *Assoc. of Reg. Ctr. Agencies, Sacramento*



**6D PCP does not mean "Parent" or "Provider" - Centered Plan.** Sandra Van Scotter, *Parent of Adult SDP Participant, Ridgecrest*



**6E Twists & Turns on the Road to Independence.** Brandon Gruber, *Self-Advocate, plus parents Teresa & Tim Gruber, Brentwood*



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## Conference Registration Oct. 17 - 18, 2024

### Register Online ([supportedlife.org](http://supportedlife.org)) OR Use This Form

Complete form. Mail w/ payment to Supported Life Institute. Copy & send separate reg. form for each applicant. (PRINT CLEARLY : - )

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation/Agency

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

5. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email

7. Are you a: ☐ Professional ☐ Family Member  
☐ Person w/ a Disability ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. ☐ Both Days ☐ Thurs Only ☐ Friday Only

9. Registration fees enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

10. Accommodations requested:  
☐ Medically-recommended diet ☐ Vegetarian  
☐ Sign language ☐ Alternative format (Braille, large print, pdf)  
*Please Specify Request (all requests for accommodations must be received at Supported Life Institute by 9/26/24):*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Circle **choices** of sessions to attend (1 choice per session time).  
On conference days, you still may attend alternative sessions.

T	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F		4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F
H	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F		5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F
U								6A	6B	6C	6D	6E	
R	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3F							

12. Mail this form, plus check or money order payable to: (sorry, credit cards only online)

**“Supported Life Institute”** (Conf. reg. address)  
c/o 1209 Caricia Dr. **916-567-1974**  
Davis, CA 95618 [info@supportedlife.org](mailto:info@supportedlife.org)

## Registration Information

The **generous support** of **Supported Life 2024 co-sponsors** allows us to offer reduced registration fees to people w/disabilities & family members attending the conference not funded through a State Agency, Regional Center or Service Provider Agency.

**We want to ensure all individuals and family members who are solely reliant on their personal funds can receive the subsidy to help them attend.**

Conference Registration includes:		EARLY Registration By Sept 20th	LATE Registration On-Site or After Sept 20th
– Lunch Thursday – Lunch Friday			
Conference Fee Incl. self-advocates & families funded thru an agency	2 days	\$295	\$320
	1 day only	\$235	\$265
Discount: People w/ Dev. Disabilities & Family members <b>NOT</b> funded through a State Agency, Regional Center or Service Agency	2 days	\$220	\$250
	1 day only	\$160	\$185



**Want to Use Your Credit Card?**

**Register Online:**  
[www.supportedlife.org](http://www.supportedlife.org)

### Refund Policy

- Cancellations must be in writing & received by 9/20/24
- Cancellations after 9/20/24 (Including “No Shows”) Cannot be refunded
- With advance notice, substitutions are welcome.

### Regional Center Vendor Codes

P63905 (svc code 102) = Supported Life Inst. CONFERENCE Reg. Fee  
ZA6390 (svc code 022) = Wyndham Sacramento HOTEL Lodging

### Agency Volume Discount !

Register 5 at professional rate & receive a 6th registrant **FREE.**  
All Group Registrations Must Be Received Together

**Hotel Accommodations**  
**Wyndham Sacramento Hotel**  
**5321 Date Ave.**  
**Sacramento, CA 95841**  
**916-338-5800**



**BE in the CENTER of Things**

**A special rate of \$139 per night + tax** is offered for **Supported Life Conference attendees.**

**Hotel Sleeping Rooms: 916-338-5800**  
- ask for Reservations for the “Supported Life Conference”

Conference rate good until Sep. 23, 2024

- There is plenty of **Free Parking** at the hotel



- **Wi-Fi** is offered for **free** in sleeping and meeting rooms by the Wyndham Hotel
- **Housekeeping** at Hotel:  
If you **would like your room serviced:**  
Please ask **Wyndham Hotel** their **Policy**