



Supported Life Institute
presents

SUPPORTED LIFE 2026
our:

40th Annual



Conference

**“Strengthening Supports in
an Evolving Environment”**

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

Oct. 8 – 9, 2026

**Wyndham Sacramento Hotel
Sacramento, Calif.**

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

**Supported Life 2026
Strengthening Supports in an
Evolving Environment
Keynote Speakers**



John Decker, DSW, is the Director of Community Services at Alta Calif. Reg. Center. His recent successful efforts to support inclusive housing serving people with IDD have been astounding. With similar enthusiasm and foresight, he portrays a variety of simple, usable new technology options that are already starting to make a difference in the IDD world of today.

Maulik Trivedi, MD, is a recognized national speaker /thought leader on use of technology & telehealth solutions to positively impact medical care & independence for people with IDD. A StationMD founding partner from Manhattan, NYC, this board-certified Emergency Medicine physician in practice over 20 years, is medical director for several disability service provider agencies.



Pete Cervinka, Dir. of Calif. Dept. of Dev. Svcs, has more than 27 years of policy development, leadership, & program management in various roles in state agencies. Pete wants government to do better for individuals & families, using data, info, & infrastructure for a whole-person focus on goals & outcomes, incl. economic, social, health, and environmental factors.



Shanya Luther, founder of Among Friends, LLC, is a social-sexual ecologist & facilitator w/ 25 years of experience w/ behavior & training services. She writes, speaks, & consults about all facets of sexuality; specializes in healthy relationships & healthy sexual development, using an ecological framework incorporating intersectionality, neurobiology, attachment theory, trauma informed care, & social-emotional learning.



**40th Annual Conference
Early
Sponsors**



Include:

DDS Department of
Developmental
Services

TMS Trust Management Services

easterseals
Southern California

Alta California
Regional Center

StationMD
Telemedicine for Individuals with Intellectual
& Developmental Disabilities

SafeinHome

PPL

Acumen Fiscal Agent
Innovation · Opportunity · Freedom

**Sponsorship / Exhibitor
Opportunities?**
Andy: afaletti@supportedlife.org

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



Conference Registration Oct. 8 - 9, 2026
Register Online (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 9/17/26):

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	F	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F
H	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	R	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F
U							I	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 online only)

“Supported Life Institute”
2025 Hurley Way, Ste 105 916-465-8560
Sacramento, CA 95825 info@supportedlife.org

Registration Information

The **generous support** of **Supported Life 2026 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, Service Provider Agency, or SDP.

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.

<u>Conference Registration includes:</u>		EARLY Registration	LATE Registration
		By Sept 11th	On-Site or After Sept 11th
– Lunch Thursday – Lunch Friday			
Conference Fee Includes self-advocates & families funded thru an Agency or SDP	2 days	\$295	\$330
	1 day only	\$240	\$270
Discounted: People w/ Dev. Disabilities & Family members NOT funded through a State Agency, Regional Center or Service Agency or SDP	2 days	\$220	\$255
	1 day only	\$165	\$195



Want to Use Your Credit Card?
Register Online:
www.supportedlife.org

Refund Policy

- Cancellations must be in writing & received by 9/11/26
- Cancellations after 9/11/26 (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 MIDDLE of Things

Hotel Sleeping Rooms:
916-338-5800

ask about current **Conference Rate** for the **“Supported Life Conference”** **by Sept. 20, 2026**

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

Wi-Fi is offered for **free** by Wyndham Hotel in both sleeping and meeting rooms

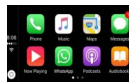


Housekeeping?
 Ask Hotel about their current Housekeeping Policy



Thursday October 8, 2026

- 7:45 – 9:10 Registration
- 7:45 – 9:10 Exhibit Hall Preview
- 9:10 – 10:10 Welcome / Keynote Address
John Decker, Alta California
Regional Center, Sacramento
New Supports in an Evolving Environment
- 10:20 – 11:25 Concurrent Sessions 1A - 1F



1A Things I Wish My Communication Partner Knew. Kristine O'Keefe, CTEC / SLI, Sacramento



1B Beyond Crisis Monitoring: Remote Supports for Independent Living. Robert Torgusen, AngelSense, Pine Brook, NJ



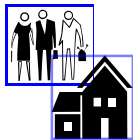
1C Self-Determination Program Overview. Danielle Isola, Calif. Department of Developmental Services, Sacramento



1D Coordinated Family Support (CFS) in Action: Real Stories, Real Partnerships, Real Questions. Alicia Woodworth, Compass, El Dorado Hills



1E Person-Centered Thinking: Best Practices for Team Building. Ryan Patchin, Alta Calif Regional Center, Sacramento



1F My 60 (Plus) Years of Supported Life. Tracy Whitehorse, Avenues SLS, Valencia



11:35 – 1:25 Luncheon / Keynote Address

Dr. Maulik Trivedi, StationMD, New York City, NY
Smarter Supports, Better Lives: Technology That Truly Makes a Difference

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

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



2A Smart Glasses and the Future of Job Coaching. John Decker, Alta Calif Regional Center, Sacramento



2B Still Disabled: More Than Meets the Eye. René López, Self-Advocate, San Anselmo



2C From Spreadsheets to Systems in SDP. Matt Townzen, SD Navigator, El Dorado Hills



2D Keeping the Human in Human Services: Powerful Tools for Self-Determination in the Age of AI. John Marr, Compass, Redding



2E Preparing for your IPP and Person Centered IPP. Crystal Enyeart, Sac6, Stockton



2F Why Stories Matter: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow. Shirley Rodriguez, Community Employment Services, San Francisco



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 Specialized Telehealth: A Game Changer for the Disability Community. Dr. Maulik Trivedi, StationMD, New York City, NY



3B The Intersection of Sexual Development & the Need for Direct Care. Shanya Luther, Among Friends, LLC, McMinnville, Oregon



3C Self-Determination Program Smart Staffing. Kristianna Moralls, Self-Determination Institute, Glendale



3D Family Support. Renard Stanford, Advocates Advisory Committee/SCLARC, Los Angeles



3E Understanding the New Grievance Process at DDS. Katie Hornberger, Calif. Department of Devel. Services, Sacramento



3F From Fragile to Fierce: Building Confidence Through Movement. Lita Mae Button, Punch Positive, Blackhead, Newfoundland, Canada



Friday October 9, 2026

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:00 Welcome / Keynote Address

Pete Cervinka, Director, Calif. Dept. of Developmental Services, Sacramento

Current Happenings

**Friday Exhibit Hall:
8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

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



4A How to Enhance Engagement with Individuals with IDD in Policy-Making. Pete Cervinka, CA Dept. of Develop. Services, Sacramento



4B Mindset of Abundance: Improving Employment Outcomes for People. Pamela Haney Slinkard, Progressive Employment Concepts, Citrus Heights



4C Choosing the Right FMS (Financial Mgmt Svc). Alejandra Calderon, GT Independence FMS, Sturgis, Michigan



4D Strengthening Financial Independence Through CalABLE for a More Secure Future. Thomas Martin, CalABLE Exec. Director, Sacramento



4E Teaching Independence Through Structured Systems. Khrystyna Koval, Ind. Researcher/ Curriculum Developer, Lincoln



4F The Importance of Goal Setting and Action Planning. Todd Ericson, Self-Advocate, Palo Alto



11:30 – 1:20 Luncheon / Keynote Address

**Shanya Luther, Among Friends, LLC
McMinnville, Oregon**

Love, Rights & Respect: How Social-Sexual Supports Are Foundational For Inclusion

1:20 – 1:45 Friday Free Prize Drawings

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



5A Getting Serious About Funny Business. Shanya Luther, Among Friends, LLC, McMinnville, Oregon



5B Technology First: California's Path Forward. Patrick Lane, SHIFT, Arden, North Carolina



5C Helping Service Vendors Embrace Self-Determination. Eric Morago, CHOICISS, Arcadia



5D A New Approach to Generic Services in Non-Generic Times. Vivian Haun, Disability Rights California, Los Angeles



5E Limitless Belief: From Crisis to College, Living a Life of Self-Direction. Christine Bagley, CA Dept. of Devel. Services, Sac.



5F Supporting HCBS Rights: What Does It Look Like? What Does It Feel Like? Jacqueline Lawton, Alo Consultation, Benicia



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

4:15 Conference Concludes

*We really appreciate your participation in our
40th Annual*

Supported Life Conference:

**Strengthening Supports in
an Evolving Environment**



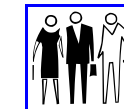
6A People First, Technology Forward: Innovation Supports for Staffing Crises. Laura Mitchell, GrandCare Systems



6B From College to Community: Living Fully, Together. Olivia Adams-Falconer, members of Inaugural cohort of Redwood SEED Program, Davis



6C Introducing the Regional Center Client Union. Derek Hearhtower, Self-Advocate, Rohnert Park



6D Turning Creativity Into Employment: A Person-Centered Approach. Eric Morago, CHOICISS, Arcadia



6E Defining Quality in our Service System. Susie Crow, California Dept. of Developmental Services, Sacramento



Register!... www.supportedlife.org ...

