The Training and Learning Collaborative (TLC) Team Members

TLC Organizational Leadership

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TLC Organizational Leadership Biographies

June Cowen Sauvageau, Executive Director of The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. (NILP) - Ms. Cowen Sauvageau's unique background of expertise in corporate education and health care quality management provides a unique background of expertise in corporate education and health care quality management provides a unique vantage point. June previously was a Quality Management Corporate Educator at Massachusetts General Hospital, a consultant and trainer for Private Healthcare Systems Inc., Hewlett Packard, and HealthQuarters, as well as a part time faculty member at Northeastern University in the Master’s Program for Adult and Organizational Learning.

Dr. Burton D. Pusch, One Care Ombudsman and Independent Consultant - Burton Dane Pusch received his Doctorate in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University in 2002. His twenty-five plus years career has focused on facilitating the civil rights, full participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. He has served as a consultant for numerous international, national, state, and local businesses and organizations addressing civil rights, systems advocacy, policy studies, health care implementation, ethnographic and qualitative research and design, employment programming, emergency preparedness, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, assistive and adaptive technology, inclusive human centered design, and Independent Living. He has designed and conducted training and instructional programming for private industry, federal, state and local government agencies, institutes of higher education and consumer-based, local community organizations. He has an established reputation for managing and building sustainable organizations and programs which positively impact the lives of people and their communities.
Sheila Hegarty, Education & Advocacy Coordinator, The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. (NILP) - Sheila is a dedicated and determined self-advocate with a Masters degree in Criminal Justice. In her background, she has designed and conducted trainings for state and local government agencies, institutes of higher education, and local community organizations. Sheila has faced inequality and fought against institutional discrimination because she understands the importance of the peer voice. Sheila is also a motivational speaker and author who shares the true realities of growing up with a disability and having to face the obstacles and constructs society has all too often thrust upon her. Sheila lives by her motto “The impossible only takes a little longer”. She holds a B.A. in Government from Suffolk University and a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from Northern Arizona University.

Mark Wheeler, Director of Marketing and Communications, The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. (NILP) – In his corporate background, Mark has over 30 years experience in marketing, sales, and communications along with a strong track record in business analysis skills having worked in the entertainment and technology industries in regional and national management positions. He has won industry awards for his expertise in marketing strategy, strategic planning, and business relationship management. Not only does Mark have an extensive client list from his previous roles in marketing, communications, and sales, he is also professionally trained as a voice over specialist and actor. In his role with NILP and TLC, Mark is the lead on all media based training products and materials. He holds a B.A. in Humanities and Liberal Arts from the University of Minnesota.

**TLC Training Partner Team Members**

Jim Lyons, Director of Community Development and Advocacy, The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. (NILP), has been a NILP employee for over 31 years. Jim’s extensive experience and ADA access technical knowledge and consulting project client list is perhaps unmatched in the Commonwealth. Jim is a leader in consensus building among a diverse group of stakeholders in disability issues and an information source to the media regarding disability issues in Massachusetts. He is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with a Certificate in Management from the American Management Association and he holds a M. Ed. On Counseling Psychology from the University of Massachusetts.

Jo Bower, IL/VR Coordinator & Peer Counselor, The Northeast Recovery Learning Community (NERLC) Throughout her 30 years of experience in working in the field of peer to peer support for people with disabilities, she has advocated for system-wide reform to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Jo is a seasoned innovator, planner, and trainer, having dealt with multiple disabilities her entire life and learned the hard lessons of tenacity and self-advocacy first hand. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work with a Specialty in Human Services Management.