

Wisconsin Employment First Conference

Kalahari Resort Wisconsin Dells

June 1st and 2nd, 2026

Monday June 1st 12:30 – 3:30

Janet Estervig - Employer Engagement and Networking:

Learn how to engage employers to expand their talent search and strengthen their workforce by using a business approach. How do you make meaningful long-term connections that meet the needs of both the employers and people you are serving? Learn how to inventory your communities, analyze labor data, market your services, use your network, and develop professional business proposals.

Monday June 1st APSE Networking Hour 4:30 -5:30

Join us at Cinco Niños within the Kalahari for food, fun and networking

Tuesday June 2nd 8:00 – 4:15

7:30 – 8:30

Registration -North Atrium

8:00 – 8:30

Welcome (APSE)

8:30 –9:45

David Lindell - Beyond GPT: Using AI for Good in Employment Services

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming service delivery—and employment services are no exception. This interactive session will showcase how AI can address critical challenges such as workforce retention, reimbursement requirements, service personalization, quality improvement, and operational efficiency, as well as high-impact use cases, practical guardrails and moving from pilots to sustainable practice.

Drawing on industry insights and best practices, this hands-on presentation will equip attendees with actionable strategies and practical tools to implement AI ethically, empowering staff and enriching services.

Participants will learn how to build internal momentum and secure resources by communicating impact, and will leave with actionable frameworks, ready-to-use tools, and adoption roadmap designed specifically for employment services.

9:45 -10:15

Networking Break and Exhibitors

10:15 – 11:15

The Art of Stepping Back: Fading Employment Supports with Skill and Intention	Ethical Decision Making	Project SEARCH, "Preparing young people with disabilities for success in competitive integrated employment"	DVR Technical Specifications and Provider Qualifications: Updates & Insights	Empowering Employment: How ERI Uses Ticket to Work to Build Pathways to Independence	From Stressed to Best: Unlocking a Life of Balance
Shannon Webb	Ron Diamond	Megan Roark	Andrzej Walz Chojnacki	Jolene Wanek, Zachary Wallace	Lakeland Care

11:15 – 11:30	Networking Break and Exhibitors				
11:30 – 12:30	Concurrent Workshop Sessions				
Wisconsin's Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programs.	Ethical Decision Making Part 2	Intentionally cultivating pathways of purpose: Transforming a hurtful story into a hopeful story to a helpful story	AI and Emerging Technology as Disability Support Tools	Positive Behavior Supports in the Workplace	Time Management: Your Life in 4D
Jennifer Patridge, Denise Eder, Amy Cottingham	Ron Diamond	Leanne Delsart, Lynn Maday	Sydney Badeau	Jolene Wanek	Lakeland Care
12:30- 1:30	Lunch – Networking and Exhibitors				
1:30 – 2:30	Concurrent Workshop Sessions				
Symptoms, Skills, and Supports	Transition for Families of youth with Disabilities	Engaging natural supports for long-term employment success	Systematic Instruction: Job Coach Strategies	Advocacy: Speaking up for yourself and others	Bridging Systems, Building Futures: Employment Success Through
Theresa Iacullo, Stacey Teegardin	Michael Jackson	Nelson Salazar, Redebra Peters	Janet Estervig	Leanne Delsart	Megan Acheson, Joe Crivello, Christine Schulz, Mark and Anthony Geinopolos
2:30 –3:00	Networking Break and Exhibitors				
3:00 – 4:00	Concurrent Workshop Sessions				
Adult Technical Assistance Guide (TAG)	How can your IRIS Budget WORK for you?	Turning Questions into Confidence: Benefits and Work Demystified	Hot Topics What do you want to talk about	Job Development Connection LIVE	TBD
Rachael Kramer, Sarah Kuhn, Andrzej Walz Chojnack, Theresa Iacullo, Stacey Teegardin	Amanda Flater, Shannon Ramirez	Shannon Webb, Jolene Wanek	APSE Board	Beth Lohmann	TBD
4:00– 4:15	Evaluations/Raffle Prizes (Must be Present to Win)				