



This year's [2nd Annual IDD Provider & Family Resource Conference](#) will be held in Houston at "The Center" in downtown Houston, TX (3550 W. Dallas St.) on April 23rd-25th, 2014. The conference will also be 3 days this year, as we wanted to be sure that everyone could attend as many "breakout sessions" as possible.

Many thanks to "The Center" for agreeing to host us at this wonderful location. Together Consulting is pleased for you to see the amazing transition that has and is still happening at "The Center". There are some wonderfully innovative concepts and new programs in place and being provided to our individuals with special needs in the Houston area.

This brings us to our theme for our [2nd Annual IDD Provider & Family Resource Conference](#):

"Transitions". Some of the topics we will include are: transitioning from early childhood services to adult IDD services, graduating from school and heading out into the community and adulthood, moving from receiving adult services to services for the elderly, hospice care needs for individuals with IDD, resources available in the community for individuals with IDD, and even having to transition from current traditional waiver services as an IDD Provider to what will inevitably be, "managed care" services.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Ed Hammer: Dr. Ed Hammer is a licensed mental health professional who has worked for many years for the Department of Pediatrics at the Texas Tech School of Medicine in Amarillo in the area of Behavioral Pediatrics. He is currently a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, Texas Tech Health Science Center at Amarillo since 2001. His concern is for the treatment of the total child and persons with special needs, including support for the family, coordination of community services, and public and private agencies. He is the author or co-author of six published assessment devices (the Callier-Azusa Scale, the Functional Skills Screening Inventory, the Helen Keller Functional Profile, the Assistive Devices Analysis Matrix (A.D.A.M.), the Classroom Management system, and the Neuropsychological Monitoring Inventory). He served as Project Director for the 6-year medically fragile grants that led to the Amarillo Pediatric Protocol, an NICU intervention for neonates and a PICU intervention for patients with head injury. He also is the founder and Principal Investigator for the Pediatric Research Network (PRN). Dr. Hammer has been extremely instrumental in trying to make families and providers aware of the resources available to them, especially in Texas. He is a wonderful advocate for those who have IDD and their families, especially concerning mental health needs for our dual diagnosed individuals and their families.

Additionally he will be facilitating the Q&A Panel on 4/23/14 and presenting 2 other sessions during the conference on community resources for individuals graduating from high school.

We are so blessed to have another amazing speaker all the way from Amarillo, TX, Dr. Deborah Harding.

Dr. Deborah Jean Harding has worked for forty years in the field of behavioral studies. She holds her PHD in experimental psychology with a focus on social psychology, child development, and a minor in sociology, criminology and deviance. Dr. Harding is also a licensed professional counselor in the state of Texas who has counseled extensively with adults and children with trauma,

including veterans and first responders with PTSD. She has also worked at two local hospices with families in crisis, treated children and adults with a wide variety of physical and cognitive disabilities, as well as having worked with addicted and criminal populations. At present, Deborah is an associate professor at Amarillo College, in the areas of psychology, criminal psychology, social psychology, and sociology, including the sociology of marriage and family and criminology. She has developed and taught traditional, hybrid and online courses for several universities, including AC, Texas Tech, West Texas A&M and Capella University. She received her PHD from Texas Tech University, and her master's degree from West Texas A&M University. Dr. Harding has won multiple awards for teaching excellence and innovation, including the APPLE AWARD and the MEAD TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD. She also received a TEACH FELLOWSHIP at TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY during her doctoral studies, as well as multiple research grants at Texas Tech and at West Texas A&M. Her session for the conference will be: **"Transitions in Sexuality"**. *A topic that we are often afraid to approach but is an everyday issue with individuals with IDD, their families, and providers who care for these individuals.*

Conference Registration, Sponsorship & Donation opportunities as well as Exhibitors registration information is now available on the website: www.twogetherconsulting.com under the "IDD Conference" tab. Please contact us if you would like to present at the conference. We still have some openings for speakers. **You may also click on the calendar on the left side of the home page for general information and guidance. As of March 29th early registration prices are over. Cost is currently \$215 per person. If you need special group rate. Please contact me at: 512-294-8032.**

Family rate now available to family members with individuals with (IDD) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Please contact me at: 512-294-8032.

We still need donations for the goodie bags and sponsorship funding. If you would like to have your company name in our handout or assist with funding the provider networking happy hour on Thursday, at the conference, please contact us for sponsorship opportunities or click on the sponsorship tab under the **"IDD Conference"** tab on the home page.

Hotel and parking information are also listed on the site as well. Please contact us at: 512-294-8032 if you have any questions about registration.

Final Speaker's List & Agenda is currently posted on the website. *(We apologize for the delay)* **You may periodically check our website: www.twogetherconsulting.com on our "[IDD Provider Conference](#)" page for more updates to the speaker's list and agenda.**

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter or contact list, please be sure to do so while you are visiting the website. Or you may email at: jvasbj@aol.com

Twogether Consulting has served as consultants to both HCS, TXHML, & ICF providers statewide, assisting them in areas of personnel training, quality assurance, survey and audit preparation and recovery, level of need increases, development of policies and procedures, plans of correction, billing errors and omissions. We also hold classes statewide for nurses, care coordinators, QIDP's, program administrators, quality assurance staff, as well as "on-site only" classes for direct care.

With combined experience of more than 50 years serving individuals with developmental disabilities in both the public and private sectors, Twogether Consulting is here to help you as HCS, ICF/IID and TXHML providers build a more successful business while improving your quality of service delivery to the individuals in your program.