

The Unique Role of Support Staff in Enabling a Meaningful and Inclusive Life

JANET KLEES

Virtual Family Conference

April 16, 2021

9 am - 12 pm

A practical and reflective one-day workshop focused on the essential role of support staff in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Inclusion
Alberta



Workshop

The Unique Role of Support Staff in Enabling a Meaningful and Inclusive Life

Presenter: Janet Klees, Executive Director,
Durham Association for Family Resources and Support

Janet will offer a *practical* and *reflective* workshop designed specifically for support staff focused on their unique and essential role in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Janet will provide a guiding framework for powerfully and effectively taking up the role of a support staff in advancing the quality of an individual's life regardless of their current circumstances. This workshop will also be of value to those responsible for leading and directing support staff, such as supervisors, managers and directors, including family members who may be in this position when utilizing or planning to access Family Managed Supports (FMS). The workshop will offer a meaningful and satisfying way to think about the support role as a committed and enduring approach to enabling a good life in community rather than viewing the role as just another job.

Janet will share strategies on the support role as a bridge to relationships and participation in community life, including the critically important work in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in decision-making and in making the place they live a true home. She will use examples of working in complex situations and others where capitalizing on the wisdom of families can be of immense value. As the vast majority of adults with developmental disabilities in Alberta rely on staff as their primary means of support the content of this workshop is important and relevant. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, share and discuss how people in this unique and critical role can make an invaluable difference.

Presenter

Janet Klees has worked in the field of developmental disabilities for over 35 years. Janet is the Executive Director for Durham Association for Family Resources and Support which is a values-based organization that supports families to design and implement good lives in neighbourhoods and communities for and with their sons and daughters. Supporting over 300 families and individuals by providing: long term planning, budgeting guidance, assistance with recruiting staff, learning events, training for support teams, building circles and networks, crafting and holding valued roles and more.

Until 2014, she was with the family-governed Deohaeko Support Network in Ontario, almost from its beginnings when families designed and built a 105-unit inclusive housing co-operative which seven of their sons and daughters with disabilities now call home, and from which they live typical and full lives in community.

She is the author of three books: *We Come Bearing Gifts*; *Our Presence has Roots*; and *Deohaeko Decades*. Janet has also written countless published articles and other documents. Janet's work centers on individually-designed arrangements and she is especially concerned that families, their allies and support workers are well-supported to think through practical, principled ways to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities live meaningful, involved and secure lives within their communities. A focus on nurturing and building unpaid, deep personal relationships with a focus on the contributions that all people have to offer are at the heart of her work.

Register online at inclusionalberta.org