



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**2020 LIFE Conference Offers Keynote from Self-Advocates and Networking Opportunities for Delawareans with Disabilities and their Families**

Dover, DE - More than 500 people are expected to attend the 2020 LIFE conference, the largest annual cross-disability conference in Delaware in support of people with disabilities and their families, on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center.

The LIFE conference brings together people with disabilities, their families, advocates, providers, educators, legislators and government officials for educational and networking opportunities. LIFE stands for Liberty and Independence for Everyone, and the conference addresses the topics of legislation, independence (through assistive technology), families and education.

The 21st annual conference, organized by a coalition of Delaware groups serving people with disabilities, runs from 8 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Registration (\$35-\$95) is required. Conference participants can choose from 12 different workshops, with break times scheduled throughout the day to allow time to visit conference exhibitors.

Jarrett Butler, a 2019 graduate of the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) Junior Partners in Policymaking Program, will provide opening remarks at the conference. Butler is a frequent presence at Legislative Hall in Dover, where he is a passionate advocate for full accessibility in the community and for upholding rights and standards under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Junior Partners in Policymaking offers policy training for Delawareans ages 15-22 with disabilities.

This year, the LIFE conference is honored to have national advocate Patti Saylor, BSN, BS, M. Ed offering a session entitled "SAFE, Understood, and Included: Law Enforcement and People with Disabilities." This session will focus on how advocates and Maryland law-enforcement

personnel worked together to improve relationships between individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) following the tragic death of her son.

“Providing support and guidance to our disability community is vitally important in ensuring their growth and securing their independence. For many years the LIFE Conference has and continues to bridge the gap between those needing and providing services,” said Department of Safety and Homeland Security Secretary Robert Coupe. “We are proud to be a part of the LIFE conference and to support Delawareans with disabilities and their families.”

More details about the conference, including session descriptions, the schedule, and a link to the online registration form are available on the conference website, [www.lifeconferencede.org](http://www.lifeconferencede.org).

*The State Council for Persons with Disabilities is committed to improving the quality of life for Delawareans by promoting legislation and regulations that benefit, advocate, protect and increase the self-sufficiency of people with disabilities.*

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