



IARP ILLINOIS  
“NAVIGATING THE ROAD TO  
EXCELLENCE IN REHABILITATION”

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019, Northern Illinois University, Naperville, IL

**8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

Registration, Continental Breakfast, Passport  
CRC Credits, Exhibitors

**9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Auditorium**

Welcome Remarks, Ashley Woodson, MS, CRC,  
LCPC, CADC, CLCP.S.

Presentation of Illinois Lifetime Achievement  
Award, Mike Mooney, MS, CRC, LCPC,  
ABVE/D, Chairperson Lifetime Achievement  
Award Committee

**9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Auditorium**

PANEL DISCUSSION – “Evaluation & Testing in  
Vocational Rehabilitation.”

Lisa Byrne, MA, CRC, CLCP, PVE

Steve Blumenthal, MS, CRC, CVE, LCPC

Debbie Gordon, MS, CRC, LCPC, CCM

Elizabeth Watson, MS, CRC, CCM, LCPC, CBIS

**10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Break, Networking,  
Exhibitor Viewing

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Auditorium**

“Illinois Workers’ Compensation Law – How It  
Impacts Vocational Rehabilitation”

Michael J. Brennan, BS, JD, Illinois Workers’  
Compensation Commission Chairperson

**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Lunch, Networking,  
Exhibitor Viewing

**1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m., Auditorium**

“Ethical Considerations – Providing Vocational  
Services to Individuals Who Have Experienced a  
Disruptive Event or Trauma”

Anne Rappaport, MA/CAGS, CRC, LPC

**2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Break, Networking,  
Exhibitor Viewing

**3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., Auditorium**

“The ABC’s of Ethics – From Twitter to Trial  
Testimony”

Patricia Cline, LCSW, CCM, CL, NCG, CP, ASWC

Jennifer Axelson, LSCW, CCM, MSCC, CLCP

Kathleen Mueller, MA, CRC, LCPC, CEAS

**3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., Meeting Room**

“Careers in Public and Private Rehabilitation:  
Similarities and Differences”

Pete Hardy III, MA, CRC, CLCP, LCP, CADC

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILES

**Jennifer Axelson, LSCW, CCM, MSCC, CLCP, Lifecare  
Innovations, Burr Ridge, IL**

15 years’ experience / Provides expert services for attorneys,  
fiduciaries, & multiple IL country courts

**Steve Blumenthal, MS, CRC, CVE, LCPC**

Over 39 years’ experience / In private practice since 2002 /  
Provides expert testimony for the IL Workers’ Compensation  
Commission & personal injury cases in federal & state courts

**Lisa Byrne, MA, CRC, CLCP, PVE**

Providing vocational evaluation services since 1997. President  
of The Eval Center, in Westchester, IL

**Debbie Gordon, MS, CRC, LCPC, CCM**

Conducting vocational evaluation since 1984 / Works at  
Vocational Testing, Oakbrook, IL / Qualified vocational expert  
in several Illinois courts, & provides litigation support in civil  
matters.

**Elizabeth Watson, MS, CRC, CCM, LCPC, CBIS**

Rehabilitation counselor since 1985 / In private practice in  
2006 / Adjunct rehabilitation faculty at Northeastern IL  
University.

**Michael J. Brennan, BS, JD, Illinois Workers’  
Compensation Commission Chairperson**

Appointed Chairman of the Illinois Workers Compensation  
Commission March 15, 2019 & 2013-2017. Preeminent AV-  
rated attorney litigating the Illinois Appellate & Supreme  
Courts.

**Patricia Cline, LCSW, CCM, CL, NCG, CP, ASWC, Lifecare  
Innovations, Burr Ridge, IL**

Over 25 years’ experience / Serves on Illinois Guardianship  
Association & Aging Life Care Association / Testified in  
multiple Illinois county & federal courts & other state courts.

**Pete Hardy, M.A., C.R.C., L.C.P.C., C.A.D.C., Department of  
Veterans Affairs, Chicago, IL**

Over 11 years’ experience in both private and public sector  
rehabilitation / Holds 4 certifications / Recently opened his  
own private practice.

**Kathleen Mueller, MA, CRC, LCPC, CEAS**

Over 15 years’ experience with injured workers, employers,  
insurance companies, and private sector agencies, testifying  
before the IL Workers’ Compensation Industrial Commission  
and in LTD, marital dissolution, SSDI and federal cases.

**Anne Rappaport, MA/CAGS, CRC, LPC,  
Independent Consultant/Therapist/Case Manager**

LCPC volunteer, subcontracted responder, Critical Incident  
Responder since 2001 / Critical incident trainer / Works with  
first responders / Expertise in ethics in working with those  
disabled in disasters or disruptive events.