

ABLE Implementation 2016 – Live Captioning Transcript – 2.5.16

Good afternoon everyone. This is Michael Morris, the Executive Director of the national disability institute. I'm glad so many people have joined us from all across the country. This webinar is dedicated to bringing all of us up to date on implementing ABLE and will focus on this year's action of legislation worked on for so long that was signed into law in December 2014, 2015 was the year of regulatory developments and states passing their own statutory authority across the country. And 2016 is the year that ABLE programs will be opening in some states but because of changes that you would hear about will make people with disabilities who are eligible to open ABLE accounts regardless of where you live.

Let me first turn back to Brittany to share with you some of the logistics of listening to this webinar.

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For Q&A use the Q&A box to submit any questions you have during the webinar and we will direct the questions accordingly. If you're listening by phone and not logged into the webinar you may also ask questions by emailing your questions to me at the web address please note this webinar is being reported to the materials will be placed on the national disability institute website at www.nadirect.org.

If you experience any technical assistance please use the chat box to send a message to me or you may also email me.

Thank you Brittany and thank you again for all of you across the country who are joined online today for this educational webinar. I want to thank our presenters and panelists who are going to be a part of the webinar today. Chris Rodriguez former Public policy advisor from the national disability institute Heather Sachs vice president of advocacy and public policy, national down syndrome society, Ben Brown team leader at the Social Security Administration, and the team that's focused on Wisconsin resources and payment determination, Mary Ford former executive officer public policy the law Stuart Spindler former policy advisor and current action speaks, William Thompson Deputy Executive Director Florida's prepaid College Board.

The agenda for today is going to begin with breaking the playing field providing some ABLE basics understanding the components of the acts and the programs that are in its formative stages and will really