Person-Centered Thinking and Planning: Roles of Parents in Person-Centered Thinking

Jeff Garrison-Tate: Families certainly are key to the process. They are folks that know and love their child. They’re going to come with a set of information. They’re going to come with their idea of what their child should be doing, and that’s what a great parent does. What I like to do when I am speaking and talking with parents is ask “What are you doing to use these discovery skills to discover what is important to and for your son or daughter? What are you doing…?” It may not be what you think is ‘important to and for’. “How are you bringing that information to the IEP process, or to the ARD process? Maybe the son or daughter should bring that. You know “This is my life. This is what I want to work on, and here is what is important to me.” Things that are important to people can drive career development. Most people want to work doing things that are important to them, and that have impact. I think the process of truly listening to all sides – what works and what doesn’t work from each perspective. The teachers, the families, and students. What’s working and not working, and how can we come up with an action plan to put all of that together?

Dr. Lakshmi Mahadevan: To access the tools discussed in this webcast, and download additional resources on person-centered thinking and planning please visit the helpful links page on our website.