

ABLE SESSIONS SUMMARY – NAST LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, 2/9 – 2/11/20

Sunday, February 9

3:00pm - NAST ABLE Committee Meeting

5:30-6:00pm

New Attendee and Corporate Member Welcome Reception

6:00-8:00pm

Welcome & Networking Reception at the Mayflower Hotel, which was originally built in 1925. Spend an evening with conference attendees and create new memories in this historic landmark.

Monday, February 10

7:30-8:30am

Networking Breakfast

8:30-8:45am

NAST President Deborah Goldberg (MA) Welcoming Remarks

8:45-10:15 am: Part 1 - ABLE Legislation and Regulation – How Both Impact Your State's ABLE Plan Today and Into Tomorrow

Experts will educate attendees on the history, viewpoints and possible hurdles of current NAST legislative ABLE priorities described below, which were ranked by respondents to the September NAST Survey. Information will inform states as 2020 legislative priorities are set.

- Medicaid Recovery, Multiple Account Ownership and Successor Beneficiaries -Each has been identified as having potential to expand enrollment. ABLE Plan administrators need a better understanding of what they are and the potential hurdles to legislation.
- Lump Sum Contributions: Allow lump sum contributions in certain circumstances, such as insurance settlements, small inheritances, etc. Some disability advocates say that this could be a positive incremental next step for ABLE.
- Employer contribution tax incentive: Establish mechanism for employers to contribute to an employee's ABLE account. There may be more interest by employers on this one. ABLE could lead the way on this one.

10:30am-12:00pm: Part 2 – ABLE Legislation and Regulation – How Both Impact Your State's ABLE Plan Today and Into Tomorrow

Attendees will be educated about the role of the Social Security representative payee (SSRP) and of the authorized legal representative (ALR) and will have clarity on whether and how the ALR can be expanded to include SSRPs through legislation, administration or both.

12:30-1:45pm

Lunch & Keynote on The Power of Advocacy

2:00-3:00pm – Collaborative ABLE Outreach - Employment Landscape

Panelists will provide a picture of the national landscape of employment of people with disabilities, including how disability organizations, state/local governments and corporations are working to include people with disabilities in their hiring and employment efforts and what they

are or can to do promote ABLE through their outreach channels. Resources and collaborative outreach opportunities will be shared for ABLE state administrators to promote their ABLE programs.

3:15-4:15pm – Collaborative ABLE Outreach – Working with Employers and Businesses

Corporations will provide an overview of their inclusion and engagement efforts with people with disabilities, share how information is shared company wide, including benefits, and discuss possible ways to promote ABLE through internal channels. State administrators will learn from corporate representatives how to collaborate to provide information about ABLE to employees and their communities.

6:00-8:30pm

Join your colleagues for an evening at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Buffet Dinner, private viewing

Tuesday, February 11

8:00-9:30am

Breakfast and Electoral Debate

Join this spirited debate from both sides of the aisle on the state of the elections. Hear from two well-respected pollsters as they duke it out over recent polling data, as well as hear their speculation of state and national election outcomes.

9:30-10:30am - Bus to Capitol Hill

10:30am-12:00pm

ABLE Speaker Series with Members of Congress and select Congressional Staff

Hear about efforts in Congress to improve ABLE plans directly from Members of Congress or Congressional Staff who have introduced or are drafting critical legislation. In addition to describing the legislation, speakers will discuss best strategies for passage of the legislation and discuss key points that NAST members can use when conducting Hill Visits later in the day or during other critical advocacy outreach opportunities you may have later in the year.

Noon - Grab and Go Box Lunches

12:00-4:00pm - House and Senate Visits

Spending time with your elected officials while in DC is imperative so when a Federal issue comes up, you will be ready to make that call and connect with Members and their senior staff. Please make appointments with your Members of Congress, and personal and committee staff ahead of time. NAST staff can assist if needed.