



**Minnesota Statewide Community of Practice
Physical and Health Disabilities
Traumatic Brain Injury**

Monday, September 25, 2023

Speaker Biographies

Topic 1. "An Introduction to the Role of the Licensed School Nurse in the Special Education Process"

Mary Heiman, MS, RN, Licensed School Nurse received both her undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees from the University of Minnesota. Her graduate studies focused on Children with Special Health Care Needs. She is certified as a Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist and is a National Board-Certified School Nurse. Mary currently works as the health services coordinator for the COVID-19 Public Health Workforce grant in partnership with BrightWorks and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Previously, Mary worked as the health services supervisor in urban and suburban Minneapolis area school districts. Prior to working in the schools, she worked for many years in the role of nurse coordinator working with children with complex medical and chronic conditions.

Dawn Wilson, BSN, RN, Licensed School Nurse received her nursing degrees from North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND and Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN. Dawn currently works on the COVID-19 Public Health Workforce grant in partnership with BrightWorks and the Minnesota Department of Health. Prior to working with BrightWorks, Dawn worked in a variety of health care settings including 12 years of experience in public health and 20 years working as a health service supervisor in Bloomington, Burnsville, and Wayzata public schools.

Topic 2. "Evaluation Checklists for Physical Impairments (PI)"

Kelly Peterson is a rockstar Special Education Teacher with over two decades of making learning awesome. Kelly holds a Minnesota teaching license in the areas of EBD, SLD, DCD, ASD, and P/HD, basically she is a superhero for every student's needs. Kelly spent 13 fantastic years with the Sauk Rapids Rice School District before shaking things up as a PI and AT consultant for the Benton-Stearns Education District. When not busy shaping the education landscape, Kelly's celebrating 21 years of marriage and juggling the joys of raising three awesome boys, ages 19, 17, and 14. Beyond the classroom she's a scrapbooking whiz and the ultimate online shopping

deal hunter, on a mission to save the world – well, at least people’s wallets. Kelly is all about mixing education, family fun, and life’s little pleasures into one big, exciting adventure.

Joran Swedzinski is a passionate Special Education Teacher with an incredible 30-year journey in shaping young lives. She holds a Minnesota teaching license in the areas of DCD, P/HD, and ASD. Twenty years in the classroom, focusing on DCD and ASD education to now being the PI and AT Consultant for the Sherburne and Northern Wright Special Education Cooperative has made Joran a go-to for diverse learning needs. Off-duty, you’ll find her casting a line as she enjoys fishing with her husband and cherishing moments with family and friends.

The content of this meeting doesn’t necessarily represent the policy of the federal Department of Education or the state Department of Education. Endorsement by either shouldn’t be assumed, unless otherwise specified. Funding for this meeting is made possible with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education. The source of funds is federal award Special Education – Grants to States, CFDA 84.027A

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