



Stella Beard

KY-SPIN (Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network) **Education and Outreach Coordinator**

My name is Stella Beard. I am the Education and Outreach Coordinator for KYSPIN. I have been involved in Special Education and Advocacy work for many years. My husband Ryan and I have 4 children – JB (24), Clayton (22), Taylor (16) and Cole (15). Our son Clayton has Williams syndrome. I have worked in Special Education in different school systems as a Parent Resource Coordinator, Special Education Liaison and Special Education Program Assistant. Some of those duties included assisting families in locating resources in their local area and helping them become better advocates for their children. In the past, I have facilitated Admission and Release Committee meetings for middle and high school students in a school district. I have also worked for an agency for folks with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities as the Staff Development Director. I have trained around the state on many subjects including Transition and Medicaid Waivers. I was the Executive Director for The Arc of Kentucky and was the Parent Enrichment Coordinator for The Arc of Kentucky for many years. I have served on many statewide committees including: State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (Governor Appointed); Commonwealth Council for Developmental Disabilities (Governor Appointed); Kentucky Post School Outcomes (KyPSO); The Arc of Kentucky (Past Board Member); Kentucky TASH Board of Directors; Kentucky Interagency Transition Council; Kentucky Alternate Assessment Advisory Council (Past Parent Representative) as a parent representative on the College and Career Readiness/Kentucky State Personnel Improvement Grant. I currently serve on two Governor appointed commissions: The Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities (HB 144) and the Hart Supported Living Council. I was also recently appointed to the William Syndrome Association Board of Trustees. In 2009, I received the Betty Triplett Award sponsored by the Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children. This award is given each year to an outstanding professional who excels in working with families and children with disabilities.

"There is no more powerful advocate than a parent armed with information and options."
Rod Paige, Secretary of Education



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