



# Disability Rights Iowa

LEGAL PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5/4/2023**

**CONTACT:** Katelynn Schultz, [kschultz@driowa.org](mailto:kschultz@driowa.org), 515-278-2502 ext. 234

## **Assistive Animals and Mental Health – a panel conversation hosted by Disability Rights Iowa**

*This event- under one week away - will take place from 12 – 1:30 p.m. on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Iowa City.*

IOWA CITY, DES MOINES, OTTUMWA, CEDAR RAPIDS, and CHARITON, IA –Disability Rights Iowa will host an in-person panel presentation in Iowa City on Assistance Animals for Mental Health. In person satellite viewings of this panel conversation will take place in Des Moines, Ottumwa, Cedar Rapids and Chariton. The panel conversation will be also live-streamed. DRI anticipates the panel conversation will be impactful, lively, engaging, educational and fun.

Please visit the event website to learn more about the event, register, and learn more about the event co-sponsors:

<https://disabilityrightsiowa.org/events/mental-health-2/>

The panel conversation includes Len Sandler, Jodi Tate, Caleb Thomas, Zac and Lindsay Fox, and Claudia Hanna. These panelists will answer all of your questions regarding service animals and other assistive animals that support individuals with mental health diagnoses.

Registration for this event is now open. To register you will be asked to select either a general admission ticket or continuing education credit ticket. There are free tickets available for general admission. There is a small fee of \$35 registration fee for all continuing education credits. This panel conversation has been approved for 1.5 hours regular Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit and 1.5 hours diversity credit, 1.5 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU) for Social Workers and mental health professionals, and 1.5 hours of Habilitation (Hab) credit. If you decide to register the day of at the door the registration for continuing education credit tickets will be \$50, either check or exact change. DRI's Executive Director, Catherine E. Johnson, states "we have received tremendous interest in our upcoming conversation. DRI welcomes all interested to attend our event either in-person, in-person at a satellite location, or through our live-stream. We anticipate an impactful conversation and hope you will join us!"

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all events hosted by Disability Rights Iowa. Communication Across Real Time Translation (CART) in English and Spanish, and American Sign Language will be provided for this event.

If you require reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please email or call [contact@driowa.org](mailto:contact@driowa.org) or 515-452-0757 prior to May 2nd at 5pm.

If you or a loved one are experiencing a life-threatening mental health crisis, please call 911. If you or a loved one are experiencing a non-life-threatening mental health crisis please reach out to the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255, prestamos Servicios en Español 1-888-628-9454, for deaf, hard of hearing, or hearing loss dial 711 followed by 1-800-273-8255.

###

### **About Disability Rights Iowa**

*Advocating for justice. Advancing human and legal rights. Protecting Iowans with disabilities.*

Learn more: [www.driowa.org](http://www.driowa.org)

Connect with us on Social Media at: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)

Donate to Disability Rights Iowa at: [DonorPerfect](#)