



# Work Is For Me

Overcoming Barriers Transitioning From School to Work

Circles Of Life Conference  
May 7, 2025

Let's clear the path ahead.

# Presenter Bios



**Paul Mross** is a Community Partnership Specialist with TMG who works and lives in Southwest Wisconsin. Prior to being on the Community Partnership Team, Paul was an IRIS consultant. Paul is a dedicated advocate for health and wellness, whose career has been defined by his commitment and passion for supporting individuals on their journey to better living. Paul champions initiatives that brings self-advocacy to the communities he serves.

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**Christine Schulz** is a Community Partnership Specialist with TMG who works and lives in Southeast Wisconsin. Christine's career has focused on building and fostering collaborative relationships with individuals and families and passionately supporting individuals develop healthy, full lives in their communities. Christine is an advocate dedicated to helping people having choice and control over own lives because she believes independence is a key component of a person's health, wellness, and approach to self-care. Christine lives in the Milwaukee area with her husband, dog, and cat.

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# Who Is TMG?



- IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA) since 2008
- Partners with over 20,000 people
- Self-Directed Personal Care (SDPC) Oversight Agency
- SDPC program supporting over 15,000 individuals who have chosen SDPC
- Locally-based with over 850 staff in communities throughout Wisconsin

# Empowering People to Reach their Goals



The TMG ICA supports people to reach their goals related to:

- ✓ Community | ✓ Employment | ✓ Housing
- ✓ Health and Personal Care
- ✓ Relationships | ✓ Safety | ✓ Transportation



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# Supporting Self-Direction



Maximizes choice  
and control.

Values Budget  
Authority and  
Employer  
Authority.

Values the role  
individuals and  
families play in  
knowing what  
works best  
for them.

Promotes  
community  
connections,  
including  
employment.

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# Supporting Self-Direction



- Each IRIS participant is provided an individual budget based upon an assessment of their needs using the Long-Term Care Functional Screen.
- People are given freedom and choice for how to use this budget to purchase allowable services or goods.
- The Fiscal Employer Agent or FEA serves as the third-party payer.



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# School to Work Transition



**LIFE AFTER SCHOOL**

Visit **TMG's Transition Resources Page** to find tools to help navigate this next chapter of your life! There you'll find resources for these topics:

- I Want to Work
- I Want to be a Part of My Community
- I Want to Learn More About My Options for Decision Making
- I Want to Strengthen My Self-Determination Skills

Learn more by scanning the QR Code or visiting:

[tmgwisconsin.com/transition-resources](https://tmgwisconsin.com/transition-resources)



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# Meet Our Moderator



Matt is a  
self-advocate  
who works at  
Inclusion Coffee



# Meet Our Panelists



**Ala'a Eddeen**

Self Advocate  
Employee at Kalahari Resort

**Kim Watrud**

Program Director  
MARC Mt. Horeb

**Scott Southworth**

Parent of Self-Advocate

**Cheri Sylla**

WSPEI Statewide Coaching &  
Indicator 8 Coordinator  
CESA #1

**Mackenzie Edinger**

Owner  
Inclusion Coffee

**Eric Sylla**

Self-Advocate  
Employee at Marshalls

# Finding School to Work Transition Resources in Our Community





**And Now...**

**Questions?**



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To learn more about your long-term care options, please contact your Aging and Disability Resource Center:  
[dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/index.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/index.htm)

Learn more about TMG:  
[tmgwisconsin.com](https://tmgwisconsin.com)  
[info@tmgwisconsin.com](mailto:info@tmgwisconsin.com)  
(844) 864-8987

