June 1-3, 2021

SUPPORTING ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION AS PROTECTVE INFLUENCES FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH POPULATIONS IN ALTERNATIVE SETTINGS



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Kimberly Berg is a Program Planner for the Individuals and Families Committee at the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC). She has worked in the disability field for over 10 years, beginning as a Direct Support Professional at a residential treatment facility, and continuing direct care as a respite and community habilitation worker for a community provider. She also worked under the Director of Culture Change Initiatives



at the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities before coming to the DDPC. She has worked in various capacities at the DDPC since 2014, and thoroughly enjoys working within the DDPC's collaborative approach to developing innovative projects and participating in meaningful outreach and advocacy that positively impacts the lives of New Yorkers with IDD, and their family members. Kimberly has a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology and infuses the tenets of this training into her work at the DDPC.