

Jody A. Roberts, Ph.D., is the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services in the Department of Health and Social Services for the State of Delaware. The Division provides HCBS services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community and operates a 50 bed ICF/IDD. Previously, he served the division as the Director of External Relations and Strategic Partnerships – a position created in acknowledgment of the essential role that our service system partners play in the success of our efforts to provide services and supports grounded in our commitment to meet the unique needs of every individual we currently serve while we work to prepare our system for a rapidly evolving future.

Jody came to the State of Delaware following more than a dozen years in the non-profit sector, where he built and led a research institute focused on fostering critical participation and engagement in matters related to science, technology, and innovation policy with the goal of imagining and building more sustainable futures. Under Jody's leadership, the institute experimented with radical tools of engagement including public art exhibitions, oral histories, community theater and other forums for engagement to help uncover and unseat invisible assumptions about our world – and how to rebuild it. He brings that same dedication to research and innovation to his work in the DD system where there is critical need of innovation in the technologies, techniques, and policies available to ensure the rights, health, and ambitions of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Jody serves as the DDDS appointee to the State's Developmental Disabilities Council and State Council for Persons with Disabilities. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for Art-Reach, an organization dedicated to removing barriers to the arts and culture organizations in the Philadelphia region and promoting accessibility in the arts. Jody also sits on the Family Advisory Council for the Cerebral Palsy Program at Nemours Children's Hospital.

Jody holds degrees in chemistry (BS, St. Vincent College) and science and technology studies (MS and PhD, Virginia Tech), which means he can tell you far more than you'd ever want to know about things like the process of aluminum smelting and the history and social implications of it. He's also the proud parent of two daughters, including a sixteen-year-old with cerebral palsy, who together set him on a path to this work and remind him what the world could look like if we get this work right.