

NARRATOR:

The Disability & Philanthropy Forum presents Rahnee Patrick, Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services at the Illinois Department of Human Services.

RAHNEE PATRICK:

In Chicago, there is a philanthropy group that really wanted to get...dig deeper about resolving long-term social problems around folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities. So they convened state government – which I'm a part of – family members, and their board to ask for an educational series. So first, understanding what Maria and I are talking about, giving some basics about all of the acronyms, all of the policies and things like that in a very high level way. And then you give space for a dialogue or question and answer. And then after that, they then created strategy around, well, here's where we are going to work on- like transportation is a gap, say, for successful employment for people with disabilities when you want to be paid, have wage protections, minimum wage protections, as well as working amongst people without disabilities.

And so they started to address transportation in that space. So it was very intentional too. So that kind of quality of, “this is what we intend, these are our values,” and those are some of the... that was an experience that I had.

NARRATOR:

To continue your learning journey, visit DisabilityPhilanthropy.org.