1. **Tell us a bit about your career journey and what attracted you to the role of Director for the Planning for Adult Life program?**

   I was a writer and editor for non-profits for the first nearly-30 years of my career. During lockdown, I decided to go back to school and got my Master's in Criminal Justice from Boston University, focusing on strengths-based programming and reentry reform for people who are incarcerated. I was so lucky to begin working at The Arc of NJ soon after as the Sexual Violence Prevention Project Coordinator. The progression from there to Planning for Adult Life (PFAL) felt seamless, as both topics - sexual violence prevention and transitioning to adulthood - rely on education for empowerment and personal safety.

2. **What are your goals for PFAL and how do you plan to communicate your vision to stakeholders in our community?**

   I have so many goals! In schools, our two Educator/Transition Navigators and I will work with teachers and our new curriculum, Empower U!, to address issues including planning, post-secondary education, supported employment, and living as an adult (whatever that looks like for each individual!). We will provide customized workshops, monthly webinars with guest experts, a newsletter, "office hours" for questions and discussion, and help develop Transition Coordinator Task Forces within school districts. For parents, we plan to roll out a series of "boot camps" (very specific and abridged online presentations that cover everything from how to fill out DDD paperwork to helping your child navigate a social life after high school), in-person presentations, our monthly webinars, an Information & Referral Coordinator, and community circles for building a strong network of support with other parents, guardians, and families. Our newsletters will be available monthly for our stakeholders and we plan to create a series of short videos for social media to keep everyone informed. My proverbial door is always open, also, so bring on the ideas!

3. **What do you want educators, families and students with disabilities to know about you and PFAL?**

   It is so important that educators, families, and students with disabilities recognize that this is a really exciting time for them! Becoming an adult with developmental disabilities certainly brings challenges (and a little red tape), but we are here to help you - and help your teachers help you - keep moving forward with information, support, and optimism. My favorite saying is, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time!" and I want this to become the mantra for the PFAL community. The process may feel like a daunting task, but we will partner with you throughout it all so everyone involved can feel prepared and positive every step of the way.