

**Jennifer VanBlarcom**

Jennifer began her career as a Registered Nurse at Prince George's County Hospital and for 10 years practiced critical care nursing at several Maryland hospitals. Jennifer left her nursing career to accept a position as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative in the DC area. After 3 years she was promoted into a training role in the Sales Training department at corporate headquarters in NJ. For the next 7 years Jennifer worked with the sales training team as an instructor, eventually taking a management position. In 1995, Jennifer signed with a consulting company to work with organizations, both for-profit and non-profit, to provide selection, performance management and people development skills for leaders.

In her work in the past 5 years with the Maryland Coalition of Families, Jennifer has applied her experience of building leaders to working with families of children with mental and behavioral health disorders. She has relied heavily on her real life experience as a mother and parent leader to a young adult with mental illness and substance use disorder. In her role as Director of Training, Jennifer has organized and led yearly events for Maryland State Department of Education that include the 60 hour Family Leadership Institute and other targeted trainings for parents and caregivers.

## **Advanced Training**

- Georgetown University Training Institutes, “Improving Children’s Mental Health Care in an Era of Change, Challenge, and Innovation: the Role of the System of Care Approach, Orlando, FL July 25-29, 2012.
- University of Maryland, Innovations Institute-CAST-Collaborative Assessment of Support Tool, April 19 and 22, 2011
- Mental Health Administration, Child and Adolescent, February 20, 2010.
- Family Leadership Institute, MCF, Columbia, Maryland, February-May 2010.
- University of Maryland, Innovations Institute, Systems of Care Training Institute, 2009-2010.
- NAMI Basics, Howard County, April and May 2009.
- Wrightslaw Special Education and Advocacy Boot Camp, November 14 and 15, 2008.