**We Take our Training to the Next Level**

Jeanne Stangel, President and CEO, Curative Connections

For more than 75 years Curative Connections has been dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals and families seeking support and care due to aging, dementia, brain injury or disability. Most recently, our agency enrolled a leadership team in Strategic Foresight training through Envision. Following the five-session workshop’s conclusion in April, we extended staff training in futuring with Garry Golden, who had facilitated our workshop.

On Friday, May 10, Garry offered a special follow-up session with our directors and entire leadership team.  Twelve people participated in the virtual meeting. Garry introduced basic futuring concepts, AI, trends and signals.  The session was informational and engaging, and it definitely spiked the interest of our team. Through this interactive session, Garry also helped us apply futuristic thinking to specific examples relevant to our programs and services. He encouraged us to think about what Curative Connections *can be* as we look toward the future.

Following the session with Garry, we continued the discussion among our group for another 30 minutes. We shared ideas about how to maintain this energy and extend it throughout the agency.  One of the directors who attended the meeting offered to step up as the lead to organize a Futuristics/AI Team with all staff members. As she builds this team and adds interested staff members, the group will define its purpose and plan how to carry forward our commitment to shaping our organization’s future. We have also asked our Director of IT to be part of the group to help establish and follow proper policies, procedures and tools to protect integrity and minimize risk.

We greatly appreciated Garry~~’s~~ offering this additional value so we could extend our learning to our leadership team.  He is amazing and full of energy – and now we are developing our *internal* futurists!  Next we’ll work with our board of directors. I have started that process as well and will integrate futuring and foresight into our strategic planning process going forward. This actually started today with “laying the groundwork” in our annual Board Retreat!  One activity we’ll use is a small group exercise (board and Curative Management team members) in which members respond to these questions:

* What do we know to be true?
* What do we believe about Curative and our impact on our community?
* What can we do, based on this knowledge, for the future?

We have a facilitator leading this discussion, and we’re all looking forward to moving Curative Connections toward shaping a better future, engaging and empowering people to create vibrant communities.