## **Amy Gessert**

## **Biography**

Amy Gessert lives in Maryville and is a consultant with the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, where she supports organizational transformation efforts in various states.

She served as an advocate for a decade at Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services, a federally mandated law firm that only served people with disabilities. In 2017 she worked with a local greenhouse to develop a program to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their work goals, then began work at an agency that provided residential support and case management services. Working from direct support to becoming the Assistant Executive Director for that agency, she was pivotal in transforming that agency into a robust provider of more well-rounded support, including behavior and employment services.

Amy also serves on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Chapter of the Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) and served on the Board of Directors for the Family Guidance Center. She believes that all people can achieve their dreams, given the right support, and is driven to make those supports available to all.