Welcome

From the Executive Director

Friends,

As we look back over the past year through our Annual Report, we are continuously reminded that so much of what The Boggs Center is able to do is accomplished through your support. The expansion of our efforts with the addition of two new major training programs highlights how, through partnerships and collaboration, we continue to find new ways to listen to and to support people with disabilities, their families, and those who work on their behalf.

In July 2016, The Boggs Center was awarded a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) interdisciplinary clinical leadership training grant, through the federal Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). Planned with the guidance of The Boggs Center’s Consumer Advisory Council, this interprofessional educational program includes partners across Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and Rutgers Graduate Programs, with Children’s Specialized Hospital and the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center as clinical partners, and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) and the NJ Department of Health’s Division of Family Health Services as community partners. Family is considered a discipline, joining Rutgers faculty from Pediatrics, Nursing, Nutrition, Dentistry, Psychology, and Social Work in teaching and mentoring graduate fellows. NJLEND addresses Autism and Related Developmental Disabilities and other maternal and child health priorities, including health disparities, cultural competence, and Children with Special Health Care Needs. Our inaugural cohort of nine leadership fellows began this year-long program this past August. We are deeply grateful to now have this federal resource to expand upon The Boggs Center’s Interdisciplinary Student Traineeship program, and contributing to the development of the next generation of professionals.

We also just launched the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking program, with support from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, one of our NJAIDD partners, who as The Boggs Center and Disability Rights New Jersey, are all funded under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. Based upon a national model, NJ Partners in Policymaking is a leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities and family members. Nine young adults and 12 families of children and emerging adults, reflective of the diversity of our state, are enrolled in this intensive training program. We feel honored to have this opportunity to contribute to strengthen advocacy in New Jersey.

The coming year will bring the process of renewing our federal CORE grant which designates us a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. Our thanks for the generous participation of our Consumer Advisory Council and other allies in planning this major Center renewal.

With gratitude and good wishes,

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD
Professor of Pediatrics
Executive Director
Director, NJLEND

The purpose of University Centers, as outlined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, is to provide a leadership role at the state level in the promotion of independence, productivity, and the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

The Boggs Center is New Jersey’s federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and is an integral component of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics. Since its inception in 1983, The Center has emphasized a community based, lifespan approach to meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. In 2016, The Boggs Center was designated as New Jersey’s Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NJLEND) program.

The Boggs Center provides community and student training and technical assistance, conducts research, and disseminates information and educational materials. Activities of The Boggs Center are guided by its consumer Advisory Council and partnerships with people with disabilities, families, state and community agencies, and policy makers.

Elizabeth Monroe Boggs, PhD (April 5, 1913-January 27, 1996), parent and internationally renowned policy maker, was New Jersey’s foremost scholar and advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

To honor her contributions, The University Affiliated Program of New Jersey was renamed "The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities" in late 1997.

To learn more about Elizabeth Boggs, PhD, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/about/about_elizabeth.html
Deborah Spitalnik, PhD Presents at the White House Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of The Boggs Center, delivered remarks at the White House in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) on November 17, 2015. The event brought together government officials, the education community, advocates and others to celebrate and reaffirm support for IDEA. Originally signed into law as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, IDEA ensures the same educational opportunities are provided to children with and without disabilities. In her talk, entitled, “Bending the Arc Toward Justice: IDEA and the Common Good,” Spitalnik highlighted the impact of the Act and the lives that have been changed by the right to education, while also touching upon the work that still needs to be done in supporting students with disabilities in transitioning “to a life of opportunity, meaning, and contribution.”

Melissa Cheplic Honored with NADD Member of the Year Award

Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-DDS, Senior Training & Consultation Specialist at The Boggs Center, was honored with the NADD Member of the Year Award in San Francisco, California on November 20, 2015. The award recognizes a NADD member who has supported the NADD mission through various activities and has made notable contributions to NADD, an association committed to individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. Cheplic is chairperson of the NADD Competency-Based DSP Certification Program. She also co-authored a book entitled Mental Health Approaches to Intellectual/Developmental Disability: A Resource for Trainers, together with an associated Trainee Workbook.

Bill Davis Inducted Into Rutgers African-American Alumni Alliance Hall of Fame

Bill Davis, MEd, Training and Consultation Specialist for the NJ Positive Behavior Supports in Schools project at The Boggs Center, was inducted into the Rutgers African-American Alumni Alliance (RAAA) Hall of Fame. Bill was among the five individuals who were inducted into the RAAA Hall of Fame for their outstanding achievements in their communities and/or their respective professional fields. The 12th Annual Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony was held on October 3, 2015 in Piscataway, NJ.
News Highlights from Fiscal Year 2016

Carrie Coffield, PhD Honored with Parent-Professional Collaboration Award

Carrie Coffield, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at The Boggs Center, Malia Corde, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), Deepa Srinivasavaradan, SPAN, and Ericka Dickerson, NJ Department of Children and Families, were honored with the Parent-Professional Collaboration Award by SPAN and the Community of Care Consortium. The award was presented at the most recent meeting of the Council for Young Children’s Infant and Child Health Committee on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 for enhancing early screening of autism and other developmental disabilities for families served by Federally Qualified Health Centers, early childhood centers, and home visiting programs in New Jersey.

Colleen McLaughlin, MEd Honored with the Distinction of Fellow of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Colleen McLaughlin, MEd, Community Training and Technical Assistance Manager at The Boggs Center, was honored with the distinction of Fellow of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). The ceremony was held at AAIDD’s 140th Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on June 8, 2016. The designation of Fellow is conferred after an individual has at least seven years of continuous membership in AAIDD, participation in the professional and business affairs of the Association, and are judged to have made a meritorious contribution to the field of intellectual disability. Also honored was Carol Britton Laws, PhD, a graduate of Rutgers School of Social Work and a former Boggs Center student and Training & Consultation Specialist, along with ten other 2016 AAIDD Fellows.

The Boggs Center Receives $2.2M Grant for Student Training in Autism and Related Disabilities

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics, has been awarded a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Training Program grant totaling $2.2 million over five years from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of The Boggs Center, said the NJLEND will “enable The Boggs Center to improve the lives of New Jersey’s children, young adults, and their families living with Autism, through interdisciplinary clinical leadership training to develop the next generation of health leaders and advocates.” The program will address other maternal and child health priorities, focusing on health disparities and cultural competence, and opportunities to collaborate with the New Jersey Department of Health’s Division of Family Health Services.

The Boggs Center Receives Funding for Partners in Policymaking

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities was awarded funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities to coordinate New Jersey Partners in Policymaking. New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is an 8-month leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities and family members. The goal of program is to prepare the next generation of disability advocates to work toward meaningful change in our state.
**Faculty & Staff**

**Faculty**
- Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD  
  Executive Director  
  Professor of Pediatrics  
  Adjunct Associate Professor of Family Medicine
- Michael Knox, PhD  
  Deputy Director  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
  Research Coordinator
- Caroline N. Coffield, PhD  
  Interdisciplinary Training Coordinator  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
- Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT  
  Director of Employment Programs and Aging & Disability  
  Instructor of Pediatrics
- Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics & Family Medicine and Community Health
- Sharon Lohrmann, PhD  
  Director, Positive Behavior Support in Schools  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
- Philip Smith, PhD  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
- Deborah Mahovetz  
  Conference and Management Assistant
- Jaime McGeady, BA  
  Community Supports Educator
- Colleen McLaughlin, MEd  
  Community Training and Technical Assistance Manager
- Scott McMahon, MSW  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Michelle Mead, MA  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Joel Nudi, MBA, PMP  
  UCEDD Administrator
- Paula Raigoza, MEd  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Renee Rodkey, BS, BCABA  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Jessica Short, BA  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Michael Steinbruck, MA  
  Program Coordinator
- Ina White, MA  
  Community Outreach Coordinator
- Ann Marie McVay  
  Project Support Staff
- Kim Tomlin  
  Receptionist

**Program Staff**
- Ziba Arjmand, BS  
  Data and Technology Coordinator
- Robyn Carroll, MSW  
  Communications Manager  
  Dissemination Coordinator
- Bethany L. Chase, LSW  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-DDS  
  Senior Training and Consultation Specialist
- Shellyann Dacres, MA  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- William Davis, MEd  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Susan Ellien, MSW  
  Policy and Dissemination Coordinator
- Joyce Jelley, BA  
  Training and Consultation Specialist
- Yaa Keene, MPH  
  NJLEND Program & Data Coordinator
- Kenny Lewis, BA  
  Senior Accountant
- Deborah Mahovetz  
  Conference and Management Assistant
- Jaime McGeady, BA  
  Community Supports Educator
- Colleen McLaughlin, MEd  
  Community Training and Technical Assistance Manager
- Scott McMahon, MSW  
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- Michael Steinbruck, MA  
  Program Coordinator
- Ina White, MA  
  Community Outreach Coordinator
- Ann Marie McVay  
  Project Support Staff
- Kim Tomlin  
  Receptionist

**Affiliated Faculty and Program Associates**
- Brenda Bickar, CMA  
  Medical Service Assistant, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
- Emma Kaplan  
  Parent Coordinator, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities
- Dolores Matlock, LPN  
  Primary Care Manager, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
- Uday Mehta, MD  
  Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Associate Medical Director, Children’s Specialized Hospital
- Stephanie Pratico  
  Parent Advocate, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities
- Nancy Razza, PhD  
  Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
- Kapila Seshadri, MD  
  Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Program Director, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship Program
Virginia Bryant, Esq., Chair
  Parent Advocate

Jui Agrawal
  Sibling Advocate

Diana Autin
  Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)

Thomas Baffuto
  The Arc of New Jersey

Suzanne Buchanan, PsyD
  Autism New Jersey

Ellie Byra
  Parent Advocate

Kevin Casey
  NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities

Barbara Coppins
  Advocate
  Disability Rights New Jersey

William A. B. Ditto
  Human Services Consultant

Lorraine D’Sylva-Lee
  Parent Advocate

Gail Frizzell
  Parent Advocate

Harold Garwin, Esq.
  Community Health Law Project

Jeanne Hoffner
  Parent Advocate

Donna Icovino
  Parent Advocate

Eric Joice
  Family Resource Network

Dan Keating, PhD
  Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD)

Roberta Kestenbaum
  Spina Bifida Resource Network

Elizabeth Manley
  Children’s System of Care
  NJ Department of Children and Families

Peggy McDonald, PhD
  NJ Office of Special Education Programs
  NJ Department of Education

Joanne McKeown
  Parent Advocate
  Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)

Nicole Morgan-Lewis
  Parent Advocate
  NJ National Guard, State Youth Coordinator

Jack M. Mudge
  Advancing Opportunities

Safiyyah Muhammad
  Parent Advocate

Hazeline Pilgrim
  Parent Advocate

Sandra Pinkerton, EdD
  Advocate
  Special Educator

Stephanie Pratico
  Parent Advocate
  Chair, NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities

Mercedes Rosa
  Parent Advocate

Ryan Roy
  Advocate

Raymond Rajkowski
  Advocate

Valerie Sellers
  NJACP

Elizabeth Shea
  NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities
  NJ Department of Human Services

Deepa Srinivasavaradan
  Parent Advocate

Rita Steindliberger
  Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey

Derrick Williams
  Advocate

Joseph Young, Esq.
  Disability Rights New Jersey

For more information about Boggs Center staff or the Consumer Advisory Council, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscen
The Federal Developmental Disabilities Act, which designates The Boggs Center as New Jersey’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD), mandates that we perform the core functions of:

- Student Training
- Community Training
- Technical Assistance
- Research and Evaluation
- Information Development and Dissemination

The Boggs Center, in planning projects and activities, utilizes these core functions to address our state context and needs.

### Core Function Level of Effort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Function</th>
<th>Level of Effort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>4,358 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Training</td>
<td>1,913 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Development and Dissemination</td>
<td>2,938 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>904 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Core Function Participants by Type

- **Total = 24,367**
  - Professionals & Paraprofessionals (19,469)
  - General Public (3,087)
  - Legislators (37)
  - Family Members/ Caregivers (1,013)
  - Adults with Disabilities (183)
  - University Students (336)
  - Children & Adolescents with HCN (246)
Core Functions

Student Training
The Boggs Center prepares university students to provide leadership and support individuals with disabilities and their families through year-long Interdisciplinary Traineeships, the Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities, coursework, and other learning experiences.

Community Training
The Boggs Center provides continuing education and community training for professionals, people with disabilities, and family members. Through training courses, workshops, and state and national conference presentations, The Boggs Center builds capacity to support people with disabilities in full community living.

Technical Assistance
The Boggs Center assists state and federal agencies, school districts, community providers, and other organizations in improving their services. Technical Assistance is also the way we contribute to the development of public policy and bring people together in partnerships to solve problems.

Research and Evaluation
The Boggs Center conducts research to contribute to the evidence base in developmental disabilities and collects and analyzes evaluation data across all training, technical assistance, dissemination, and student activities.

Information Development and Dissemination
The Boggs Center develops publications, including articles, brochures, resource guides, and educational materials, disseminates information through our web site and community events, and responds to requests for information.


Selected Publications


Editorial Positions

Sharon Lohrmann, PhD
Journal of Positive Behavior Support Interventions (Editorial Board Member)
Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities (Editorial Board Member)

Colleen McLaughlin, MEd
Frontline Initiative (Editorial Board Member)

For a complete list of Boggs Center Publications, visit: http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/publications/publications_list.html
Funding

Funding Sources Fiscal Year 2016

The Boggs Center has particular expertise in developmental disabilities and a strong network of relationships with other components of the disability community.

The Boggs Center serves federal and state agencies, community provider agencies, school districts, and other entities through core funding, funded projects, and fee-for-service activities, including per diem consultations.

Total $5,465,791

State: $2,801,803 51.26%
Federal: $2,357,162 43.13%
Fee for Service and Foundation: $128,421 2.35%
University Matching Funds: $178,405 3.26%

Boggs Center Grants and Contracts Fiscal Year 2016

Federal

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
  • Parent-led Training about Developmental Screening for Healthcare Providers at Federally Qualified Health Centers

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities/The Arc of the United States
  • HealthMeet/Improving Health of People with Intellectual Disabilities

US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs/New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
  • Department of Education Memorandum of Understanding

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
  • University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Core Grant

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
  • Exploring Transition in NJ: Research into the Experiences of Emerging Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

State

The Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
  • Exploring the Experiences of Diverse Families of Children Newly Diagnosed with ASD in NJ

The Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism/Children’s Specialized Hospital
  • Development of a New Autism Screening Tool for Traditionally Underserved Families

New Jersey Department of Children and Families
  • Children’s System of Care Contract/Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care

New Jersey Department of Human Services
  • Division of Developmental Disabilities Contract

New Jersey Health Foundation, Inc.
  • Improving Social Conditions in School Settings by Investigating School Age Youth’s Usage of Stigmatizing Language

Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research/Center for State Health Policy
  • Health Services Research in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Projects

Community Supports

The Boggs Center provides community training and technical assistance to service providers, state employees, families, and individuals with disabilities on person-centered approaches and supports. Under contract with New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, The Boggs Center provides training sessions and courses for Direct Support Professionals, supervisors, and others on the development and implementation of person-centered supports. Training for Support Coordinators focuses on the person-centered planning process and connection to supports and services is also provided on a monthly basis. Additional training topics and other presentations addressing healthy relationships, community connection, and other areas related to meeting the needs and preferences of people with disabilities and their families are provided by Boggs Center staff.

Cultural Competence

The Boggs Center initiated the development and continues to provide coordination of the New Jersey Statewide Network on Cultural Competence, which aims “to strengthen culturally competent services in the state of New Jersey for people with diverse needs, and to facilitate access by individuals, families, providers, and professionals to these services.”

Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

The lecture series is a community and continuing education program provided for state agencies, community provider agencies, people with disabilities, and family members to enhance their knowledge and skills in innovative approaches and state-of-the-art practices for people with developmental disabilities. Eight sessions are held per year, attended by over 1,500 people. Nationally known speakers with expertise in their field serve as faculty for the program, each conducting a morning presentation and providing technical assistance in an afternoon forum.

Direct Support Workforce Development

The Boggs Center collaborates with a number of public and private provider agencies and networks on a variety of strategies to strengthen recruitment, retention, and professional development opportunities for direct support professionals. The Boggs Center provides primary coordination for the New Jersey Partnership for Direct Support Professional Workforce Development. The Center also serves as the state College of Direct Support system administrator, coordinates professional development opportunities for direct support professionals, provides technical assistance, and offers a series of training courses for managers.
Education

Community-Based Instruction

Community-Based Instruction is a critical component of a successful transition from school to adult life for many students with disabilities. With funding from the NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Community-Based Instruction (CBI) training and technical assistance efforts assist school districts in providing instruction for students in community-based settings. These efforts include: providing information to districts through workshops, sharing successful efforts currently occurring in New Jersey school districts, and offering direct technical assistance to school districts addressing CBI strategies, training needs, and necessary administrative supports. All activities are designed to create positive, observable outcomes for students.

Exploring Transition in New Jersey

Exploring Transition in NJ: Research into the Experiences of Emerging Adults with IDD and Their Families, was a research study funded by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities to understand the experience of young adults with intellectual or Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey as they age out of secondary education. The Boggs Center gathered and analyzed information from transition educators, young adults with IDD, and their families to provide comprehensive data that will help guide the Council in developing its five-year federal plan, including systems change. The study was completed in 2016 and two research reports were disseminated.

Projects

Community Supports

Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) in the Community

The Boggs Center provides training and technical assistance to facilitate the development of programs that effectively support individuals with challenging behavior in community settings, including ongoing support for children and adolescents whose severe problem behavior would have resulted in out of home/ state placement. Efforts have been expanded to support programs through the Department of Children and Families, Children’s System of Care, for youth dually diagnosed with IDD and mental illness. Training continues to be provided for agencies that serve adults with challenging behavior in community settings. The center also provides training and technical assistance to support DDD’s newly developed Supports Program.
Projects

**Education**

**Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST)**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), in partnership with The Boggs Center, conducts training and technical assistance to promote the implementation of person centered approaches in schools and transition. Project staff work in partnership with districts to plan more collaboratively with students and families and design supports for students that are rooted in their individual strengths and visions for the future. The project has a focus on supporting effective transitions from school to adult life, including employment and engaging with adult service systems. The Boggs Center offers statewide training in these approaches, as well as more intensive multi-year support in select school districts. Project staff also coordinates a statewide community of practice designed to foster a network of students, families, educators and advocates with an interest in person centered approaches. The project aims to identify strategies to positively impact person centered post-school outcomes.

**Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS)**

New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools (NJ PBSIS) is a partnership between the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs and The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. NJ PBSIS is funded by I.D.E.A Part B funds and is in its 12th year of providing training and technical assistance to schools across New Jersey. The NJ PBSIS team provides training and technical assistance to school teams on how to implement a tiered system of support for behavior and climate issues. The NJ PBSIS team proudly hosts www.njpbs.org, a resource rich site making tools, samples and usable products available to school personnel for application in their setting.

**Employment**

**Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance**

Boggs Center Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance activities increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities by developing competence among service providers to assist people with disabilities to choose, obtain, and maintain employment. A four-day Employment Specialist Foundations course is offered as well as Supplemental courses. On-site technical assistance is available upon request and is tailored to agency-specific needs. Coordination of the annual Facing the Future conference on transition and employment, in collaboration with NJ APSE, remains a high priority of the project.
HealthMeet®: Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disabilities

The Boggs Center partnered with The Arc of the United States on its project HealthMeet®, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the health, longevity, and quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities. HealthMeet® brought together a national network of Arc chapters, disability organizations, public health systems, and other stakeholders to provide free community-based health assessments and follow-up recommendations for people with intellectual disabilities. HealthMeet® also provided training and education for individuals, their families, direct service professionals, medical providers, and medical students and is raising public awareness of health issues that impact people with intellectual disabilities across the country. The Boggs Center conducted descriptive analyses of results of the HealthMeet® assessments, prepared data briefs describing results of the analyses, and participated on the HealthMeet® National Advisory Committee.

Primary Health Care Coordination

In collaboration with the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, The Boggs Center facilitates a medical home for 154 adults with developmental disabilities by supporting care coordination for adults with developmental disabilities at the Family Practice ambulatory care site in New Brunswick. A resource unit provides care coordination and supports faculty and resident physicians in caring for patients with developmental disabilities.

Aging and End of Life Issues for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

With support from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, The Boggs Center provides customized training and technical assistance and presents workshops on coping with grief and loss, successful aging, and end-of-life issues unique to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Agencies, family members, and health care providers alike benefit from exploring the realities of these topics as they are experienced by individuals aging with disabilities and their care providers. Additionally, consultation services are available to healthcare providers (including hospice and palliative care services) on specific cases and/or policy interpretation and development.

To learn more about Boggs Center projects, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/projects
Research to Explore Experiences of Diverse Families of Children with Autism: The Experience of Latino Families

The Boggs Center has been awarded funding by The Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism for research that will explore the experiences of Latino families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This qualitative research study focuses on understanding the impact of diagnosis on the family and pathways from diagnosis to linkage with services and interventions. This study builds on the Center’s ongoing work, in collaboration with Children’s Specialized Hospital, to develop and test a new screening tool for autism among children from diverse backgrounds.

Act Early State Systems Grant

The Boggs Center, in partnership with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) was awarded a two-year grant from the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) to provide parent-led training sessions and informational materials to early childhood educators and staff at up to 20 Head Start centers across the state. The goals of this initiative were to increase Head Start staff members’ developmental screening, monitoring, and referral practices, as well as to connect at-risk underserved children and their families to local, community, and state organizations.

Research to Develop New Autism Screening Tool

The Boggs Center, in collaboration with Children’s Specialized Hospital, has received funding through the NJ Governor’s Council for the Medical Research and Treatment of Autism to develop and test a new screening tool for autism among a diverse and underserved population. This five year research project focuses on the development and validation of an autism screening tool comprised primarily of pictures depicting expected developmental milestones or concerning behaviors. This screening tool is designed to be easily understood by parents from diverse cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds.
The Interdisciplinary Traineeship program at The Boggs Center provides a select group of undergraduate and graduate students with individualized learning opportunities, training a cadre of professionals prepared to provide leadership in the field of developmental disabilities. In Fiscal Year 2016, 2 students graduated from the long-term traineeship program at The Boggs Center and 8 students participated in the intermediate traineeship program.

Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities

All medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick receive an introduction to family centered care and developmental disabilities through the Developmental Disabilities Seminar, a required component of the third year Pediatrics clerkship. The Boggs Center conducts the seminar 8 times each year in collaboration with the Department of Pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. A key component of the seminar is visits to families in their homes, to increase awareness of and sensitivity to the strengths and needs of families who have a child with a developmental disability.

Other Learning Experiences for Health Professionals

The Boggs Center continues to collaborate with the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health to provide educational experiences involving individuals with developmental disabilities to medical students, residents and fellows. The Boggs Center supports students through the Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Summer Assistantship, advises student projects in the Distinction in Service to the Community (DISC) diploma enhancement program at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and works to ensure that disability content and practical experience is infused in the first through third years of the required Patient-Centered Medicine course. Additionally, the Center advises medical students fulfilling their independent project requirement and offers an individualized elective experience for 3rd and 4th year medical students.

Rutgers School of Social Work - Current Issues in Developmental Disabilities Course

During Fiscal Year 2016, Boggs Center faculty taught a graduate social work course in developmental disabilities, Current Issues in Developmental Disabilities.

Rutgers School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education - Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities

The Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities is co-sponsored by the Rutgers University School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education and The Boggs Center. The 12-course certificate is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of professionals working with people with disabilities and their families in a variety of settings. The Boggs Center chairs the Certificate Program Advisory Council.

To learn more about Boggs Center student programs, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/student/overview.html
The Boggs Center actively influences public policy at national and state levels through participation on boards and committees. Boggs Center faculty and staff share information on best practices and work collaboratively with the larger community to build capacity and create systems change.

National Appointments and Committees

- Alliance for Disability in Healthcare Education (Board Member)
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Direct Support Workforce Division; Health and Wellness Action Group (Co-Chair)
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities: (Past President); Business Managers Group, Process Improvement Workgroup; Community Education and Dissemination Council; Data Coordinators; Leadership Advisory Council; Public Policy Committee; Training Directors Council (Steering Committee Member); Consortium on Educating Hospital and Hospice Providers on Healthcare Decision Making For People with Disabilities
- College of Direct Support National Advisory Board
- NADD: Direct Support Professional Certification Sub-Committee Direct Support Professional Curriculum Development Committee (Chair)
- National APSE (Board of Directors); Board Development Committee; Chapter Development Committee; Executive Committee; Executive Director Search Committee; Foundation Board of Directors
- Northeast PBIS Network Advisory Committee
- President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (Presidential Appointment)
- The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices: (Vice Chair; Board of Directors); Conference Agenda and Planning Committee (Board Liaison); Technology Committee (Board Liaison)

New Jersey Appointments and Committees

- Allies in Self-Advocacy New Jersey State Team
- Arc of NJ Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Health/Overlook Medical Center: Bioethics Committee; Policy Subcommittee (IDD Content Expert)
- Autism Family Services of New Jersey: Autism Advisory Committee
- Children's Specialized Hospital: Scientific Advisory Committee
- Cultural Access Network of New Jersey
- Disability Rights New Jersey: Assistive Technology Advocacy Center Advisory Committee; Protection and Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities Advisory
- Family Resource Network: Get FIT Statewide Coalition
- NJ Advisory Council on End-of-Life (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ APSE (Board of Directors, Conference Co-Chair): Conference Committee; Executive Committee (National Liaison)
- NJ Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology (Board of Trustees)
- NJ Council for Young Children: Infant and Child Health Subcommittee, Information Sharing Workgroup
- NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (Gubernatorial Appointment); Health and Wellness Committee; Public Policy Committee
- NJ Department of Children and Families: Children's Transition Advisory Committee
- NJ Department of Community Affairs: Barrier-Free Sub-code Committee
- NJ Department of Education: New Jersey Tiered System of Support Development Committee; Social Emotional Learning Development Committee
- NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs: State Performance Plan Stakeholders Group
- NJ Department of Human Services, Managed Long Term Services and Supports Steering Committee
- NJ Direct Support Professional Workforce Development Coalition Leadership Council (Chair)
- NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities: Olmstead Advisory Council
- NJ Group for Access and Integration Needs in Emergencies and Disasters
- NJ Medical Assistance Advisory Council (Chair, Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competence
- Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences: Brain Health Institute Search Committee for Autism Research Director
- Rutgers Center for Health Policy: External Advisory Committee
- Rutgers Center for Health Policy, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences: Advisory Panel for Medicaid High Utilizer Analysis Project
- Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School: Community Oriented Primary Care Advisory Committee; Distinction in Service to the Community Advisory Committee
- Rutgers School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education: Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (Chair)
- SPAN: NJ Integrated Systems Community Care Consortium, Medical Home Group
- Union County: Advisory Board on Persons with Disabilities; Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Transportation Advisory Board
Mission

The Boggs Center, as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, values uniqueness and individuality and promotes the self-determination and full participation of people with disabilities and their families in all aspects of community life.

As a catalyst and resource, The Boggs Center, through partnerships and collaborations, builds capacity in organizations, systems, and communities in a culturally competent manner. The Boggs Center prepares students through interdisciplinary programs, provides community training and technical assistance, conducts research, and disseminates information and educational materials.