Welcome

From the Executive Director

Friends,

As always, it is an honor and pleasure to write this letter. This report marks the beginning of The Boggs Center’s 35th year, adding an additional layer of meaning to our work over time. Of the many constants in our history, the collaborations with people with disabilities and families, our University and community partners, and the dedicated contributions of our faculty and staff are at the heart of our work.

We see our NJLEND – New Jersey Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Fellows, pursuing research, capstone projects, and careers directed to supporting individuals with disabilities and their families. We see Partners in Policy Making graduates engaged in advocacy efforts. Our gratitude to the families who educate and inspire the students of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School continues to grow. In partnership with New Jersey’s state and community agencies, we continue to work towards equity for all students in schools, meaningful transitions to adult life, support of families, and opportunities for productive and engaged lives in the community.

We also enter this year with deep sadness on the loss of our colleague and lifelong advocate, Ina White, who passed away on July 1, 2018. Ina served as the Community Outreach Coordinator at The Boggs Center since the founding of the program. As an adjunct instructor in Special Education at Kean University, Ina’s leadership of the Adult Social Group provided meaningful opportunities for adults living in the community and inspired generations of future professionals. Through her service as chair of the Barrier-Free Subcommittee of the NJ Construction Code Advisory Board, a member of the NJ Transit ADA Task Force, a founding member of the Cultural Access Network Project, and myriad other committees, Ina improved access and quality of life for people with disabilities. Life in New Jersey is better because of Ina White. We miss her deeply.

As we enter this 35th year with new and expanded programs and activities, we affirm our mission and commitment to promote the full participation of people with disabilities and their families in our communities, and supporting those who work on their behalf.

With gratitude to our Consumer Advisory Council and to our partners in this journey, and warm regards,

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD
Professor of Pediatrics
Executive Director
Director, NJLEND
The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities is part of a national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research, and Service (UCEDD) sponsored by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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
News Highlights from Fiscal Year 2018

Somerlee Monaghan Honored with LDANJ Educator of the Year Award

Somerlee Monaghan was honored with the Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey Educator of the Year Award in Edison, New Jersey on October 21, 2017. Ms. Monaghan was recognized for inspiring educators about Person Centered Approaches and for her work supporting students with disabilities through the use of this practice. Highlighted were Ms. Monaghan’s efforts in providing transition support to all students, parents, and educators through her outreach and contributions at The Boggs Center, Eastern Regional Camden County High School, as well as through the Transition Coordinators’ Network of South Jersey. Somerlee Monaghan, MS, is a Training and Consultation Specialist at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities. She provides project training and assistance on the Person Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) project, working closely with schools, students, and families.

Boggs Center Faculty Receive Gubernatorial Appointments to State Councils

Caroline N. Coffield, PhD, Director of Pre-service Training and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, has been appointed to the Governor's Council on the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities. The Governor’s Council on Prevention, guides the New Jersey Department of Human Services’ Office for Prevention, and tracks and monitors changes in the incidence of developmental disabilities.

Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT, Director of Transition, Employment, and Aging & Disability and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, has been appointed to the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service. The Commission is hosted by the New Jersey Department of State, Office of Community Services. Its role is to guide and oversee New Jersey’s National Service programs.

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director and Professor of Pediatrics, has been re-appointed to the New Jersey Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury, which advises the Department of Human Services of issues relevant to brain injury services. Dr. Spitalnik has also been re-appointed to the Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC), which she Chairs. The MAAC advises the New Jersey Department of Human Services on the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and serves as a forum for stakeholder input.

The Boggs Center Celebrates Graduation of New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2017-2018

On April 21, 2018, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2017-2018. New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is a leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities and family members available through The Boggs Center with funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. This year’s graduates included 7 self-advocates, 12 family members, and 1 family member/UCEDD Trainee prepared to work toward meaningful change in our state. Colleen McLaughlin, The Boggs Center’s Associate Director and Partners Project Director, welcomed graduates and invited guests, and provided an introduction to the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking program. Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director of The Boggs Center, delivered messages of inspiration, hope, and a charge to action as part of the event. The impact of the Partners program was addressed by Kevin Casey, Executive Director of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) and Paul Blaustein, NJCDD Chair. Through panel presentations, this year’s graduates shared what they learned in the program and their plans for advocacy after graduation. Congratulations to the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2017-2018: Michael Bertram, Karen Carlson, Richard Charles, Michael Davidson, Steve Gruzlovic, Jodi Haukswell, Alnetta Hooper, Jonathan Kratchman, Genevieve Kurnapley, Ryan Lamson, Dria Law, Anfal Muhammad-Jenkins, Harold Murunga, Fanny Ochoa, Janet Onufer, Tara Palamarik, Jeff Prendergast, Michelle Purri, Sumana Rangachar, and Danielle Senior.
News Highlights from Fiscal Year 2018

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD Honored with Clement A. Price Human Dignity Award from Rutgers University

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director and Professor of Pediatrics of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, was honored with the Clement A. Price Human Dignity Award by the Rutgers Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Committee to Advance Our Common Purposes. The Clement A. Price Human Dignity Award recognizes outstanding individuals or groups that have demonstrated extraordinary achievement and commitment to promoting and practicing diversity and inclusion at Rutgers University and/or in partnership with the broader community. Dr. Spitalnik was recognized for distinguished leadership as executive director of The Boggs Center and commitment to service and research influencing public policy. The award was presented at a ceremony on April 23, 2018 in New Brunswick, NJ.

The Boggs Center Celebrates the Graduation of the 2017-2018 NJLEND Fellows and Trainees at the 2nd Annual Maternal and Child Health Leadership Symposium

On May 11, 2018, the 2017-2018 NJLEND Fellows and Boggs Center Interdisciplinary Trainees graduated from The Boggs Center’s New Jersey Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NJLEND) program and The Boggs Center Interdisciplinary Traineeship program. The New Jersey Maternal and Child Health Leadership Symposium held at Children’s Specialized Hospital, New Brunswick, featured a keynote address by Daniel A. Notterman, MA, MD, FAAP, Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University. Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director of The Boggs Center and NJLEND Director, welcomed attendees from the Rutgers community, NJ’s state Title V program, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), and other state and community organizations. The highlight of the symposium was the NJLEND and Boggs Center Trainees Leadership Project Poster Presentations, during which each Fellow and Trainee presented his/her leadership project conducted throughout their time in the respective programs during the academic year. Congratulations to the 2018-2018 NJLEND Fellows and Boggs Center Interdisciplinary Trainees: Gabriela M. Fernandes, BSN, RN, Manouchka Jean, BSN, RN, Stephani Johnson, MS, RD, Catherine Kishel, EdM, Maria Leary, BA, Inna Miroshnichenko, MD, FAAP, Mercedes Rosa, Jacqueline Smith, BA, Julia Waldman, BASW, MSW, Michael J. Davidson, MSW, Rachael Hanson, BA, and Ashley Taconet, BS, MAT.

The Boggs Center Receives Funding to Improve Medical Care for Patients with Developmental Disabilities

The Boggs Center was awarded funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities to provide medical professionals with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to appropriately care for adult patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, serves as Principal Investigator, Caroline N. Coffield, PhD, Director of Pre-service Training and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, serves as Co-Investigator, and Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-DDS, Senior Training & Consultation Specialist, serves as Content Expert for this one-year project, titled, “Building Capacity to Improve Adult Health Care for Patients with I/DD.” The Center will collaborate with the Down Syndrome Association of Central New Jersey and Sheryl White-Scott, MD, FACP, Associate Director of Community Health Services for the Medically Frail at AHRC/New York City and Medical Specialist for Metro Developmental Disabilities Services, to develop and implement two sets of tiered curricular modules: one focused on medical care and clinical considerations and the other on managing challenging behaviors and creating sensory-friendly treatment environments.
## Faculty & Staff

### Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD</td>
<td>Executive Director, Director, NJLEND, Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleen McLaughlin, MEd</td>
<td>Associate Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Nucci, BS</td>
<td>Assistant Director for Administration</td>
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### Faculty

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline N. Coffield, PhD</td>
<td>Director of Pre-service Training, Training Director, NJLEND, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Lohmann, PhD</td>
<td>Director, NJ Positive Behavior Support in Schools, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT</td>
<td>Director of Transition, Employment, and Aging &amp; Disability, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Smith, PhD</td>
<td>Positive Behavior Support, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP</td>
<td>Director of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Education, NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics &amp; Family Medicine and Community Health</td>
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### Program Staff

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ziba Arjmand, BS</td>
<td>Data &amp; Technology Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robyn Carroll, MSW</td>
<td>Communications Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethany L. Chase, MSW, LSW, CESP</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-DDS</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Custer, PhD</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shellyann Dacres, MA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Davis, MEd</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Ellien, MSW</td>
<td>Knowledge Translation &amp; Grant Development Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Jelley, BA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Kimmel, MAT, BCBA, CESP</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenny Lewis, BA</td>
<td>Senior Accountant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Mahovetz</td>
<td>Conference &amp; Management Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Mayfield, MEd</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott McMahon, MSW</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Mead, MA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerlee Monaghan, MS</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Paulvin, MS, Prof. Dipl.</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Raigoza, MEd</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Rodkey, BS</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Short, BA, CESP</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Steinbruck, MA</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaime Zahid, BA</td>
<td>Community Supports Educator</td>
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Faculty & Staff

Project Support

Melinda Darby
Project Support Staff

Robin Dupiche, BA
Assistant to the Executive Director

Vanessa Duverneau, BS
Data and Student Support

Affiliated Faculty and Program Associates

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Medical Service Assistant
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Patricia Findley, DrPH, MSW
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Social Work
Associate Professor of Social Work
MSW Director
Rutgers School of Social Work

Jill Harris, PhD
NJLEND Coordinator, Children’s Specialized Hospital (CSH)
Director of Program Development, CSH

Emma Kaplan
Parent Coordinator, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities

Amy Kratchman, BA
Family Consultant, CHOP
NJLEND Family Discipline Coordinator

Bob LaRue, PhD, BCBA-D
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Psychology
Clinical Associate Professor
Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Director of Behavioral and Research Services, Douglass
Developmental Disabilities Center

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Project Support Staff

Lisa Thomas, MEd
Project Support Staff

Kim Tomlin
Receptionist

Dolores Matlock, LPN
Primary Care Manager
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

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Division of Advanced Nursing Practice
Rutgers School of Nursing

Stephanie Pratico, AAS, LEND Fellow
Parent Educator, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities

Nancy Razza, PhD
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Evan Spivack, DDS
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Dentistry
Professor of Pediatric Dentistry
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Director, Special Care Treatment Center

Jane Ziegler, DCN, RD, LDN
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Nutrition
Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences
Rutgers School of Health Professions (SHP)
Program Director, Rutgers SHP Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition Program

Boggs Center Consumer Advisory Council

The Boggs Center gratefully acknowledges the dedicated service and contributions of its Consumer Advisory Council, which helps to create a vision for the Center’s efforts by providing guidance and identifying the trends and challenges confronting individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and service delivery systems in New Jersey.

For more information about Boggs Center staff or the Consumer Advisory Council, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter
Core Functions

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.

Student Training

The Boggs Center prepares university students to provide leadership and support individuals with disabilities and their families through participation in the NJ Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities program, 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 life.
Core Functions

Technical Assistance

The Boggs Center assists state and federal agencies, school districts, community providers, and other organizations in improving their services. Technical Assistance is how the center contributes to the development of public policy and brings people together in partnerships to solve problems.

Research and Evaluation

Research & Evaluation Activities include:

- Research to Develop New Autism Screening Tool
- Research to Explore Experiences of Diverse Families of Children with Autism
- 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 website and community events, and responds to requests for information.

Through Publications & The Boggs Center Website

- 63 Publications Disseminated
- 40 New Publications Developed
- 63,399 Website Visits
- 170,223 Pages Viewed
- 32,437 Website Visitors
Selected Presentations

- **Chase, B.** (2018, June). "Navigating Social-Sexual Challenges at the Workplace" (Workshop). National APSE Conference, Orlando, FL.


- **Coffield, C.** (2017, October). “Neurodiversity” (Panel presentation). New Jersey Autism Summit sponsored by the New Jersey Governor's Council for the Medical Research and Treatment of Autism, Montclair, NJ.


- **Spitalnik, D.M.** (2017, June). "Teaching about Disability as a Form of Diversity" (Poster presentation). American Association on Medical Colleges Group on Diversity and Inclusion Professional Development Conference, New Orleans, LA.


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 2018

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 $6,212,533

State: $3,045,756 49.03%
Federal: $2,879,590 46.33%
University Matching Funds: $182,333 2.93%
Fee for Service and Foundation: $104,854 1.69%

Boggs Center Grants and Contracts Fiscal Year 2018

Federal

- 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, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration
  - Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities

- US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
  - New Jersey Partners in Policy Making
  - Building Capacity to Improve Adult Health Care for Patients with I/DD

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
  - Autism Medical Home Collaborative

- 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
Projects

Community Supports

Person-Centered Approaches and Supports

The Boggs Center provides community training and technical assistance to service providers, state agencies, 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 focused on system navigation, community inclusion, 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.

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 serves as the statewide College of Direct Support central administrator, coordinates professional development opportunities for direct support professionals, provides technical assistance, and offers training for direct support professionals and frontline supervisors.
Projects

Community Supports

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, available through The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities with funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. Participants selected for the program learn about best practices and important areas for advocacy from nationally-known experts during 8 monthly leadership development sessions held one weekend a month. Upon completion of the program, Partners participants will have developed the knowledge and skills needed to work toward meaningful change in our state.

Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) in the Community

The Boggs Center provides training and technical assistance to build system capacity to effectively support individuals with challenging behavior and/or dual diagnoses in community settings. Workshops on Positive Behavior Supports are conducted for service providers to meet state training requirements and increase the skills and knowledge needed for staff to support individuals with behavior challenges. Additional training and technical assistance is provided on topics related to dual diagnosis. The Boggs Center also supports programs of the Department of Children and Families, Children’s System of Care, for youth dually diagnosed with IDD and mental illness through the provision of training and intensive technical assistance.

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 schools and school districts in providing instruction for students in the community. These efforts include: providing information to schools and districts through workshops, sharing successful efforts currently occurring in New Jersey school districts, and offering direct technical assistance to schools and districts addressing CBI strategies, training needs, and necessary administrative supports. All activities are designed to create person centered, positive, observable outcomes for students. Project staff also coordinate a statewide community of practice designed to foster a network of educators committed to identifying strategies that positively impact community based instruction and structured learning experiences and enhance post-school outcomes.

Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST)

The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, 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. There is growing concentration on the infusion of person centered thinking and planning into classroom curricula, IEP meeting facilitation and content, and collaborative planning efforts for out-of-district students.
Projects

Education

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 and The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and is funded by I.D.E.A Part B funds. The mission of the NJ PBSIS initiative is to build capacity among New Jersey school personnel to implement a multi-tiered system of support for behavior, conduct, and social-emotional wellness that promotes equity for all students. Now in its 15th year, the NJ PBSIS network includes more than 240 schools from across the state, hosts an annual Leadership Forum, and maintains www.njpbs.org, a resource rich web site that makes implementation tools, samples, and usable products available to school personnel for application in their setting.

Employment

Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance

Through the support of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) The Boggs Center provides Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance activities to 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 to employment staff and interested family members and self-advocates on the history, values, and best practices in competitive integrated employment. The team additionally offers a variety of Supplemental courses on high-demand, high intensity tropics around competitive integrated community employment, as well as training for day habilitation staff on designing meaningful-day programs that advance Employment First policies. On-site technical assistance is available in the areas on which the team trains and 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.

Health

Aging and End of Life Issues for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

With support from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, (DDD), 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 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.

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 151 adults with developmental disabilities by supporting care coordination for adults with developmental disabilities at the Family Medicine 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.
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 explores 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. The 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 Team

The Boggs Center continues to collaborate around New Jersey’s Act Early State Team activities, working closely with New Jersey’s Act Early Ambassador to enhance the state’s system for identifying and serving young children with autism and related developmental disabilities. The team’s efforts are focused on disseminating Act Early materials and information to families, healthcare providers, and early childhood educators throughout the state.

Research to Develop New Autism Screening Tool

In collaboration with Children’s Specialized Hospital, The Boggs Center 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 multi-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. The screening tool is designed to be easily understood by parents from diverse cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds.

To learn more about Boggs Center projects, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/projects
Student Programs

In Fiscal Year 2018, 173 students from 9 disciplines participated in The Boggs Center's Interdisciplinary Training programs. Eighteen students dedicated a minimum of 40 hours to training, including one developmental behavioral pediatrics fellow; three medical students; two family fellows; one doctoral-level psychology student; one doctoral-level nutrition student; three doctoral-level nursing Students; two masters-level social work students; two masters-level education students; one masters-level biological sciences student; one undergraduate psychology student; and one undergraduate public health student. Fifteen social work and 140 medical students participated in courses offered through The Boggs Center’s student training program.

New Jersey Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NJLEND) Program

NJLEND is The Boggs Center’s Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program, and is part of a national network of LEND programs. NJLEND prepares graduate-level health and allied health fellows to provide high-quality, interdisciplinary, family-centered, culturally competent care addressing the complex needs of children with autism, related disabilities and other maternal and child health populations. All NJLEND fellows are paired with a Faculty Mentor from their discipline who works with them to integrate NJLEND requirements with the requirements of the student’s academic program, as well as to guide and reflect on their individual leadership development throughout the 9-month LEND year. Each NJLEND fellow is also mentored by a family living with autism or other early onset disabilities. On May 11, 2018, the second cohort of fellows graduated from the NJLEND program after completing 300 hours of learning through weekly didactic seminars, experiential learning opportunities, and clinical training.

Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities

All medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School participate in NJLEND through the Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities, 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 a visit to the home of a family with a child with a developmental disability. This visit raises the students’ awareness of and sensitivity to the strengths and needs of families of children with disabilities.

Other Learning Experiences for Future 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 Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program, advises student projects in the Distinction in Service to the Community (DISC) diploma enhancement program, 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.

NJLEND Continuing Education for Practicing Maternal and Child Health Professionals

NJLEND provides continuing education opportunities for practicing maternal and child health professionals. These include: applicable sessions of the Center’s Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series; NJLEND didactic sessions open to families, practicing professionals, and state Title V staff; public lectures; and the annual NJLEND Maternal and Child Health Leadership Symposium and Graduation.
Student Programs

Interdisciplinary Traineeship

The Interdisciplinary Traineeship program at The Boggs Center provides a select group of undergraduate and graduate students with individualized learning opportunities, preparing a cadre of future professionals for leadership in the field of developmental disabilities. All interdisciplinary trainees are paired with a mentor from The Boggs Center and complete an independent project related to an area of interest for the student.

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-workshop certificate is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of professionals working with people with disabilities and their families in a variety of settings. Workshops include: Introduction to Developmental Disabilities; Starting Out: From Diagnosis Through Early Childhood; Supporting Youth with Disabilities in the Transition to Adult Life; Community Services and Supports: Evolving Approaches; Growing Old Together: Aging and Family Caregiving; Disability Policy Issues; Legal and Ethical Issues; Multicultural Perspectives in Developmental Disabilities; Supporting Families Through Change; and topical electives. The Boggs Center chairs the Certificate Program Advisory Council and provides faculty for the workshops.

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

During Fiscal Year 2018, Boggs Center faculty taught a graduate social work course in developmental disabilities, Current Issues in Developmental Disabilities. This course introduced masters-level students to important considerations in accommodating the needs of people with disabilities and their families across the lifespan and in education, health, and other community-based settings.

To learn more about Boggs Center student programs, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/student/overview.html
The Boggs Center actively influences public policy at the 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

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Health and Wellness Action Group (Co-Chair); Direct Support Workforce Division
- Association for Positive Behavior Support: PBIS Leaders Network
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities: (Past President); Community Education and Dissemination Council; Data Coordinators; Leadership Academy Advisory Committee; Public Policy Committee; Training Directors Council; Special Interest Group - Aging; Special Interest Group - Employment
- College of Direct Support National Advisory Board
- NADD: Direct Support Professional Certification Subcommittee (Chair); Direct Support Professional Curriculum Development Committee (Chair); Public Policy Workforce Development Subcommittee (Chair); US Health Policy Committee
- National APSE – The Association of People Supporting Employment First (Board of Directors): Executive Committee (Vice President); Board of Directors Search Committee (Chair); Board Development Committee; Foundation (Board of Directors); Conference Planning Committee; Public Policy Committee
- National PBIS Policy Workgroup
- Northeast PBIS Network Advisory Committee

New Jersey Appointments and Committees

- Arc of NJ Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Health/Overlook Medical Center: Bioethics Committee; Policy Subcommittee
- Autism Medicaid State Plan Amendment Executive Stakeholder Planning Group
- Children’s Specialized Hospital: Scientific Advisory Committee
- Disability Rights New Jersey: Protection and Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities Advisory
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Advisory Committee
- Family Resource Network: Get FIT Statewide Coalition
- Governor-elect Murphy’s Transition Committee, Human and Children Services
- NJ Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ APSE (Board of Directors): Steering Committee (President); Conference Committee (Conference Co-Chair); Annual Awards Committee (Chair); Professional Development Committee (Co-Chair); Membership and Outreach Committee; Public Policy Committee
- NJ Commission on National and Community Service (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ Council for Young Children: Infant and Child Health Subcommittee
- NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (Gubernatorial Appointment): Public Policy Committee
- NJ Department of Children and Families: Children’s Transition Advisory 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: State Performance Plan Stakeholder Group
- NJ Governor’s Council on the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ Department of Human Services: Managed Long Term Services and Supports Steering Committee
- NJ Medical Assistance Advisory Council (Chair, Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ State Rehabilitation Council (Gubernatorial Appointment); Transition Subcommittee
- 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 Division of Continuing Studies: Continuing Education Coordinating Council
- Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School: Bridging the Gap 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
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.