Welcome

From the Executive Director

Friends,

It is always an honor and a pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Report.

We have tried to capture the vitality of The Boggs Center’s core functions more graphically, sharing the breadth of our activities in a more accessible format.

The past year marked a major milestone in our community education role, as we celebrated the 250th Session of the Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series. We were honored by the presence of Dr. Andrew Solomon, the author of the best-selling book, Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity. It was deeply moving to be with so many members of our community whose lives and spirit had been touched by Andrew Solomon’s work, and to celebrate the longevity of this educational effort with so many individuals and families who have relied on the DDLS for inspiration and information for so many years.

The past year has also been a year of policy anniversaries for the disability community nationally. July 26th was the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 40th Anniversary of IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, was celebrated with an event at The White House in November. I was deeply honored to have the opportunity to speak at this ceremony on “Bending the Arc Toward Justice: IDEA and the Common Good.”

As we celebrate these policy milestones and our gratitude for the generations of advocates, including Elizabeth Boggs for whom our center is named, who brought these civil rights laws into being, we also realize how much is still left to be done to ensure the rights and opportunities of all citizens for full lives as members of our communities. We at The Boggs Center appreciate the opportunity to partner with all of you in working to make sure that the vision and promise of these policies become a reality for all people.

With appreciation and warm good wishes,

[Signature]
Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD
Executive Director
Professor of Pediatrics
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
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.

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
The Boggs Center Hosts Guests from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities

On August 21st, 2014, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities had the honor of hosting guests from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). Commissioner Aaron Bishop, MSSW, and Policy Analyst Andrew Morris, MPH, from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, as well as Andrew Imparato, JD, Executive Director of AUCD joined The Boggs Center’s faculty and staff to learn more about the Center’s projects and the impact of our activities throughout the state.

The Boggs Center’s Interdisciplinary Traineeship Program Highlighted as a Model of Diversity

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities was recognized by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) for its recruitment and retention of students from diverse backgrounds and cultures in a Promising Practice Brief: A UCEDD’s Focus on Supporting a Diverse Community of Trainees. The Boggs Center’s Interdisciplinary Traineeship program draws on the diversity of Rutgers University, and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, both of which have a strong history of recruiting a diverse student body. The Promising Practice Brief describes The Boggs Center’s Interdisciplinary Traineeship Program, and provides strategies that support recruitment and retention of students from diverse backgrounds.

The Boggs Center Celebrates 250th Session of the Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

The Boggs Center held its 250th Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series (DDLS) on Friday, April 17, 2015. This milestone event featured presentations from two speakers: New York Times best-selling author Andrew Solomon, PhD, and The Boggs Center’s founding Executive Director Deborah Spitalnik, PhD. Dr. Spitalnik began the session with “The Context for Our Empathy,” a presentation tracing the structure of disability policy, trends in supports and services, and the cumulative impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities, their families, and those who work on their behalf. Dr. Solomon shared his experiences writing Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity, an examination of the means by which families accommodate and embrace their children with physical, mental, and social disabilities.
Community Access Unlimited honored Philip Smith, PhD, Project Manager for Community Positive Behavior Supports and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at The Boggs Center, as Educator of the Year at its annual Awards Night Celebration on April 8, 2015. The award recognized Dr. Smith’s hard work and dedication in providing training that helps ensure the staff of Community Access Unlimited can reach their full potential when supporting individuals with disabilities.

On April 25, 2015, The Boggs Center participated in Rutgers Day, an annual, family-oriented open house to highlight the University’s schools, centers, institutes, and programs as well as the valuable contributions Rutgers makes to those in New Jersey and beyond. The Boggs Center coordinated a Disability Trivia Prize Wheel booth. Over 2,000 people, including the Rutgers Scarlet Knight, learned about disabilities from Boggs Center faculty and staff through a family-friendly trivia game that addressed topics including important public policies, person first language, and common myths. The Boggs Center’s Disability Trivia Prize Wheel was featured in highlight videos by RU-TV and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director of The Boggs Center and Professor of Pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, was reappointed to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID). Dr. Spitalnik was appointed to PCPID in 2014, having previously served on the Committee from 2011 to 2013, from 1994 to 2001, and as Chair from 2000 to 2001.

The mission of the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) is to provide advice and assistance to the President of the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on a broad range of topics that impact people with intellectual disabilities and the field of Intellectual Disabilities. Undergirding the Committee’s mission is the goal to improve the quality of life that is experienced by people with intellectual disabilities, by upholding their full citizenship rights, independence, self-determination, and life-long participation in their respective communities.
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

Daniel J. Baker, PhD
Director of Community Positive Behavior Support, Transition, and Employment Projects
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Program Staff
Ziba Arjmand, BS
Data and Technology Coordinator

Robyn Carroll, MSW
Communications Manager
Dissemination Coordinator

Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-DDS
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

Kenny Lewis, BA
Senior Accountant

Deborah Mahovetz
Conference and Management Assistant

Program Support
Pamela Alexander
Project Support Staff

Robin Dupiche
Assistant to the Executive Director

Gail DiPane
Office and Project Support Staff

Affiliated Faculty and Program Associates
Brenda Bickar, CMA
Medical Service Assistant, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics & 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

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

Sharon Lohmann, PhD
Director, Positive Behavior Support in Schools
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Philip Smith, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

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

Angela Hunter, MPH
Project Support Staff

Ann Marie McVay
Project Support Staff

Kim Tomlin
Receptionist

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

Dawn Apgar, PhD
NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities
NJ Department of Human Services

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 Coppens
Advocate
Disability Rights New Jersey

William A. B. Ditto
Human Services Consultant

Lorraine D’Sylva-Lee
Parent Advocate

Chin-Lin Fong, PhD
Parent Advocate

Gail Frizzell
Parent Advocate

Harold Garwin, Esq.
Community Health Law Project

Barbara Geiger-Parker
Brain Injury Association of NJ, Inc.

Jeanne Hoffner
Parent Advocate

Donna Icovino
Parent Advocate

Eric Joice
Family Resource Network

Rose Kardashan
Multi-Lingual Center
Catholic Family and Community Services

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

Sandra Lopez
Parent Advocate

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

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

Jaime McGeady
Sibling Advocate

Joanne McKeown
Parent Advocate
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)

Uday Mehta, MD, MPH
Parent Advocate
Children’s Specialized Hospital, Robert Wood Johnson Health System

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

Raymond Rajkowski
Advocate

Gloria M. Rodriguez, DSW
Division of Family Health Services
NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

Valerie Sellers
NJACP

Alia Suqi
Parent Advocate

Sarah Vazquez
Advocate

Derrick Williams
Advocate

Roberta Wohle, PhD
Fairleigh Dickinson University

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 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.

310 Training Activities over 1,859 hours

281 Trainings
5 Webinars
16 Conferences
8 DDLS Sessions

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.

1,256 TA Activities over 5,365 hours

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
Research & Evaluation Activities include:

Autism Research
HealthMeet Research
Transition Research
Evaluation

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 website and community events, and responds to requests for information.

Through Publications & The Boggs Center Website

11 Current Publications
15 Publications Disseminated
30,011 Visitors
57,604 Website Visits
158,255 Pages Viewed
Selected Presentations

Faculty


• Coffield, C. (2014, September). “Parent-led Training about Developmental Screening for Providers” (Panel Presentation). Improving the Quality of Care and Services for Diverse Communities: New Directions for New Jersey and the Nation Conference, Monroe, NJ.

• Gilbride, M. (2015, January). “Prognosis Guarded: A Cursory Examination of the Relationship Between the Medical Community and People with IDD” (Workshop). Overlook Medical Center, Summit, NJ.


• Lohrmann, S. (2015, May). “School to Success Pipeline” (Presentation). School to Success Pipeline Conference, Rutgers Law School, Newark, NJ.


Staff


Publications

Selected Publications


Editorial Positions

Daniel Baker, PhD

NADD Bulletin, (Consulting Editor)

Sharon Lohrmann, PhD

Journal of Behavioral Education (Editorial Board Member)

Journal of Positive Behavior Support Interventions (Editorial Board Member)

Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities (Editorial Board Member)

For a complete list of Boggs Center Publications, visit: http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/publications/publications_list.html
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 $4,196,997

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 Programs/The College of New Jersey**
- Enhancing and Extending the Current Career and Community Studies Program

**US Department of Education, 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/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/Children’s Specialized Hospital**
- Development of a New Autism Screening Tool for Traditionally Underserved Families

**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

Allies in Self-Advocacy New Jersey State Team
Building on a series of regional Allies in Self Advocacy Summits organized by the federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), the Allies in Self-Advocacy New Jersey State Team represents a collaborative effort among New Jersey’s AIDD partners — The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Disability Rights New Jersey. The team, which meets monthly to strengthen and enhance self-advocacy efforts across the state, consists of self-advocates, parents, and advisors from New Jersey’s AIDD partners, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Project.

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.
Community Supports

Person-Centered Approaches and 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 focused 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.

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 whose challenging behavior presents a barrier to effective community inclusion. Training continues to be provided for agencies that serve adults with challenging behavior in community settings, including support for the development of community residences for individuals who are moving out of developmental centers under the Olmstead Initiative. The center also provides training and technical assistance to support DDD’s newly developed Supports Program.

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, is 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 is gathering and analyzing 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 will be completed in 2016.

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.
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 is partnering 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® brings 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 provides 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 is conducting descriptive analyses of results of the HealthMeet® assessments, preparing data briefs describing results of the analyses, and participating 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.
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.

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 are 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.
17

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, training a cadre of professionals prepared to provide leadership in the field of developmental disabilities. In Fiscal Year 2015, 4 students graduated from the long-term traineeship program at The Boggs Center and 2 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.

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

During Fiscal Year 2015, 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.

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) and Distinction in Research (DIR) diploma enhancement programs 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.

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; 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
- Council on Quality Leadership (Board of Directors, Past Chair)
- NADD: (Board of Directors; Vice President) Direct Support Professional Certification Sub-Committee (Chair); Direct Support Professional Curriculum Development Committee (Chair); Professional Certification Committee; Training and Conference Committee
- National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals: Education, Training, and Workforce Development Sub-Committee
- National APSE (Board of Directors); Board Development Committee; Chapter Development 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
- Atlantic Health/Overlook Medical Center: Bioethics Committee (Member, IDD Content Expert)
- 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 Traumatic Brain Injury (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ APSE (Board of Directors, Conference Co-Chair)
- NJ Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology (Board of Trustees)
- NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (Gubernatorial Appointment); Education Committee; Health and Wellness Committee; Public Policy Committee; Planning 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, 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 Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competence
- NJ Transit ADA Task Force
- 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
The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

New Jersey’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service

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.

Upon request, this material will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities. This report is funded by grant #90DD0552 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Rutgers

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Department of Pediatrics
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Liberty Plaza, 335 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter
p. 732-235-9300
f. 732-235-9330