Welcome

From the Executive Director

Friends,

It is always a pleasure to write this letter as an introduction to The Boggs Center’s Annual Report and to share the accomplishments of the past year. I appreciate having the opportunity to recognize the contributions of The Boggs Center’s faculty and staff and our collaborating partners.

With the assistance and enthusiasm of The Boggs Center’s Consumer Advisory Council, we were able to undertake the renewal of our federal CORE grant application as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. The voices of people with disabilities, families, and our state and community partners guided our planning process, and were a major contribution to the success of the application. Under this five-year plan we are expanding our efforts in transition to adult life, developing more educational materials to inform and support individuals and families to live and participate in their communities, involving self-advocates and families as training partners, and strengthening our interdisciplinary student training programs and extending their reach across Rutgers. The span of our work mirrors the life-course of developmental disabilities and addresses early childhood through the end-of-life. We continue to serve as a resource to individuals, families, state and community agencies, the public, and policy-makers.

In a few months we will be celebrating the graduation of our second class of Partners in Policymaking individuals and families who have honed their knowledge and skills over the past eight months to strengthen advocacy in New Jersey. We will also be celebrating the second cohort of New Jersey Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Fellows who have been engaged in an intensive interdisciplinary clinical leadership training program to address Autism Spectrum Disorder, early onset disabilities, and other Maternal and Child Health priorities, including health disparities.

As we report on past programs and embark on new activities, our mission and commitments remain constant: promoting the full participation of people with disabilities and their families in our communities and supporting those who work on their behalf.

Thank you for being our partners in this journey.

With gratitude 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/boggscen ter/about/about_elizabeth.html
Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD Honored with AUCD Distinguished Achievement Award

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 George S. Jesien Distinguished Achievement Award by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). Dr. Spitalnik was recognized for her leadership, service, and dedication to people with disabilities and their families. The award was presented at the AUCD annual conference on December 6, 2016 in Washington, DC.

2,000 Participants Learn About Disabilities Through The Boggs Center’s Disability Trivia Prize Wheel Booth at Rutgers Day

On April 29, 2017, The Boggs Center participated in Rutgers Day, an annual, family-oriented open house held on the New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden Campuses to highlight the University's programs as well as the valuable contributions Rutgers makes to those in New Jersey and beyond. This year's event was attended by a record 103,000 statewide. The Boggs Center coordinated a Disability Trivia Prize Wheel booth on the Busch Campus in Piscataway. 2,000 people learned about disabilities through a family-friendly trivia game that addressed topics including important public policies, person first language, and common myths.

The Boggs Center Celebrates Graduation of the Inaugural 2016-2017 NJLEND Cohort

On May 5, 2017, the inaugural cohort of fellows graduated from The Boggs Center's New Jersey Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NJLEND) program. The NJLEND Maternal and Child Health Leadership Symposium was held at Children's Specialized Hospital, New Brunswick, and featured a keynote address from Sue Swenson, MBA, Vice President, Inclusion International and former Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, US Department of Education. The Boggs Center and NJLEND clinical partner Children's Specialized Hospital 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 symposium featured the NJLEND Leadership Project Poster Presentation, during which each fellow presented about a leadership project conducted throughout their time in the program.

Congratulations to the NJLEND 2016-2017 Cohort: Deepa Srinivasavaradan, BS; Jeannette Mejias; Mason R. Shepherd, MA; Mikala Hanson, PsyM, BCBA; Rachel Patusco, MS, RD, CSP; Ronide P. Noelizaire, BA; Sapna Kakwani, BSN, RN; Spandana Nallapati, MD; Stacey Callahan, BA; and Boggs Center Interdisciplinary Trainee, Aleta Murphy
News Highlights from Fiscal Year 2017

Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT, Appointed to New Jersey Advisory Council on End-of-Life Care and State Rehabilitation Council

Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Transition, Employment, and Aging & Disability at The Boggs Center, was appointed to the New Jersey Advisory Council on End-of-Life Care and the State Rehabilitation Council. The New Jersey Advisory Council on End-of-Life Care is convened by the New Jersey Department of Health. The State Rehabilitation Council advises and works in partnership with the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The Boggs Center Celebrates Graduation of New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2016-2017

On June 17, 2017, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2016-2017. 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 8 self-advocates and 12 family members prepared to work toward meaningful change in our state through completion of the 8-month program. The Boggs Center welcomed graduates, their guests, and representatives from state agencies and community organizations for the event. Through panel presentations, this year’s graduates shared what they learned in the program and their plans for advocacy after graduation.


Michael Knox, PhD Retires from The Boggs Center

Michael Knox, PhD, Deputy Director and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, retired after 33 years with The Boggs Center. Dr. Knox directed The Boggs Center’s financial and administrative operations. He also served as research coordinator, chaired the Center’s evaluation team, and conducted health service research with a focus on developmental disabilities. A licensed social worker, Dr. Knox served as a field instructor for master’s of social work (MSW) interns in nonprofit and public management from Rutgers University. Dr. Knox earned his doctorate in social work from Rutgers University. He also holds a master’s degree in government administration from the Fels Center of Government at the University of Pennsylvania and an MSW in social policy analysis and planning from Rutgers University.
# Faculty & Staff

## Administration

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Director, NJLEND</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleen McLaughlin, MEd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Nucci, BS</td>
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## Faculty

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

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<tr>
<td>Ziba Arjmand, BS</td>
<td>Data &amp; Technology Coordinator</td>
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<td>Remy Carroll, MSW</td>
<td>Communications Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethany L. Chase, LSW</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-DDS</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<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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<td>Susan Ellien, MSW</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Dissemination Coordinator</td>
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<td>Joyce Jelley, BA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Yaa A. Keene, MPH</td>
<td>NJLEND Program &amp; Data Coordinator</td>
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<td>Rob Kimmel, MAT, CESP</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Kenny Lewis, BA</td>
<td>Senior Accountant</td>
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<td>Deborah Mahovetz</td>
<td>Conference &amp; Management Specialist</td>
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<td>Jessica Mayfield, MEd</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Jaime McCready, BA</td>
<td>Community Supports Educator</td>
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<td>Scott McMahon, MSW</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Michelle Mead, MA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Somerlee Monaghan, MS</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Karen Paulvin, MS, Prof. Dipl.</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Paula Raigoza, MEd</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Renee Rodkey, BS, BCABA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Jessica Short, BA, CESP</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Michael Steinbruck, MA</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<td>Ina White, MA</td>
<td>Community Outreach Coordinator</td>
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## Project Support

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Anderson, BFA</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Dupiche, BA</td>
<td>Assistant to the Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annmarie McVay</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
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<td>Lisa Thomas, MEd</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Tomlin</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
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## Affiliated Faculty and Program Associates

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Bickar, CMA</td>
<td>Medical Service Assistant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Family Medicine and Community Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Findley, DrPH, MSW</td>
<td>NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Social Work</td>
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<td>Associate Professor of Social Work</td>
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<td>Rutgers School of Social Work</td>
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<td>Jill Harris, PhD</td>
<td>NJLEND Coordinator, Children’s Specialized Hospital (CSH)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director of Program Development, CSH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Kaplan</td>
<td>Parent Coordinator, Medical Student</td>
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<td>Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob LaRue, PhD, BCBA-D</td>
<td>NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Psychology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clinical Associate Professor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director of Behavioral and Research Services, Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center</td>
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<td>Dolores Matlock, LPN</td>
<td>Primary Care Manager</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Family Medicine and Community Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sallie Porter, DNP, PhD</td>
<td>NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Nursing</td>
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<td>Assistant Professor</td>
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<td>Division of Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
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<td>Rutgers School of Nursing</td>
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<td>Stephanie Pratico, AAS, LEND Fellow</td>
<td>NJLEND Family Discipline Coordinator</td>
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<td>Parent Educator, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Razza, PhD</td>
<td>Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<td>Evan Spivack, DDS</td>
<td>NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Dentistry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor of Pediatric Dentistry</td>
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<td>Rutgers School of Dental Medicine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director, Special Care Treatment Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Ziegler, DCN, RD, LDN</td>
<td>NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Nutrition Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rutgers School of Health Professions (SHP)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program Director, Rutgers SHP Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition Program</td>
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The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
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 Coppens  
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

Hazelene Pilgrim  
Parent Advocate

Sandra Pinkerton, EdD  
Advocate  
Special Educator

Stephanie Pratico  
Parent Advocate

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 Steindberger  
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
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, 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 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:

- 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 web site and community events, and responds to requests for information.

Through Publications & The Boggs Center Website

- 47 Publications Disseminated
- 30 New Publications Developed
- 74,738 Website Visits
- 193,779 Pages Viewed
- 33,391 Website Visitors
Selected Presentations


- **Porter, S.** (2016, February). “Social Determinants of Health” and “Patient and Family-Centered Care” (Workshops). New Jersey Department of Health Title V MCH Workforce Development Series, New Brunswick, NJ.


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/boggsscenter/publications/publications_list.html
## Funding Sources Fiscal Year 2017

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.

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<td><strong>Fee for Service and Foundation</strong></td>
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### 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
- **US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration/New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development**
  - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Memorandum of Understanding

### 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

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 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, 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 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.

Community Supports
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.

Community-Based Technological Applications (PBSS) 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 provided to 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.

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 and working together to identify strategies to positively impact person centered post-school outcomes.


**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 Offices of Special Education and The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and is funded by I.D.E.A Part B funds. NJ PBSIS is in its 14th year of providing training and technical assistance on the implementation of a tiered system of intervention for behavior and conduct in Pre-K to high school settings. The NJ PBSIS team hosts an annual Leadership Forum for the 225 schools across New Jersey currently enrolled in the NJ PBSIS network and also www.njpbs.org, a resource rich site that makes 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 topics 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.
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. 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.

The Boggs Center’s efforts around improving screening and early identification of autism and other developmental delays for New Jersey’s underserved children include:

**Act Early State Systems Grant**

The Boggs Center serves as the lead for New Jersey’s Act Early State Team and continues to work 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 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.

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

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.

On May 5, 2017, the inaugural cohort of fellows graduated from the NJLEND program after completing 300 hours of learning through weekly didactic seminars, experiential learning opportunities, and clinical training. The fellows represented 6 disciplines and included: a Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics fellow, two family fellows, two doctoral-level psychology fellows, a doctoral-level nutrition fellow, a doctoral-level nursing fellow, and two Masters of Social Work fellows. An undergraduate neuroscience and psychology student also participated in the NJLEND program as a Boggs Center Interdisciplinary Trainee.

Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities

All medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School participate in NJLEND as short-term trainees in 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.

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

During Fiscal Year 2017, 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 and provides faculty for the courses.

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: Health and Wellness Action Group (Co-Chair); Direct Support Workforce Division
- 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 (Steering Committee Member)
- College of Direct Support National Advisory Board
- NADD: Direct Support Professional Certification Sub-Committee; Direct Support Professional Curriculum Development Committee (Chair); US Health Policy Committee (Member)
- National APSE – The Association of People Supporting Employment First (Board of Directors): Board Development Committee; Executive Committee (Secretary); Executive Director Search Committee; Foundation Board of Directors; Conference Planning Committee
- Northeast PBIS Network Advisory Committee
- President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (Presidential Appointment)
- The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices: (Board of Directors, Executive Director)
- The Alliance for Citizen Directed Supports

**New Jersey Appointments and Committees**

- Arc of NJ Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Health/Overlook Medical Center: Bioethics Committee; Policy Subcommittee
- 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): Executive Committee (National Liaison); Conference Committee (Conference Co-Chair); Annual Awards Committee (Chair); Professional Development Committee (Co-Chair)
- 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 Stakeholder 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 State Rehabilitation Council (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 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, Medical Home Workgroup
- 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.

Upon request, this material will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities.

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