

AUCDigest January 2014

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AUCD Central Office News

'Supporting Diversity in the Developmental Disabilities Network through Minority Partnerships' Released by AUCD

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) released a new national report entitled "Supporting Diversity in the Developmental Disabilities Network through Minority Partnerships." This report describes the efforts of two University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) in addressing health disparities experienced by minority populations and describes the importance of promoting diversity within DD Network programs. [Read more...](#)

AUCD Signs MoU with Dubai Community Development Authority to Share Best Practices in Disability Services

The Community Development Authority (CDA), in line with "My community...a city for everyone" initiative, signed recently a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) based on the USA. The agreement will facilitate the cooperation between CDA and the AUCD to bring the best practices and programs for people with disabilities (PWD) for the first time to the Middle East. The agreement will also enable advanced consultation and trainings to CDA staff by members of AUCD. The MoU is the first agreement of its kind that AUCD signs with an organization in the Middle East and will help CDA to establish the first Center of Excellence for Disabilities in the region. [Read more...](#)

Toolkit for Potential Funders who Support Self-Advocacy Organizations

This tool kit is designed to help funders who are interested in funding self-advocates and self-advocacy organizations to have a better understanding of how to work best with people with disabilities, and make sure their needs are met throughout the grant process. This toolkit is the result of needs that were identified by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) while providing technical assistance for a self-advocacy pilot grant project that was funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). [Download toolkit...](#)

A New Year - A New Name! Community Education and Dissemination Council

The National Community Education Directors' Council has changed its name to the Community Education and Dissemination Council (CEDC). The name change illustrates the Council is for any network member associated with community education and/or dissemination activities, recognizes dissemination as a core part of Council focus, and shortens the acronym and name. The Community Education and Dissemination Council (CEDC) serves as a focus and forum for the identification and discussion of issues of community education and technical assistance, is a representative voice of community education interests and concerns within the AUCD network, influences the development and implementation of national community education policies and initiatives, and shares resources and exemplary community education programs developed and use by Centers across the nation. [Read more...](#)

Network News - Awards & Honors

[Club Fit Honors Director Of Child Welfare Services Daniel Weisberg \(WIHD NY UCEDD/LEND\)](#)

Weisberg, a member at Club Fit Briarcliff, plays a critical role in Westchester County's foster care system, overseeing close to a dozen services for kids and families in and at risk of foster care, including those in the post-adoption phase, and facilitating the investigation of alleged physical and sexual abuse. This part of her job involves working closely with law enforcement, CPS, mental health specialists and other providers, in addition to her oversight of a large staff of social workers, psychologists, physicians and therapists. [Read more...](#)

Network News - Activities & Resources

[New Project Findings--Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Somali and Non-Somali Children in Minneapolis \(MN UCEDD/LEND\)](#)

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the National Institutes of Health, Autism Speaks, supported the University of Minnesota through a cooperative agreement with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities to conduct the largest project to date looking at the number and characteristics of Somali

children with autism spectrum disorder in any U.S. community. [Read more...](#)

[Mental Health First Aid Certification Training Reaches Major Milestone in Iowa \(IA UCEDD\)](#)

Mental Health First Aid Certification provided by instructors at the University of Iowa began with funding from the Community Circle of Care (CCC) project. CCC is Iowa's first SAMHSA-funded Children's Mental Health Systems of Care grant. The Iowa Department of Human Services, Child Health Specialty Clinics (Iowa's Title V program for children with special health care needs) and the Center for Disabilities and Development (Iowa's UCEDD), partnered on the initial grant application which was funded in 2008. CCC's model of providing comprehensive consumer and family driven services in a 10 county region in northeast Iowa proved highly successful and cost-effective in meeting the needs of children with serious emotional disturbances. [Read more...](#)

[VaLEND Takes a Bite Out of the Apple](#)

Virginia LEND and the Partnership for People with Disabilities (Virginia's UCEDD) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, Virginia have begun to explore how the use of technology can inform our practice as clinicians, educators and leaders. As part of the LEND requirements, trainees along with a faculty member lead and facilitate a monthly assessment clinic held at one of three clinic sites in the Richmond metropolitan area. [Read more...](#)

[Vermont Sensory Access Project \(VT UCEDD\) Awarded New Grant](#)

Vermont's Deaf Blind Project, now called Vermont Sensory Access Project (VSAP), has been awarded a five-year grant to provide support for the families and educational programs of children and youth identified as dual sensory impaired or deaf-blind from birth through age 21. The overall goal of VSAP is to provide high-quality technical assistance and training to personnel in education and early intervention. Technical Assistance will be provided to improve the academic and social outcomes for learners who are deaf-blind and to prepare them for successful post-school education, work, and community life. VSAP personnel look forward to collaborating with state and local agencies to work together to best address the unique needs of children and youth with dual sensory loss and their families through identification, training, and technical assistance. VSAP is a project of the Vermont UCEDD, the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion at the University of Vermont. [Read more...](#)

[National Center for Prenatal and Postnatal Down Syndrome Resources \(KY UCEDD\) Announces New and Updated Materials](#)

The University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute launched new and revised materials for medical professionals and expectant parents learning about a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. Balanced, up-to-date, and scientifically accurate resources are especially critical with the advent of non-invasive prenatal screening tests for Down syndrome and other genetic conditions. [Read more...](#)

[The Institute for Community Inclusion \(MA UCEDD\) to Partner with the Duskin Ainowa Foundation in Japan](#)

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at UMass Boston is partnering with the Duskin Ainowa Foundation in Japan to launch a five-month intensive disability leadership training program for Japanese people with disabilities, ages 18-35. Starting in August 2014, the ICI will welcome the first cohort of Duskin trainees in Boston. Trainees will participate in an intensive leadership experience, improving their English language proficiency, acquiring knowledge and skills in disability studies, and developing their advocacy skills. Trainees will also intern with a disability-focused government agency or community organization. [Read more...](#)

Federal News - Activities & Resources

[White House Releases New National and State Reports Showing the Costs of Repealing the Health Care Law](#)

Helping ordinary Americans and businesses take advantage of the benefits of the health care law is a top priority for the President and Democrats in Congress. The Affordable Care Act does more than just give millions of uninsured Americans access to health insurance. It helps Americans who already have insurance feel more secure in their coverage, ensuring it'll be there when they need it. This is a pocketbook issue for many middle class families. [Read more...](#)

[2013 Annual Compendium of Disability Statistics](#)

The Compendium is a web-based tool that pools disability statistics published by various federal agencies together in one place. When working on legislative and other matters relating to persons with disabilities, the

Compendium will make finding and using disability statistics easier. It will prove invaluable to your work. [Read more...](#)

Transformation of the MCH Block Grant

Since May of last year, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau has been working in partnership with the leadership in the State Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programs as well as with other national MCH leaders and stakeholders to develop and refine a vision (titled MCH 3.0) for transforming the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant to better meet current and future challenges facing our Nation's mothers and children, including children with special health care needs. [Read more...](#)

Member Spotlight

Students Learn About Assistive Technology (MT UCEDD)

When Shy Iverson had to prepare a presentation about blindness for his Exceptionalities and Classroom Management class this past semester, he asked Julie Doerner for help. Julie is the Clinical Coordinator at the UM Rural Institute MonTECH program. Shy learned about Braille keyboards, special scanners, and other equipment that help students who are blind or have low vision. [Read more...](#)

Events

The Southeast Regional Consortium and AUCD Presents: Supporting Development of Infants Born Preterm: Do Our Policies Match the Needs?

January 15 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm EST

EIEC Webinar: The Power of Parenting for Young Children with Disabilities: A Parent-Child Interaction Measurement Tool, Research Findings and Suggestions for Use

January 28 | 4pm – 5pm EST

[Read more about our webinars and register.](#)

The Spectrum of Developmental Disabilities XXXVI: Intellectual Disability: At the Precipice

March 17-19, 2014 | Baltimore MD

[2014 Disability Policy Seminar](#)

April 7-9, 2014 | Washington, DC

[11th Annual National Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior](#)

April 23-25, 2014 | St. Petersburg, FL

[30th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity](#)

May 19 - 20, 2014 | Honolulu, HI

[2014 Training Institutes](#)

July 16-19, 2014 | Washington DC

Employment Opportunities

Please check the [Employment page](#) on our website for opportunities within the AUCD network.

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Our Network Members

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD)

- Visit the [UCEDD page](#).

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs

- Visit the [LEND page](#).

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs)

- Visit the [IDDRC page](#).

Trainees and Early Career professionals (ECP) at all member Centers

- Visit the [Trainee/ECP page](#).

Submissions

News items may be submitted for consideration via the [AUCDigest Submission page](#).

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