



Stories from Act Early State Systems Grantees

What works, what doesn't, and why

Speaker Bios

Maryland

Christopher Smith, Ph.D. , is the Director for the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) and faculty on the Women's and Children's Health Policy Center at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Prior to his work at the MCDD, Dr. Smith was the founder and director of the Center on Quality in Human Services at the University of Kansas. Dr. Smith has served as an investigator for a number of technical assistance, training, evaluation, and continuous quality improvement projects including projects serving consumers with developmental disabilities, early childhood, community action programs, after-school programs and mental health programs.

Wyoming

Sara DiRienzo, B.A., is the information specialist for the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities. In this role, Sara is the core function coordinator of information dissemination. She coordinates information regarding all of WIND's projects and disability resources. She presents on a variety of disability topics, including dating, relationships, and sexuality for individuals with disabilities. Sara is also the project coordinator the Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center.t

Canyon Hardesty, M.S., is the coordinator of community education for Wyoming Institute for Disabilities. Canyon oversees programs, training and technical assistance related to health, education, early intervention and assistive technology. She is exploring new delivery platforms and audience-targeted trainings to provide continuing education for education and health professionals. Her background in health and health care ethics provides a rich and welcome perspective to the Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center, Wyoming Act Early, Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources, and related programs, as well as health-related program development.

California

Gina Guarneri MA is Program Coordinator, Early Childhood, at the University of California Davis UCEDD. Gina has worked in the early intervention/early childhood

special education field for over 30 years as a teacher, home visitor, principal, inservice trainer, and adjunct faculty for the California State University Sacramento Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation. Gina was the Project Lead on California's Act Early State System Grant *Supporting the Use of LTSAE Materials in Home Visiting*.

New Jersey

Caroline Coffield, PhD is an Instructor of Pediatrics at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. Dr. Coffield coordinates The Boggs Center's Interdisciplinary Training programs, including the Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities, a required component of the pediatric clerkship for all third year medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She also serves as The Boggs Center's Coordinator of Autism-related Activities and is New Jersey's Act Early State Team Leader. Dr. Coffield's research interests include a variety of disability specific topics such as transition to adult healthcare, healthcare reform, the establishment of a medical home for individuals with disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorder.