

Workshop A: History of Lend Family Discipline Network (LFDN) – PANELISTS



Fran Goldfarb is the Family Support Discipline Director for CA-LEND as well as the Director of Community Education at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education and Service at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (USC UCEDD CHLA). She chairs the LEND Family Discipline Network (LFDN) through AUCD and is the PI on the LEND Family Involvement Survey. Ms. Goldfarb has a bachelor’s degree in Human Development and a master’s degree in Social Science. She is credentialed as a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. She was also the first person in California credentialed as a Certified Parent Support Provider (FFCMH). Together with her husband, she founded and facilitates the Los Angeles Asperger Syndrome Parent Support Group. Most importantly, she is the parent of a young adult with a developmental disability and other psychiatric disabilities.



Jan Moss is the parent of two adult children with developmental disabilities, Jennifer, and Jason. She began her advocacy by testifying before the National Education Committee on Special Education. She worked for the Oklahoma Parent Training Center as a trainer before moving to OU Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities where she provided technical assistance and training to families, professionals, and agencies concerning family support issues, family centered practices, and emerging best practices in the field of developmental disabilities. She was also core faculty for the Oklahoma LEND.

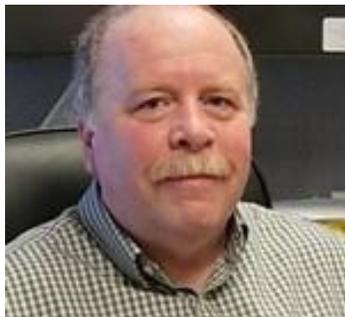


Barbara Levitz, MS, ED retired in 2019 after a thirty- year career with the Westchester Institute for Human Development/UCEDD & LEND-NY. She served as the Director of Family Partnership Training and in various other leadership roles advocating on disability issues at a local, state, and national level.



Dr. Paula Petry is an author, presenter, and educator with invaluable life generative experiences that she weaves into her teachings. She has her doctoral degree in teaching and learning from the University of Miami and was the Director of Training for many years at the University's Mailman Center for Child Development, teaching pediatric interns and others on disability public policy, family empowerment, grief and loss, and the value of arts in medicine. As a young mother, she founded Parent to Parent of Miami, a non-profit organization that provides support, information, and advocacy for parents of a child with a disability.

In her healing journey from the loss of her daughter, Dr. Petry discovered the power in alternative approaches to health and wellness which led her to co-found and serve as the Wellness Director at a holistic K-8 private school in Miami, Florida. There she teaches her The Medicine Wheel & Me® curriculum. Her memoir, *A Mother's Courage to Awaken, Hope and Inspiration from My Daughter's Journey in the Afterlife*, Mango Publishing House, 2020 is her story about love and loss and the healing quest it initiated.



Mark A. Smith is a parent of and sibling to family members with Intellectual/Developmental disabilities. He received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1989 and his Master of Science degree in School Psychology from the University of Nebraska in 1995. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Nebraska University Center on Disabilities at the Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) UCEDD and LEND programs. Over the past 45 years of working in disability services, Mark has

been involved in directing and evaluating several projects designed to improve community resources and services for individuals with disabilities and their families, including relocating individuals from institutional to community care, supervising direct care staff, advocating for individuals with disabilities and their families, promoting systems improvements in disability services and supports, written and presented on disabilities in scholarly journals and Conferences, and has served in several national leadership roles. Mark and his family live in Omaha, Nebraska and they enjoy cycling, going for long walks with their dogs, and playing music.

WORKSHOP B: Diversity and Inclusion in the LEND Family Discipline: Reflections and Lessons Learned – PANELISTS

Rachel Briggs completed the RI LEND program in 2019. She is a kinship adoptive parent, along with her twin sister, of 5 children. Rachel can be reached at Rachel_briggs@yahoo.com.

Tonya Bowman completed LEND through Vanderbilt in Tennessee in 2020. She is the Family Resource Specialist for Family Voices of TN. She continues to serve families who have children/youth with special health care needs, chronic illnesses and disabilities. Last, and most importantly, I am the proud mom of three amazing kids. Tonya can be reached at tonya_b@tndisability.org.

Angela Hornsby completed LEND through the University of Oklahoma in 2017. Early in her journey with Malachi, she became involved with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma (DSACO). After about a year as a lay member, she was then elected to the Board of Directors where she served for three years. She is a proud graduate of Partners in Policymaking (PIP). After graduating from PIP, life changed so much. Angela had the opportunity to work with the Oklahoma Family Network (OFN) as a volunteer Supporting Parent and then as their NICU Coordinator in Oklahoma City. That position led to her working as the Family Advocacy Coordinator at the Oklahoma Infant Transition Program (OITP). After some time as the Public Education Coordinator for the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council, Angela has now transitioned into the role of Director of Ujima Services, a central place where families can find support and resources. Angela can be reached at ujimaservices@gmail.com.

Chan Stroman completed LEND through the Waisman Center at University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015. Chan is an attorney in Wisconsin, educational equity advocate for students of color and students with disabilities, and a pro bono reading tutor. Chan can be reached at stromanchan@gmail.com.

Family Leaders Panel - PANELISTS



DeBorah Bonet is the mother of four kids, (two with alternative needs) and grandma to two amazing boys. She is an Islamic Chaplin's for the State of Oklahoma Muslim Incarcerated population. She is a motivational speaker, advocate for families, the Director of Mercy Pantry, and most recent a graduate of the OK Lend program.



Tiffiny Clifton currently serves as the Executive Director of the Gotta Be Me, Inc. Now in the fourth year of GBM, the mission and vision is growing - to promote the inclusion of children and adults with disabilities into our communities, creating a culture that is brimming with life, dignity, and growth - for all people. It's what gets her up every day and keeps her moving toward continuing to be a shining light in our community, making it a happier, healthier, and safer place by creating opportunities for people with all abilities to come together, to become who they want to be, without limits.



Nita Chettiar is a stay-at-home mom to a uniquely talented almost 8-year-old. She has completed her master's in environmental engineering from Manhattan College, NY, and has a bachelor's in science in Microbiology and Biotechnology from Mumbai University, India. She has over 12 years of experience working in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device industry. Her education and work-life were far removed from the world of Autism or any kind of disabilities. When life presented her with speech-related challenges and other developmental delays in her then 18-month-old son, she was thrust into the world of evaluations and Developmental Pediatricians - a specialist she was blissfully unaware of until then. From leading a normal life as a working mom, she now had to juggle the never-ending evaluations with the early intervention team, feeding intervention team, speech therapist, OT, PT and home-based early intervention therapy in addition to the ever-increasing workload. After a couple of years of juggling, when it came to choosing between spending her life feeling guilty of not giving her son more of her time or quitting her highly successful and rewarding work life so she could focus more on his needs, she chose the latter. Since then, it's been her goal to find the best therapist for her son and work with them to find out why his brain works the way it does and what's the best way to go about it. It's been the best decision of her life. She has been fascinated with the knowledge her son's therapist has shared and amazed by the progress her son has made. Her quest to know more has brought her to the LEND program at JFK Partners at the University of Colorado, Anschutz. She is excited to gain more knowledge about Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and is hopeful she could use her leadership qualities to better serve the Autism community, to help her become a positive contributor to society.



Regina Rodriguez Sisneros is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist and works for Mindsource Brain Injury Program in Colorado. Regina was a 2019-2020 JFK Partners Lend Fellow at the University of Colorado, Anschutz. Regina also completed the Georgetown University Leadership Institute for Cultural Diversity. Regina enjoys collaboration and working with our communities to support inclusion and equity.