

Informed Meaningful ACTION

Speaker Bios

**Angela Ablorh-Odjidja , JD, MHS,
Chief, Policy, Program Planning and Coordination Branch
MCHB**

Angela Ablorh-Odjidja, JD, MHS, is the federal project office for the MIECHV Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC) and the Chief for the Western Program Implementation Branch within the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services. In this capacity, she oversees the TACCs activities and supervises the MIECHV and Early Childhood Coordinated Systems (ECCS) initiatives for HRSA Regions five through ten. Prior to coming to HRSA, Ms. Ablorh-Odjidja was the Program Manager for the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health, and Public Health Law projects with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). She received a Master of Health Science degree in Maternal and Child Health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore. Ms. Ablorh-Odjidja is also a member of the Maryland Bar.

- Presentation: Early Childhood Initiatives Impacting Children with Disabilities

**Tammy Amsbaugh, BA
State Employment Leadership Network
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services**

Tammie is a Lifelong Iowan, graduating from Drake University, with over twenty years in the private sector in Human Resources, including work in the health care and insurance industries and concentrating on employee benefits and compensation. Her early career was spent with an employment and training agency for disadvantaged youth and adults, moving into a human resources role in recruiting and staffing in a hospital setting, then salary and employee benefits management in the insurance industry.

In 2005, Tammie joined the University of Iowa Children's Hospital Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD), working in employment and asset development for individuals with disabilities and with the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. Through State and Community Projects with CDD, Amsbaugh has worked in the public sector at the state level in Iowa on policy development and implementation for community inclusion, employment, and self-sufficiency for people impacted by disability. Amsbaugh has also worked with the Iowa Department of Human Services on Pre Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) improvements. Tammie was instrumental in bringing SELN into Iowa in 2009 to focus on employment outcomes. In the fall of 2011 the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS) engaged in a contractual relationship with CDD for Amsbaugh to work with SELN as a Program Consultant.

- Presentation: Employment First: Partnerships in Employment Systems Change

**Robert Bacon, MA
Director
Disability Policy and Training, Center for Disabilities and Development**

Robert Bacon is director of Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities at the Center for Disabilities and Development. With 30 years of experience at CDD, he has directed a wide range of research, technical assistance, community education, pre-service training, and information sharing projects aimed at improving the capacity of Iowa's service system to increase the independence, productivity, and full community participation of individuals with disabilities. He is engaged in systems improvement initiatives across the life span from early intervention to long term care. Bob was a policy fellow of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation serving as staff to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in Washington, DC. He served on the Board of Directors of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUUCD) from 1998-2005 and currently serves as co-chair of AUUCD's Legislative Affairs Committee.

- *Presentation : Rebalancing Medicaid Long Term Care Expenditures
Money Follows the Person, and Community First Choice Option*

Aaron Bishop, MS
Deputy Commissioner

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Mr. Bishop joined the AIDD staff in February 2013. He came to AIDD with nearly 20 years of experience working with and for individuals with disabilities in both the service provision and public policy sectors. Prior to assuming his role at AIDD, he was the Executive Director for the National Council on Disability and a Professional Staff Member for the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee for Senator Mike Enzi, where he handled disability related policy. Mr. Bishop also worked for Senator Judd Gregg on the HELP Committee, when the Senator chaired the committee. Mr. Bishop began his work on Capitol Hill through a Kennedy Foundation Public Policy Fellowship to specifically work on federal disability policy and legislation.

Mr. Bishop's other professional experiences have included work for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, the Waisman Center University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and the Mental Health Center of Dane County.

Mr. Bishop received his Master's of Science in Social Work degree, with an emphasis in public policy, and two Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

- Presentation: Commissioner's Address

Henry Claypool
Executive Vice President

American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)

Henry Claypool is the Executive Vice President for Policy at The American Association of People with Disabilities. Mr. Claypool has 25 years of experience developing and implementing disability policy at the federal, state, and local level, and also has personal experience with the nation's health system as a person with a disability. Claypool sustained a spinal injury over 25 years ago. In the years following his injury, he relied on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income, which enabled him to complete his Bachelor's degree at the University of Colorado. After completing his degree, he spent five years working for a Center for Independent Living, after which he became the Director of the Disability Services office at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Mr. Claypool served as the Policy Director at Independence Care System, a managed long-term care provider in New York City. Mr. Claypool has advised the federal government on disability policy for several years.

- *Presentation: Health Reform – What's Happening Now!*

David Deere, M.S.W., M.Th.
Executive Director

Partners for Inclusive Community

David Deere is the director of Partners for Inclusive Communities, AR. Since the beginning of Arkansas's efforts to plan their Health Insurance Exchange, the UCEDD has held a contract with the Arkansas Insurance Department to engage stakeholders in the planning process. David has served on the Exchange Steering Committee, the Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee, and the Navigator Sub-committee. In the summer of 2011, he conducted 47 community meetings to gather stakeholder input about the Exchange.

- Presentation: Habilitation Benefits in State Health Insurance Exchanges

Karen Edwards, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Karen Edwards, M.D., M.P.H., is Director of the University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Director of the LEND Program (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUUCD). She is currently serving as Ohio's Act Early Ambassador, as part of a collaborative effort designed to develop a network of state-level experts to

improve early identification of developmental delay and disability. It is a collaborative project of CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and AUCD.

- Presentation: *Educating Communities and Self-advocates*

Elizabeth Hecht
Senior Outreach Specialist
Waisman Center

Elizabeth Hecht is senior outreach specialist at the Waisman Center's Children with Special Health Care Needs Program. Liz has been a tireless worker on behalf of Wisconsin children with disabilities and their families. Her strong interest in public policy ensures that the voices of our families are always at the table, whether at cross-disability coalitions, departmental workgroups, ad hoc committees, legislative hearings, or Governor-appointed councils. As the statewide co-director of Wisconsin Family Voices and the coordinator of the Southern Regional Children with Special Health Care Needs Center, Liz is committed to ensuring that all children with disabilities, regardless of their diagnostic label, have access to services based on their individual needs. She is passionate in her belief that children thrive best when families are supported in their homes and communities. She is committed to the principles of family-centered care and community inclusion of all people with disabilities. Her work as chair of the Children's Long-Term Care Redesign is changing the way Wisconsin and its counties are working with families. She is always the first to ask, "What is the effect on families?" and "Where is the family perspective?" on any issue.

- Presentation: Habilitation Benefits in State Health Insurance Exchanges

Tamar Heller, PhD
Professor and Director
UIC Department of Disability and Human Development

Professor Heller is head of the UIC Department of Disability and Human Development. She also directs the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities, the Advanced Training for Disability and Rehabilitation Scholars program, and projects on support interventions for individuals with disabilities and their families. She also directs the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for the State of Illinois.

Dr. Heller has written over 125 publications and presented over 200 papers at major conferences on disability policies and interventions. She has co-edited two books (Health of Women with Disabilities and Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities: Optimizing Choice and Change) and edited special issues of Technology and Disability, American Journal on Mental Retardation, Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities, and Family Relations.

Previously, Dr. Heller directed a Family Studies and Services Program, which included an interdisciplinary diagnostic clinic serving nearly 1,000 families each year from the inner city, a family support program and studies on lifespan family support. Dr. Heller has served on the boards of the American Association on Mental Retardation, the European Course on Mental Retardation, and the boards of several leading national and international journals on disability issues. She was a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.

- Presentation: Evaluation and Quality Measures

Helen Hendrickson, MPA
Project Director
Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center

Helen Hendrickson is a project director at the E.K. Shriver Center in Massachusetts. Her work focuses on creating online learning opportunities for health reform efforts and other health-related issues. She is currently working on the Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative in Massachusetts, the Duals demonstration project in Massachusetts as well as a dental health project. Ms. Hendrickson has fifteen years of experience in the field of disability, serving in roles from group home director to community organizer. Ms. Hendrickson received a BA from Hampshire College in Massachusetts and an MPA from UMass Amherst.

- Presentation: Duals Demonstrations

Susan Hetherington, PhD

Co-Director

Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities

Susan Hetherington Ph.D., is the Co-Director of the Institute for Innovative Transition where she oversees Project SEARCH and is the Principal Investigator for New York State Partnerships in Employment Systems Change, a federally funded grant focused on increasing integrated, competitive employment for people with developmental disabilities. An Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Education, she is the Co-Director of the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities, a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, where she also oversees community education and technical assistance. At the Warner School, Hetherington teaches courses on disability and inclusive education. With over 35 years working with people with disabilities, administering state and national grants, and training teachers and related services personnel, her research interest is in the experience of marginalized parents who have children with autism spectrum disorders with the educational system.

- Presentation: Employment First: Partnerships in Employment Systems Change

Suad Jama

Program Specialist

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Suad Jama is a Program Specialist in the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) Office of Program Support. Suad serves as the Project Officer for the National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Services (UCEDD) Grants; the UCEDD Minority Partnership Initiatives, and the Protection & Advocacy Grants. She also works on the UCEDD and P&A Training and Technical Assistance contracts.

Prior to her work with AIDD, Suad was a Service Coordinator with the Fairfax County Community Service Board, the Early Intervention Programs. She coordinated early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers who have a developmental delay. She mainly worked with diverse, multicultural non-English speaking families. Suad is proud of her accomplishments to help the Fairfax County Infant and Toddler Programs modify their early intervention practices with families from Middle East backgrounds in ways that are culturally responsive and culturally relevant. Suad has more than 7 years of mental health experience working with refugees, particularly those in the federally-funded Survival of Torture Programs - funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA).

Suad has a bachelor's degree in Educational Psychology from Damascus University, Syria, and a Master's degree in Social Work from San Jose State University, California with a field concentration in community mental health.

- Presentation: AIDD Program Office Updates

George S. Jesien, PhD

Executive Director

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Dr. Jesien received his bachelor's degrees in English and Philosophy at LeMoyne College, his master's degree in educational psychology and his doctorate degree in Human Development at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Jesien began his appointment as Executive Director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities on July 1, 1999. His experience includes extensive administrative and supervisory responsibility for national and international training and technical assistance projects in early childhood and early intervention, including the Executive Director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. In this role, he directed and managed Foundation activities, including national grants management, the public policy fellowship program, the associate trustee program and fiscal management of an annual budget of approximately \$2.6 million.

He served as a Principal Investigator for a series of federal, state and locally funded projects in personnel preparation, research, materials development, outreach, direct services and information dissemination via the Internet at the

Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison between 1989 and 1997. In addition, Dr. Jesien was awarded a one-year Kennedy Foundation Public Policy Fellowship in 1994 to work with the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy with Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa.

- Presentation: Opening Remarks

Jennifer Johnson, EdD

Supervisory Program Specialist

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Dr. Jennifer Johnson is a Supervisory Program Specialist with the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she oversees the Office of Program Support. This Office is responsible for the coordination, oversight, management and evaluation of the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, the Protection and Advocacy Systems, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities grant programs.

Prior to joining AIDD, Dr. Johnson worked at The George Washington University on a variety special projects, including those related to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She also served as an Adjunct Lecturer teaching master's level coursework in research methodology and public policy. She has consulted to a variety of national organizations providing expertise on issues related to special education, early childhood, disabilities, and research design. Dr. Johnson earned her doctorate in special education from the George Washington University.

- Presentation: AIDD Program Office Updates

Christy Kavulic, EdD

Associate Division Director of the Early Childhood and Parent Team

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), US Department of Education

Christy Kavulic is the Associate Division Director of the Early Childhood and Parent Team in the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the US Department of Education. In this position, she oversees the management of discretionary grants funded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She has a Master's in speech-language pathology and a doctorate in early childhood special education.

- Presentation: Early Childhood Initiatives Impacting Children with Disabilities

Rie Kennedy –Lizotte

Director of Communities of Practice

NASDDS

Rie Kennedy-Lizotte has worked in the public and private sectors to provide community services for people with disabilities for more than 30 years. She currently serves as Project Manager of SELN (State Employment Leadership Network) for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services. Previously, she was Program Director for Provider Development in the Georgia Office of Developmental Disabilities where she helped home and community providers develop capacity to serve greater numbers of Georgians with developmental disabilities with quality services. Dedicated to advocacy and changing public policy, she became actively involved in local, state, and national organizations. She has, for example, been an active member of TASH for many years, serving as a board member for the Pennsylvania chapter from 2001-2004. She also co-founded Person to Person: Valley Citizen Advocacy, an organization to support people with disabilities throughout the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. Rie also played a significant role in launching one of Pennsylvania's first projects to support self-determination principles; allowing individuals and their circles of support to direct and manage individual budgets to purchase services.

- Presentation: National Employment Initiatives

Barbara LeRoy, PhD

Director

Developmental Disabilities Institute

Dr. Barbara LeRoy is the Director of the Developmental Disabilities Institute and a member of the graduate faculty in Education at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan (USA). She is the Vice Chair of the Education Commission for RI as well as its North American representative. In her more than 30 years of experience in disability policy and program development, she has implemented systems change and evaluation projects in supported employment, inclusive education, aging, and self-determination models for community support. She sits on more than 15 advisory panels and boards, including the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, the United States International Council on Disabilities, and the World Health Organization's Special Interest Research Group on Disability and Aging. Dr. LeRoy has consulted on disability systems change with NGOs and governmental entities in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong, Europe, and the United Arab Emirates. She is a policy and special needs research consultant to OECD, Paris and the European Commission Joint Research Centre, Milan. She is the co-author of *Women with Disabilities Aging Well*, as well as numerous book chapters on education, mothering, and disability and disparities. Dr. LeRoy received a BA in English from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a MA in Community Counseling and Ph.D. in Education from the University of Michigan. She has been married for 37 years and has two children and one grandchild.

- Presentation: Duals Demonstrations

Sharon Lewis

Commissioner

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Sharon Lewis was appointed Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in March 2010. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, she served as the Senior Disability Policy Advisor to U.S. House Committee on Education & Labor, advising members of the Committee on legislative strategy and disability-related policy issues in education, employment and healthcare, and as a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow for U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Children & Families. Sharon is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2010 Distinguished Leadership in National Disability Policy Award and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Chairman's Award.

In Oregon, Sharon worked on public policy for the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition and for the Arc. She served as the co-chair of the Oregon Family Action Coalition Team, founded DisabilityCompass.org and managed the Oregon Partners in Policymaking Program, working with individuals with disabilities and family members to participate in policy decisions at all levels. Sharon is a parent to three daughters, including one with disability. She is a native of Michigan and a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis.

- Presentation: Commissioner's Address

Don Lollar, EdD

Director

Institute on Disability & Development

Dr. Lollar assumed the position of Director, OHSU University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and Associate Director of CDRC for Academic Affairs in January 2010. He also has a faculty appointment in OHSU's Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Prior to joining our team, he was a Senior Research Scientist at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. He served in a variety of leadership positions at the CDC including directing the Office on Disability and Health and the Office of Extramural Research. He is a nationally recognized expert in the areas of disability and health and particularly in the prevention of secondary conditions and health promotion, and the development and implementation of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). His accomplishments have been acknowledged by the American Academy of Pediatrics (Distinguished Service Citation) and the American Public Health Association (Outstanding Leadership Award). His most recent writings include editing two books - *Launching into Adulthood: an integrated response to support transition of youth with chronic health conditions and disabilities* and *Public Health Perspectives on Disability: Epidemiology to Ethics and beyond*, as well as published articles in the journals *Rehabilitation Psychology* and *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*. Dr. Lollar received his graduate degrees (MS and EdD) in Rehabilitation Counseling from Indiana University. He was a practicing licensed psychologist for 25 years in the states of Maine, Kentucky, and Georgia before being recruited to the CDC in 1996.

- *Presentation: Critical Issues in Early Childhood – The UCEDDs' Role*

Ralph Lollar**Director of the Division Long Term Services and Supports
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group at CMS**

Ralph Lollar is the Director of the Division Long Term Services and Supports, Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group at CMS. Ralph worked for more than 30 years for the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (NJDDD). In his role as administrator for the NJDDD, Medicaid/Waiver Unit, Mr. Lollar had significant involvement in services for seniors and people with disabilities through a Medicaid State Plan service delivery system in both a Managed Care and Fee for Service Model. Ralph's work included close involvement with the Money Follows the Person demonstration project. He worked with fellow waiver administrators in the management of a bi-monthly New Jersey HCBS Committee to ensure statewide coordination of all five 1915(c) HCBS waiver programs. He has a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University and is a Certified Public Manager.

- Presentation: Employment Systems Change Initiatives

Serena Lowe**Senior Policy Advisor****Office of Disability Employment Policy**

Serena Lowe currently works as the Senior Policy Advisor at the Office of Disability Employment Policy. Lowe is the Founder & Principal of Aneres Strategies, a consulting enterprise specializing in government relations and commercial planning strategies. For the past fifteen years, Lowe has served as a consultant to over 35 national nonprofit and corporate entities in the areas of public policy, advocacy, coalition building, strategic planning, and organizational development. Serena has remained actively engaged in the disability policy community for the past twelve years, which is evidenced most recently by her leadership of the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD), which she cofounded in early 2007. The CPSD is a coalition of 13 national disability organizations committed to promoting high-impact public policy reform aimed at empowering adults living with significant disabilities by providing opportunities and eliminating barriers to achieving meaningful engagement in the areas of employment, economic self-sufficiency, education, social interaction, and community engagement.

- Presentation: Employment Systems Change Initiatives

Cate McClain, MD, PT, FAAP**Center for Development and Disability**

Cate McClain, MD, PT has been the Director of the NM LEND Program since its inception in 1994. She also serves as the Director of the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability and chief of the Development Division in the Department of Pediatrics at UNM. She is a Professor of Pediatrics and is board certified in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics. Her clinical interest has been in the areas of Autism Spectrum disorders and Fetal Alcohol Disorders.

- Presentation: Addressing Multiple Psycho-social Risk Factors in Early Childhood Programs

Catherine M. Nolan, MSW, ACSW**Director****Office on Child Abuse and Neglect****Children's Bureau****Administration on Children, Youth and Families****ACF/HHS**

Ms. Nolan is the director of the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN), housed within the Children's Bureau, US Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families, in Washington, DC. In this role she oversees and manages OCAN activities including leadership in the area of child abuse and neglect prevention and systems improvement at the Federal level; supporting staff in their work on a large discretionary grant portfolio, implementation of CAPTA programs; initiating and maintaining Federal interagency communication regarding child abuse and neglect issues; convening national conferences and professional meetings and other special initiatives.

Ms. Nolan earned her Masters degree in Social Work (MSW) from the Catholic University of America in 1979 and the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) credential in 1981. She has over 35 years of experience advocating for children and families. She was a school social worker for both the Fairfax County, VA school system and for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Northern Germany, Program Coordinator and Social Worker of a multidisciplinary evaluation team at the NATO hospital Exceptional Family Member Department clinic in Belgium, and Child Abuse Program Manager for the US Department of the Navy. She joined the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect as a senior child welfare program specialist in June 1995. She has served as Director of the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect since 1998.

- Presentation: Early Childhood Initiatives Impacting Children with Disabilities

**Laura Owens,
Executive Director, PhD
APSE**

Dr. Laura Owens is the Executive Director of APSE (formerly the Association for Persons in Supported Employment), a national association focusing on the advancement of integrated employment for citizens with disabilities based in Washington, DC. She is also an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Department of Exceptional Education and the Director/Founder of Creative Employment Opportunities, Inc. (CEO), an employment agency for individuals with disabilities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Laura is an internationally recognized speaker and has presented at the European Union on Supported Employment in Ireland (2007) and the Czech Republic (2009). She has consulted with several organizations in Croatia including the Croatian Employer Association on advancing integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

- Presentation: National Employment Initiatives

**Randall Owen, PhD
Institute on Disability & Human Development,**

Randall Owen, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the Project Coordinator for "An Independent Evaluation of the Integrated Care Program," a project evaluating a newly implemented mandatory Medicaid managed care program in the collar counties of Chicago. He has also been involved in evaluation projects of other Illinois medical programs. His primary interest is in policy and reforms, and he teaches a Masters-level course on disability policy for the department.

Randall is a trainee of the Institute on Disability and Human Development, having earned a Master's Degree in Disability and Human Development in 2007 and a PhD in Disability Studies in 2011 from the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Both his thesis and dissertation focused on human rights and the experiences of people with disabilities, with regard to employment, social security and welfare reform. He has conducted fieldwork in the United Kingdom and in Australia and has presented nationally and internationally on neoliberalism and welfare reform for people with disabilities.

- Presentation: Evaluation and Quality Measures

**Fred Palmer, MD
Director
Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities**

Dr. Palmer is committed to interdisciplinary training of professionals in comprehensive, coordinated, family-centered care and supports for children and adults with disabilities. He has worked closely with the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in developing certification policies and procedures in the subspecialty of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. Dr. Palmer's special clinical service interests are in cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorders, preschool language disorders and better meeting the needs of children and adults with disabilities and their families in the setting of our changing health care delivery and related support system.

- Presentation: Developing a Statewide Managed Care Model

Wendy Parent-Johnson, PhD**Executive Director****South Dakota Center for Disabilities**

Wendy Parent-Johnson is the Executive Director of the South Dakota Center for Disabilities. Parent-Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and a Ph.D in education from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. Professionally, Dr. Parent-Johnson has held positions at Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Georgia and the University of Kansas. Prior to the Center for Disabilities, Parent-Johnson worked as research professor and associate director of the Lawrence site of the University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities and the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies Parent-Johnson has published numerous book chapters and journal articles and has co-authored several books, while also providing hundreds of presentations and workshops during her career. Her areas of interest and research are supported/customized employment and transition from school to work for individuals with severe disabilities, inclusive post-secondary education, job coach certification, health care transition, and employment first, among other.

- Presentation: Employment Technical Assistance Initiatives

Julie Petty**Partners for Inclusive Communities**

Julie Petty is an accomplished self-advocate from Arkansas and has been a leader in the self-advocacy movement in Arkansas and nationally for several years. President Barack Obama recently appointed Julie to be a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas journalism department. She is the past President of SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered) from 2006-2008. In 1998, she established Arkansas People First and helped it grow statewide. She has served on boards and advisory councils related to disability policy. Julie has keynoted many national and state conferences to spread the word about self-advocacy. Julie joined the staff at Partners for Inclusive Communities, the Arkansas UCEDD, in August of 2008 where she will work on various projects to educate people with disabilities. She is married to Brian Petty and they have 2 sons.

- *Presentation : Rebalancing Medicaid Long Term Care Expenditures
Money Follows the Person, and Community First Choice Option*

Brian Reichow, PhD, BCBA-D**Research Director****The A.J. Papanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Center**

Brian Reichow is the Research Director for the Center. Dr. Reichow completed his MS and PhD in Special Education at Vanderbilt University and completed a two-year post-doc under the supervision of Dr. Fred Volkmar at the Yale Child Study Center. His current research interests include the translation of clinical research into practical applications in schools and communities, the identification and evaluation of evidence-based practices, systematic review and meta-analytic methods and applications, and applied research in authentic educational settings. He has edited two books (Evidence-Based Practices and Treatments for Children with Autism [Reichow et al., 2011], Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders [Volkmar, Reichow, & McPartland, in press]), and written over 25 peer-reviewed publications in prominent journals such as the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Journal of Special Education, and excess of 10 book chapters. In 2010 Dr. Reichow was awarded the Council for Exceptional Children, Division of Research Early Career Publication Award for his meta-analysis of Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention that was published in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders (Reichow and Wolery, 2009), which has been the most cited article from the journal for the past two years. In addition, he serves on numerous regional, national, and international committees and boards.

Dr. Reichow currently leads a project for the World Health Organization's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), in which he is conducting a systematic review of psychosocial interventions provided by non-specialist providers for children with intellectual disorders and autism spectrum disorders. This project will culminate in the formulation of practice guidelines and training materials to be delivered in countries with lower- and middle-income wealth.

- Presentation: Autism in Early Childhood

Winona Reid, M.ED

Project Director

Institute for Human Development

Winona Reid (Navajo Nation) is the Project Director of the Capacity Building for American Indians Project (CBAIP) at the Institute for Human Development housed at Northern Arizona University. The CBAIP is funded by the Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (Grant No. H315D100003).

For the last 14 years with the CBAIP, Winona has provided technical assistance and training to American Indian tribes and Alaskan Natives in the development and management of culturally appropriate vocational rehabilitation programs. She has provided training on grant writing, grant management, fiscal administration and management, capacity building strategies, and policies and procedures development. Currently, there are 85 American Indian/Alaskan Native Vocational Rehabilitation Programs through the country.

In addition, for the last 3 years Winona has served as the Human Resources Chair of the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation, Inc. (CANAR, Inc.). The mission of the CANAR, Inc. is to serve as an avenue for collaboration and cooperation between American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Programs and other partners serving Native Americans with disabilities, to increase and enhance the quality of culturally relevant and appropriate services, resulting in employment and positive outcomes for Native Americans with disabilities.

Winona received her master's degree in counseling and human relations from Northern Arizona University College of Education. She has three sons and is married to Shawn Yazzie and they live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

- Presentation: Employment Technical Assistance Initiatives

Eva Rooks, MA

Planning and Communications Manager

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

Eva Rooks has worked in public service for 18 years. She currently manages the Informing Families Building Project (www.informingfamilies.org) as one component of her current position. She also convenes stakeholder review panels to review and make action recommendations on Washington State's National Core Indicators survey results. Eva started her career in community development and organizing in a rural Washington county and moved into public health research. In 1998, she began work for Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). During her time there she worked with the team that developed Washington's first online application for services (OnLine CSO) and a complement of printed materials that explained available services in easy-to-understand language. One of three state agency finalists for the 2001 Outstanding Contribution to Digital Government Award, the project received the Governor's Award for Quality and Performance in 2002. Eva's educational background in communications and applied behavioral sciences fuels her commitment to using language as a bridge instead of a barrier.

- Presentation: *Educating Communities and Self-advocates*

Cordelia Robinson Rosenberg, PhD, RN

Director

JFK Partners

Since 1993 Dr. Robinson has been Director of JFK Partners, an interdepartmental program of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine. In this role she is responsible for providing leadership, direction to an interdisciplinary professional staff of over 40 faculty members. Dr. Robinson has professional preparation in Nursing (BS) Special Education (MA) and Developmental Psychology with a research specialty in Intellectual Disabilities (PhD) from Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. She is currently Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry. She has worked in the field of early intervention for children with developmental disabilities as a clinician, researcher and educator of personnel from multiple disciplines since 1973. She has been the PI on over 30 federally funded demonstration, training or research projects in the field of Developmental Disabilities and Intellectual Disabilities. Work since 2001 has been focused on

Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is Co-Principal Investigator on the CDCP funded Colorado CADDRE and Surveillance projects and Co-Principal Investigator on the Colorado site of the Autism Treatment Network. Community work in Colorado includes service on the Developmental Disabilities Council and the Colorado Autism Commission.

- *Presentation: Critical Issues in Early Childhood – The UCEDDs’ Role*

Dawn Rudolph, MEd

AIDD Technical Assistance Director

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Dawn leads the AIDD TA team in providing support to projects funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This includes technical assistance to the national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), the National Gateway to Self-Determination, Think College, and the National Service Inclusion Project.

Prior to joining AUCD, Dawn supported children, adults, and families in community-based services for 20 years in various roles. After working as a direct support professional first in an institution and then in community-based homes, Dawn worked three years as an early intervention teacher. This led to work as a family therapist specializing in work with families whose young children were first diagnosed with special needs, helping families cope with the trauma of the diagnosis while learning the special education systems. Dawn returned to work with adults with developmental disabilities as a community living program director for seven years in Maryland and the District of Columbia, then worked with the District of Columbia DD agency as the administrator of service coordination. She is well-versed in community and lifespan issues for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Dawn holds a BS in Special Education from Gwynedd-Mercy College, and an MEd in Psychological Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

- *Presentation: AUCD Updates*

Matt Salo

Executive Director

National Association of Medicaid Directors

Matt Salo is the Executive Director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors, a position first established in February 2011. Matt has extensive experience in Medicaid and health care and formerly spent 12 years at the National Governors Association, where he worked on the governors' health care and human services reform agendas. He holds a B.A. in eastern religious studies from the University of Virginia.

- *Presentation: Health Reform – What’s Happening Now!*

Elaine Saly

Health Policy Analyst

Families USA

Elaine Saly is a Health Policy Analyst at Families USA, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the achievement of high quality, affordable coverage for all. Ms. Saly drafts policy briefs, media reports and consumer education pieces on implementation of the Affordable Care Act, as well as, analyzes and comments on federal and state regulations, proposed legislation and white papers. For the past two years, Ms. Saly volunteered for CASA for Children of DC as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, representing the interests of youths in foster care before DC Family Court. Ms. Saly is a graduate of Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Art History.

- *Presentation: Health Reform – What’s Happening Now!*

Deborah Spitz

Office of Early Learning, OESE

U.S. Department of Education

Deborah Spitz is an Education Program Specialist in the Office of Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education, where she plays a lead role in the management of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge program. She was previously the Group Leader for the Early Childhood Reading Group in the Office of Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality, where she managed Early Reading First, Even Start, Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy and Reading First. In addition to her ten years at the U.S. Department of Education, she was the Deputy Director of the D.C. Appleseed Center for Law and Justice managing research projects relating to special education, health education, and child support. She has also worked as a program manager and policy analyst for the District of Columbia Public Schools and the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board. She received a law degree from Stanford Law School in 1996.

- *Presentation: Early Childhood Initiatives Impacting Children with Disabilities*

Lauren Stewart

Senior Policy Analyst

Economic, Human Services & Workforce Division, NGA

Lauren Stewart manages American Recovery and Reinvestment Act High Growth and Emerging Industries grants with the U.S. Department of Labor, authors issue briefs for governors and their staff and provides technical assistance to states and grantees on workforce development issues. She has also served as a Policy Analyst, Special Projects, Office of the NGA Center Director, Program Assistant, Division of Environment, Energy and Transportation and Administrative Assistant, Division of Environment, Energy and Transportation, NGA Center for Best Practices. Stewart has a Master of Public Policy with concentration in Budgeting & Finance, The George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy; Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, University Of California, Davis.

- Presentation: Employment Systems Change Initiatives

Steve Sulkes, MD

Director

Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities

Dr. Sulkes is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center and the Director of the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities in Rochester, New York. Dr. Sulkes' primary research interest is Health Care Delivery to People with Developmental Disabilities. He also participates in research related to Down syndrome and to children with autism and physical disabilities.

- Presentation: Developing a Statewide Managed Care Model

Kay M. Teel, PhD, LCSW

JFK Partners

M. Kay Teel, PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado Denver. Dr. Teel is a social work researcher and clinician with twenty years' experience in social work practice, including program development and community organization. She has focused her work in recent years in early intervention for children with special needs, and recently served as the Program Coordinator for the Child Find Project for interagency collaboration between the Child Welfare and Part C systems in Colorado and the Family Support 360 Project. Additionally, Dr. Teel has taught as an adjunct faculty member for the University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work. She is the Social Work Discipline Director for the LEND Program.

- Presentation: Addressing Multiple Psycho-social Risk Factors in Early Childhood Programs

Cindy Thomas, MS, CRSC

Coordinator of Employment Services, Training, and Technical Assistance

Institute for Community Inclusion

Cindy Thomas is the coordinator of employment services, training, and technical assistance at ICI. She has over 25 years of experience providing employment services for individuals with significant disabilities and directing state and federally funded projects. As a project director for a number of Massachusetts-based federal grants, she oversees a variety of employment-related training, technical assistance, and systems change initiatives at ICI. She has extensive experience working with the vocational rehabilitation system, the workforce development system, and community rehabilitation

providers on strategies to improve employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. She has also presented locally and nationally on employment issues

- Presentation: National Employment Initiatives

**Steve Wooderson,
CEO**

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

Steve Wooderson was selected as the CEO of CSAVR on November 1, 2010. Prior to joining CSAVR, Steve was the administrator of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. He oversaw the state VR and independent living programs, as well as the disability determination services bureau. His experience in VR spans nearly 30 years of service in the public program. Steve started as a VR counselor in south central Missouri in January of 1981 and he enjoyed a 20 year career with the Missouri VR agency. In March of 2000, Steve moved to Iowa to become the rehabilitation services chief, and then was appointed agency administrator in December of 2002. He has served at all professional levels in the public vocational rehabilitation program; which gives him a unique perspective of the local, state and national implications of VR service delivery. During Steve's tenure in Iowa, he also was adjunct faculty in the Drake University rehabilitation counseling program. He is a certified Dale Carnegie trainer and a retired Army Reserves Lieutenant Colonel.

- Presentation: Employment Systems Change Initiatives

UCEDD Resource Center

A project of AUCD, in partnership with AIDD, to strengthen and support the network of UCEDDs

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