

Fabric Not Fringe

Weaving Family Involvement Strategies into Professional Disability-Related Training Programs

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Introduction

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) programs are advanced-level interdisciplinary leadership training programs federally funded through HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. There are 52 LEND programs in 44 U.S. states with an additional six states and three territories reached through program partnerships. Currently, all LENDs have family discipline faculty, family trainees, as well as additional family involvement. The LEND Family Involvement Assessment is a national survey that identifies graduating LEND trainees' perception of the impact and importance of family involvement (of any kind) in their LEND training experience.

Increasing Family Voices and Leadership

LENDs have pioneered successful family involvement in professional training for over 25 years. The LEND Family Involvement Assessment, a national survey conducted since 2013, has identified eight types of successful family involvement. The LEND Family Discipline Network, a workgroup consisting of LEND family faculty, family trainees, and other interested LEND administrators/faculty have authored a White Paper recently published by the Association for University Centers on Disability (AUCD). The AUCD is a membership organization that supports and promotes a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs. This White Paper explores the LEND network's successful strategies and is intended to assist other professional disability-related training programs in developing new ways to enhance or increase family voices and leverage family leadership.



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White Paper Objectives



Family Involvement Strategies

- Family members serving in the professional role of LEND or university faculty or staff
- Family members serving as interdisciplinary team members in clinical settings e.g. family support coordinators
- Families from the community serving as mentors to host LEND trainees for home or community visits
- Families sharing their personal stories as guest presenters or panelists during LEND
- Family members from the community serving as LEND program advisors, as advisory board members, research participants, or consultants for clinical issues or thesis preparation
- Training curricula that incorporate topics specifically focused on family and disabilities
- Family members participating as LEND trainees within the family discipline
- Family members participating in program planning, implementation, and evaluation

Acknowledgements/White Paper Authors and Reviewers

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Dedicated in memory of Ruth Roberts