

Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference:



***Getting to Know You,
Getting to Know Us***

Saturday, December 10, 2011

8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**Doubletree Hotel
200 Atrium Drive
Somerset, NJ**

Sponsors

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities,
UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School,
Department of Pediatrics

Disability Rights New Jersey

The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities

The NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities

Co-Sponsors

Horizon NJ Health

Rutgers Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

Partners

Healthfirst NJ

NJ Division of Disability Services

Neighbours, Inc.

In Collaboration With

Arab American Family Support Center

Arab American Heritage Commission

Arab American Institute

Arab American Medical Association

Islamic Center of Passaic County

The Islamic Council of Jersey City

Mental Health Association in Passaic County

Montclair State University

Modern Languages and Literatures/Arabic Program

Network of Arab American Professionals

NJ Outreach Group

NJ Department of Law and Public Safety
Division on Civil Rights

Conference at a Glance

8:30 A.M.	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits, and Networking			
9:00 A.M.	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Bill Gaventa, MDiv, Director of Congregational and Community Supports, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, The Boggs Center</i> <i>Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director, Professor of Pediatrics, The Boggs Center</i> <i>Eman Hamad, MD, Chairwoman, Arab American Heritage Commission</i> <i>Greetings from The NJ Department of Human Services</i></p>			
9:30 A.M.	<p>Keynote</p> <p style="color: #e91e63;">Understanding the Arab American Experience</p> <p><i>Helen Hatab Samhan, MA, Board Member and former Executive Director, Arab American Institute, Washington, DC</i></p>			
10:15 A.M.	<p style="color: #e91e63;">Panel of Arab American Individuals with Disabilities and Families</p> <p><i>Moderated by Raja Salloum, MSW, LCSW, Arab American Mental Health Clinician, Mental Health Association in Passaic County</i></p>			
11:00 A.M.	Break			
	MORNING WORKSHOPS			
11:15 A.M.	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
	Best Practices in Working with the Arab American Community	Mental Health Barriers Broken in the Arab American Community	Arab Americans and Religious and Cultural Influences on the Perception of Disability	Early Childhood Resources for Children with Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs and Their Families
	Workshop 5	Workshop 6	Workshop 7	Workshop 8
	Educational and Assistive Technology Resources for School-aged Children with Disabilities and Their Families	Resources and Services for Adults with Disabilities and Their Families	Immigrant Rights to Disability Services and Language Access	Protecting Your Children from Hostile Environment or Bullying in the Schools
12:30 P.M.	Lunch, Exhibits, and Networking			
	AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (repeat of morning workshops)			
1:45 P.M.	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
	Best Practices in Working with the Arab American Community	Mental Health Barriers Broken in the Arab American Community	Arab Americans and Religious and Cultural Influences on the Perception of Disability	Early Childhood Resources for Children with Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs and Their Families
	Workshop 5	Workshop 6	Workshop 7	Workshop 8
	Educational and Assistive Technology Resources for School-aged Children with Disabilities and Their Families	Resources and Services for Adults with Disabilities and Their Families	Immigrant Rights to Disability Services and Language Access	Protecting Your Children from Hostile Environment or Bullying in the Schools
3:15 P.M.	Musical Entertainment and Dessert			
4:00 P.M.	Adjourn			

Keynote Presentations

Understanding the Arab American Experience

Helen Hatab Samhan, MA
Board Member and former Executive Director
Arab American Institute, Washington, DC

This presentation offers an overview of Arab American immigrant experiences and ethnic integration in the U.S. A profile of national and statewide demographics will be provided as well as highlights of civic and cultural expressions, with special attention to the needs of the foreign-born population. The religious and national origin diversity of Arab Americans will be explored as well as the impact of racial profiling and post-9/11 prejudice on attitudes and behaviors in this population.



Helen Hatab Samhan

Helen Hatab Samhan has over 30 years of experience in non-profit advocacy, research and cultural outreach work about Arab Americans. In 2010, Samhan retired as executive director of the Arab American Institute in Washington, D.C. where for 25 years she led operational management, program development, governance, and leadership affiliations. Samhan established at AAI an outreach and research program with the U.S. Census Bureau to present and analyze demographic data on Americans of Arab ancestry. She publishes and lectures extensively in the field of Arab American ethnic studies and currently serves as Senior Outreach Advisor to the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. Born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Bergen County, NJ, Samhan is the granddaughter of immigrants from present-day Syria and Lebanon. She received her BA from Marymount College and graduated from the American University of Beirut with a Masters degree in Middle East Studies.

Panel of Arab American Individuals with Disabilities and Families

Moderator: Raja Salloum, MSW, LCSW
Arab American Mental Health Clinician
Mental Health Association in Passaic County

Panelists: Laila Atshan; Nybil Ghanem; Yousef Shahin; Alia Suqi; Othman Suqi;
Maysoon Zayid

A panel of Arab American individuals with disabilities and family members will share some of their experience with disability within their own culture and as community members and residents of New Jersey.

1 Best Practices in Working with the Arab American Community

Lena Alhusseini, MSc, MPA, Arab American Family Support Center of New York

This workshop will provide an overview of over 18 years in providing social services to individuals and families in the Arab American Community in New York. Successes and challenges faced by a leading nonprofit in the field will be shared, along with recommendations and best practices in providing social services in the community.

2 Mental Health Barriers Broken in the Arab American Community

Joanne Green, MSW, LSW, Executive Director, Mental Health Association in Passaic County;
Raja Salloum, MSW, LCSW, Arab American Mental Health Clinician, Mental Health Association in Passaic County

The Mental Health Association in Passaic partnered with leaders in the community to overcome stigma and dispel myths around mental health issues. This workshop will discuss a case study of The Arab American Community Service Partnership. Recommendations will be shared for other organizations to create similar partnerships in other areas of human services.

3 Arab Americans and Religious and Cultural Influences on the Perception of Disability

Nadia Ansary, PhD, Assistant Professor, Rider University;
Chrystina Dolyniuk, PhD, Associate Professor, Rider University

The Arab American community is diverse, but common to most families is a fear of sharing personal information as it relates to developmental disabilities. The objective of this workshop is to highlight cultural and religious influences on the perception of disability as well as to suggest practical strategies for work with this population.

4 Early Childhood Resources for Children with Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs and Their Families

Desiree Bonner, Lead Family Support Coordinator, Helpful Hands, The Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative;
Malia Corde, Project Director, Medical Home, Program Coordinator, NJ Parent to Parent, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network;
Pauline Lisciotto, RN, MSN, Program Manager, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

This workshop will focus on NJ Early Intervention Services, NJ's Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs program, and other early childhood resources for families. The Single Point of Entry into early intervention services for infants and toddlers ages birth to three with developmental disabilities, eligibility criteria, and how early intervention services are provided to children and families in New Jersey will be presented. The Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Family Health Services - NJ's Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs program - can help families to find health care, get insurance, and apply for state and federal programs and/or financial assistance with catastrophic medical debt. Community, state, and national resources that will address the unique needs of their child and family will also be shared.

5 Educational and Assistive Technology Resources for School-aged Children with Disabilities and Their Families

Mary Ciccone, JD, Managing Attorney, Disability Rights New Jersey;
Curtis Edmonds, JD, Managing Attorney, Disability Rights New Jersey;
Carolyn Hayer, Director of Parent & Professional Development, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

This workshop will focus on education laws, advocacy strategies, and assistive technology resources for parents of school-aged children with special needs. Families will be provided with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and how the parent and student can advocate to ensure that they receive the services to which they are entitled. Assistive technology issues regarding transition from secondary school to higher education or the job market will also be presented, including funding issues and practical concerns about various AT devices and services.

6 Resources and Services for Adults with Disabilities and Their Families

Bret Li-Vaks, MBA, Training and Consultation Specialist, The Boggs Center (Moderator);
Carol Grant, Chief of Operations, NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services;
Liza Gundell, Deputy Director, The Family Resource Network

The transition from teenage years to adult life can be difficult and overwhelming. It can be a little easier if you have some of the basic information needed to make transition a successful one. Topics such as choosing employment as a life choice, a day program, living in a group home, self-directed services, post secondary education, and how to navigate other adult services such as Medicaid and Social Security benefits will be discussed.

7 Immigrant Rights to Disability Services and Language Access

Diana Autin, JD, Executive Co-Director, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network;
Mercedes Rosa, Director, Family to Family Health Information Center, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network

New Jersey's immigrant and limited English proficient residents have the right to access information and services in their native language under federal and state civil rights law, regardless of their status. There are a range of education, health, and human services available for immigrants who have family members with disabilities. This workshop will summarize the language access rights and rights to disability and other government services for New Jersey's immigrant families, as well as resources to help immigrant families advocate for and secure those rights.

8 Protecting Your Children from a Hostile Environment or Bullying in the Schools

Esther Nevarez, Community Relations Coordinator, NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division on Civil Rights

In this workshop, the protected bases and the areas of protection covered in the Law against Discrimination and the NJ Anti-Bullying Law will be presented, along with hostile environment and the potential liabilities for the school. The discussion on harassment and bullying will help parents in the Arab American community understand what steps they can take to help their children.

Directions to the Doubletree Hotel

Doubletree Hotel • 200 Atrium Drive • Somerset, NJ 08873 • 732-469-2600

From Route I-287 North

Take exit 10 for Route 527 (New Brunswick/Easton Avenue). Follow Route 527 North to the first traffic light and make a left onto Davidson Avenue. Continue on Davidson Avenue for one quarter (1/4) mile and make a left into Atrium Corporate Park. Follow to the front entrance for the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center.

From Route I-287 South

Take exit 10 for Route 527 (New Brunswick/Easton Avenue). At the bottom of the exit ramp, get into the left lane and make a left turn, (Go under overpass of I-287.) Go straight (bearing to the right) to the first traffic light and make a left onto Davidson Avenue. Continue on Davidson for one quarter (1/4) mile and make a left into Atrium Corporate Park. Follow to the front entrance for the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center.

From the New Jersey Turnpike – North & South

Take exit 10 for Metuchen/Edison to I-287 North. Follow I-287 North instructions.

From the Garden State Parkway – North

Take exit 127 for I-287 North. Follow I-287 North instructions.

From the Garden State Parkway – South

Take exit 129 for I-287 North. Follow I-287 North instructions.

From Newark International Airport – South

Follow Airport exit signs to the New Jersey Turnpike – South. Take exit 10 for Metuchen/Edison to I-287 North. Follow I-287 North instructions.

From Northern New Jersey – Via I-78

Take I-78 to I-287 South. Follow I-287 South instructions.

Amtrak or NJ Transit Train - Take train to New Brunswick.

At 8:00 A.M. and 8:45 A.M. Doubletree Hotel Shuttle will pick up at New Brunswick Train Station.

At 3:15 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. Doubletree Hotel Shuttle will drop off at New Brunswick Train Station.

Tell the shuttle driver you are attending the conference at the Doubletree Hotel.

Hotel Reservations

If you would like to stay at the hotel the night before or after the conference, call the **Doubletree Somerset at 732-469-2600 by November 18, 2011 to receive the discounted rate. Mention the “UMD” group code when making your reservation.** After the cut off date, the block of rooms will be released and we cannot guarantee that a reservation will be available.

Conference Rates: Single/Double Occupancy \$99.00 + tax per night. In order for the tax charge to be waived, you must pay using your nonprofit organization's check or credit card.

Registration Instructions

Registration is required and space is limited. Registration deadline: **November 28, 2011**

Complete the registration form on the next page or register online at <http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter>

- Please complete a registration form for each person who will attend. This will help us to keep track of registrations. If you need more forms, you may copy this form, go to: <http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter>, or call Beth Ong at The Boggs Center at 732-235-9327.
- Please remember to mark your **workshop choices** for the Morning and Afternoon Sessions.
- Please let us know if you require any **special accommodations** to participate in the conference.
- **Continental breakfast and Middle Eastern buffet lunch** are included with your registration. The lunch buffet will have both vegetarian and meat selections.

Confirmation Letters

- The Boggs Center will send a confirmation letter to all registrants. If you believe you are registered and have not received a confirmation letter by December 5, 2011, please contact Beth Ong at 732-235-9327.

Questions

- If you have questions about conference registration, please contact Beth Ong at The Boggs Center/UMDNJ at: Phone: 732-235-9327 • Email: elizabeth.ong@umdj.edu • Fax: 732-235-9330

Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference

December 10, 2011 • Doubletree Somerset Hotel

Space is limited! REGISTER TODAY! Final registration deadline November 28, 2011

Registration Information

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Ext. _____ Email Address _____



Special Accommodations Needed:

Please let us know if there are special accommodations needed to allow you to participate (at least 2 weeks advanced notice required):

- Sign Language Interpreter _____
 Wheelchair User Braille Handouts Large Print Handouts
 Special Dietary Needs _____ Other _____

Arabic Language Interpreters and Materials:

Please let us know if you will need an Arabic interpreter or materials for the conference (at least 2 weeks advanced notice required):

- Arabic Interpreter Arabic Handouts

Meditation and prayer rooms will be available throughout the day.

Hotel shuttle reservations:

If you need the hotel shuttle between the New Brunswick train station and the Doubletree Hotel, please check which times you prefer:

- Pick up at New Brunswick Train Station 8:00 A.M. 8:45 A.M.
Return to New Brunswick Train Station 3:15 P.M. 4:00 P.M.

Workshop Choices:

	Time	Workshop Choices (circle one for morning and one for afternoon)
Morning Workshop Selection	11:15 A.M.	Workshops: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Afternoon Workshop Selection	1:45 P.M.	Workshops: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Conference Registration Fees and Deadlines:

	Fee	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> Family members of individuals with disabilities	\$25	November 28, 2011
<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with Disabilities	\$25	November 28, 2011
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Early Bird Registration	\$75	November 10, 2011
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Regular Registration	\$100	November 28, 2011

Scholarships:

A limited number of scholarships from the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network are available for family members to attend for free. Check below if you request a scholarship. The Boggs Center will contact you to confirm that your scholarship request has been approved.

- I request a family scholarship to attend the conference.

Total: \$ _____ Enclosed

Please send this Registration Form and fee to Elizabeth Ong at:

The Boggs Center/UMDNJ • 335 George Street, PO Box 2688 • New Brunswick, NJ 08903-2688

Phone: 732-235-9327 • Fax: 732-235-9330 • Email: elizabeth.ong@umdnj.edu Website: <http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter>

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Getting to Know Us**

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هذا الكتيب متاح باللغة العربية.
يرجى زيارة موقع The Boggs Center الإلكتروني على:
<http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter>

**Arab American Communities and
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December 10, 2011

Doubletree Somerset Hotel

Conference Goals:

1. To increase the knowledge of service providers and advocacy groups of Arab American cultures in New Jersey for more effective outreach and service; and
2. To enable Arab American communities to have a better understanding of the services available in New Jersey

For:

- Providers of disability and other human services in New Jersey
- Members and leaders in Arab American Communities in New Jersey
- Families and people with disabilities in Arab American Communities in New Jersey
- Educators, Advocates, and other interested people