Friends,

The Boggs Center’s Annual Report provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the work of the past year, and the opportunity to express our thanks to our partners across New Jersey and nationally.

As we look back on the past year, we see change and also consistency. It is gratifying to see our work grow and to welcome new colleagues and collaborators. Of the many constants in our efforts, it is the collaborations with people with disabilities and families, our University and community partners, and the dedicated contributions of our faculty and staff that are the heart of our work.

As we see generations of medical students at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School welcomed into the homes of and educated by individuals living with disabilities and their families, and our Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NJLEND) fellows mentored by families, we see future professionals who are inspired and grounded in the voices and experience of those for whom we work.

In a time of divergent approaches to policy and civil discourse, we affirm our mission and commitment to promote the full participation of people with disabilities and their families in our communities and supporting those who work on their behalf.

With gratitude to our Consumer Advisory Council and our partners in this journey, and warm regards,

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD
Professor of Pediatrics
Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health
Executive Director, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Director, NJLEND
The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities is part of a national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research, and Service (UCEDD) sponsored by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The purpose of University Centers, as outlined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, is to provide a leadership role at the state level in the promotion of independence, productivity, and the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

The Boggs Center is New Jersey's federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and is an integral component of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics. Since its inception in 1983, The Center has emphasized a community based, lifespan approach to meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. In 2016, The Boggs Center was designated as New Jersey’s Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NJLEND) program.

The Boggs Center provides community and student training and technical assistance, conducts research, and disseminates information and educational materials. Activities of The Boggs Center are guided by its Consumer Advisory Council and partnerships with people with disabilities, families, state and community agencies, and policy makers.

Elizabeth Monroe Boggs, PhD (April 5, 1913-January 27, 1996), parent and internationally renowned policy maker, was New Jersey’s foremost scholar and advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

To honor her contributions, The University Affiliated Program of New Jersey was renamed “The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities” in late 1997.

To learn more about Elizabeth Boggs, PhD, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/about/about_elizabeth.html
Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD Honored with MyGOAL Autism Award

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of The Boggs Center, was honored with the 2018 MyGOAL Autism Outstanding Professional of the Year Award for dedication and service to individuals with autism. The award was presented on September 29, 2018 in Edison, NJ. Dr. Spitalnik also served as keynote speaker.

Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT, Elected President of the New Jersey Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (NJAPSE)

Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT, Director of Transition and Employment at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, was elected President of the New Jersey Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (NJAPSE) chapter. She also serves on the National APSE Board of Directors as Vice President. APSE is the only national organization with a focus exclusively on inclusive employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Genevieve Kumapley, PharmD, and Jonathan Kratchman Speak at Autism CARES Press Conference Held by Senator Menendez

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Director of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and New Jersey’s Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (NJLEND), spoke at Senator Bob Menendez’ press conference about the reauthorization of the Autism CARES Act on Friday, February 8, 2019 at Quest Autism Programs in Midland Park, NJ. Dr. Spitalnik highlighted the importance of Autism CARES 2019 in supporting education through the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs and how the reauthorization broadens the lifespan focus to include adults with ASD and addresses health issues and disparities. Two participants in Boggs Center leadership programs also spoke at the press conference. Genevieve Kumapley, PharmD, Family Fellow in NJLEND, NJ Partners in Policymaking graduate, and Founding Executive Director of MyGOAL Autism, spoke about her experiences as a parent of a young adult with autism. Jonathan Kratchman, NJ Partners in Policymaking graduate, Rutgers University senior, Eagleton Institute of Politics Associate, and member of the Autism Society of America’s public policy committee, spoke about his experiences as an autism advocate.

Special Journal Issue Features Article by Bethany Chase, MSW, LSW, CESP

A special issue of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation* covering the proceedings of the 2018 Annual APSE National Conference features an article by Bethany Chase, MSW, LSW, CESP, Training and Consultation Specialist at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities. The article, “Supporting Social/Sexual Challenges at the Workplace,” outlines the context for why social and sexual issues may arise in the workplace for employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and offers strategies employment specialists can utilize to support those they serve in maintaining employment when challenging situations occur.
The Boggs Center Celebrates Graduation of New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2018-2019

On April 13, 2019, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities hosted a graduation ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2018-2019. New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is a leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities and family members available through The Boggs Center with funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. This year’s graduates included 10 self-advocates and 15 family members prepared to work toward meaningful change in our state. Colleen McLaughlin, The Boggs Center’s Associate Director and Partners Project Director, welcomed graduates and invited guests, and provided an introduction to the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking program. Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director of The Boggs Center, delivered messages of inspiration, hope, and a charge to action as part of the event. Commissioner Carole Johnson brought greetings from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and the impact of the Partners program was addressed in remarks by Mercedes Witowsky, Executive Director of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) and Paul Blaustein, NJCDD Chair. Through panel presentations, this year’s graduates shared what they learned in the program and their plans for advocacy after graduation. Congratulations to the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Class of 2018-2019: Joyce Afriyie, Veronica Alizo, Edna Antonian, Kayla Baylor, Ana Cabán Vander-Woude, Robert Dazlich, David Ferrell, Meredith Flinn, Christopher Gagliardi, Jenna Karch, Hyun Kim, Pamela King, Bryan Krantz, Jessica Lax, Jeannie Lopez, Kailas Rangachar, Crystal Reynolds, Crystal Rogers, Andrea Schmidt, Lynda Shanahan, Nicholas Taubenslaug, Janet Tavarez, Marie Torres Perez, Lisa Weissbach-Efrat, and Lily Yip.

The Boggs Center Celebrates the Graduation of the 2018-2019 NJLEND Fellows at the 3rd Annual Maternal and Child Health Leadership Symposium

On May 10th, 2019, The Boggs Center celebrated the graduation of the 2018-2019 NJLEND Fellows at the New Jersey Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NJLEND) program’s 3rd annual Maternal and Child Health Leadership Symposium. Held in New Brunswick at Children’s Specialized Hospital, the event featured a keynote address, Life Course Research and Community Engagement to Improve Autism Outcomes, from Paul T. Shattuck, PhD, Associate Professor at Drexel University’s A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, and was attended by those from the Rutgers community, New Jersey’s Department of Children and Families, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network, and other state and community organizations. During the NJLEND Leadership Projects Poster Session, attendees had the opportunity to learn from each Fellow about the leadership project they conducted over the course of the academic year. Congratulations to the 2018-2019 NJLEND Fellows and Boggs Center Interdisciplinary Trainees: Andrew Billups, BA, Minaly Cabezas, RN, BSN, Nicole D. Hopkins, Grace Ibitamuno, BS, Natalie Karpoza, MD, Genevieve Kumapley, PharmD, Hyein Lee, BA, Jordan Levine, BA, Dillon Reitmeyer, BA, Emma Shaffer, APN, RN-BC, C-PNP, Corey Sherlock, MSN, APN, CPNP-PC/AC, Kirin N. Suri, MD, MPH, Shin Er The, BA, and Samantha Zegarra.

Caroline Coffield, PhD, Receives Affiliate Faculty Appointment with Rutgers School of Social Work

In recognition of her significant contributions, Caroline Coffield, PhD, Director of Pre-service Training at The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and NJLEND Training Director, was appointed as a Faculty Affiliate to the Rutgers School of Social Work. Dr. Coffield has taught a graduate course on Current Issues in Developmental Disabilities through the Rutgers School of Social Work in New Brunswick since 2013. She has also supported the education of Social Work students completing their field placement at The Boggs Center by developing didactic and experiential learning opportunities that advance their knowledge of disability and the service system. As a Faculty Affiliate, Dr. Coffield will collaborate with faculty and staff at the school to prepare future social workers through teaching, research, and coordinated interdisciplinary efforts to ensure their work will be maximally impactful, especially for individuals with disabilities and their families.
## Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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</table>
| Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD | Executive Director  
|                       | Director, NJLEND  
|                       | Professor of Pediatrics  
|                       | Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health                  |
| Colleen McLaughlin, MEd | Associate Director                                                   |
| Nick Nucci, BS         | Assistant Director for Administration                                |
| Colleen McLaughlin, MEd | Associate Director                                                   |
| Nick Nucci, BS         | Assistant Director for Administration                                |

## Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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</table>
| Caroline N. Coffield, PhD | Director of Pre-service Training  
|                         | Training Director, NJLEND  
|                         | Assistant Professor of Pediatrics                                   |
| Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP | Director of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Education  
|                         | NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics  
|                         | Assistant Professor of Pediatrics & Family Medicine and Community Health |
| Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT | Director of Transition, Employment, and Aging & Disability  
|                         | Assistant Professor of Pediatrics                                   |
| Sharon Lohrmann, PhD    | Director, NJ Positive Behavior Support in Schools  
|                         | Assistant Professor of Pediatrics                                   |
| Philip Smith, PhD       | Positive Behavior Support  
|                         | Assistant Professor of Pediatrics                                   |

## Program Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ziba Arjmand, BS</td>
<td>Data &amp; Technology Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robyn Carroll, MSW</td>
<td>Communications Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany L. Chase, MSW, LSW, CESP</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Cheplic, MPH, NADD-DDS</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Custer, PhD</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellyann Dacres, MA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Ellien, MSW</td>
<td>Knowledge Translation &amp; Grant Development Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Jelley, BA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Kimmel, MAT, BCBA, CESP</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenny Lewis, BA</td>
<td>Senior Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Mahovetz</td>
<td>Conference &amp; Management Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott McMahon, MSW</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Mead, MA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Michael, BA, IMH-E</td>
<td>PBSIS Data &amp; Program Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerlee Monaghan, MS</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Paulvin, MS, Prof. Dipl.</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikkilee Pedersen, MA</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Raigoza, MEd</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Rodkey, BS</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Royer, MSW, LSW</td>
<td>NJLEND Program and Data Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Short, BA, CESP</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Steinbruck, MA</td>
<td>Senior Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gizem Tanoğ, PhD</td>
<td>Training &amp; Consultation Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaime Zahid, BA</td>
<td>Community Supports Educator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Project Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melinda Darby</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Dupiche, BA</td>
<td>Assistant to the Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Duverneau, BS</td>
<td>Data and Student Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kellyann Giudice</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annnmarie McVay</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Thomas, MEd</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Tomlin</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annmarie McVay</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Thomas, MEd</td>
<td>Project Support Staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facility & Staff

Affiliated Faculty and Program Associates

Vanessa Bal, PhD, MSc
Karmazin and Lillard Chair in Adult Autism
Associate Professor
Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

Brenda Bickar, CMA
Medical Service Assistant
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Patricia Findley, DrPH, MSW
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Social Work
Associate Professor of Social Work
MSW Director
Rutgers School of Social Work

Jill Harris, PhD
NJLEND Coordinator, Children’s Specialized Hospital (CSH)
Director of Program Development, CSH

Jessica Rispoli Joines, MGC, CGC
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Genetics
Director, Rutgers Genetic Counseling Master’s Program

Emma Kaplan
Parent Coordinator, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities

Amy Kratchman, BA
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Family Senior Research Family Consultant, CHOP

Bob LaRue, PhD, BCBA-D
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Psychology
Clinical Professor
Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Director of Behavioral and Research Services, Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center

Maria Leary, BA
NJLEND Alumni Coordinator

Dolores Matlock, LPN
Primary Care Manager
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Naomi Pickholtz, PhD
Inpatient Psychology Supervisor, Psychology Department
Children’s Specialized Hospital

Sallie Porter, DNP, PhD
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Nursing Associate Professor
Division of Advanced Nursing Practice
Rutgers School of Nursing

Stephanie Pratico, AAS, LEND Fellow
Parent Educator, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities

Nancy Razza, PhD
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Evan Spivack, DDS
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Dentistry
Professor of Pediatric Dentistry
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Director, Special Care Treatment Center

William Waldman, CSWM
NJLEND Leadership Faculty
Professor of Professional Practice Emeritus
Rutgers School of Social Work

Jane Ziegler, DCN, RD, LDN
NJLEND Discipline Coordinator, Nutrition Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences
Rutgers School of Health Professions (SHP)
Program Director, Rutgers SHP Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition Program

For more information about Boggs Center staff or the Consumer Advisory Council, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter

Boggs Center Consumer Advisory Council

The Boggs Center gratefully acknowledges the dedicated service and contributions of its Consumer Advisory Council, which helps to create a vision for the Center’s efforts by providing guidance and identifying the trends and challenges confronting individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and service delivery systems in New Jersey.
Core Functions

The Federal Developmental Disabilities Act, which designates The Boggs Center as New Jersey’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD), mandates that we perform the core functions of:

- Student Training
- Community Training
- Technical Assistance
- Research and Evaluation
- Information Development and Dissemination

The Boggs Center, in planning projects and activities, utilizes these core functions to address our state context and needs.

Student Training

The Boggs Center prepares university students to provide leadership and support individuals with disabilities and their families through participation in the NJ Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities program, Interdisciplinary Traineeships, Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities, coursework, and other learning experiences.

Community Training

The Boggs Center provides continuing education and community training for professionals, people with disabilities, and family members. Through training courses, workshops, and state and national conference presentations, The Boggs Center builds capacity to support people with disabilities in full community life.
Core Functions

Technical Assistance

The Boggs Center assists state and federal agencies, school districts, community providers, and other organizations in improving their services. Technical Assistance is also the way we contribute to the development of public policy and bring people together in partnerships to solve problems.

Research and Evaluation

Research & Evaluation Activities include:

- Research to Develop New Autism Screening Tool
- Research to Explore Experiences of Diverse Families of Children with Autism
- Evaluation

The Boggs Center conducts research to contribute to the evidence base in developmental disabilities and collects and analyzes evaluation data across all training, technical assistance, dissemination, and student activities.

Information Development and Dissemination

The Boggs Center develops publications, including articles, brochures, resource guides, and educational materials, disseminates information through our web site and community events, and responds to requests for information.

Through Publications & The Boggs Center Website

- 81 Publications Disseminated
- 61 New Publications Developed
- 70,175 Website Visits
- 173,936 Pages Viewed
- 38,859 Website Visitors
Selected Presentations


- **Gilbride, M.** (2018, November). “Sometimes We’re Pushing…Sometimes We’re Pulling…Working with State Agencies to Influence Policy and Practice” (Workshop). AUCD Annual Conference, Washington, DC.


- **Gilbride, M.** (2019, May). “A Beginning Conversation on End-on-Life Care and IDD” (Workshop), The Arc of New Jersey 30th Annual Conference on Medical Care for Persons with IDD. Princeton, NJ.

- **Gilbride, M.** (2019, June). “Keeping the Gateway Open to Inclusion for Older Workers” (Workshop). National APSE Conference, St. Louis, MO.


- **Kimmel, R.** (2019, June). “Connecting Data with Best Practice: A Data Analysis Tool Without the Headache” (Workshop). National APSE Conference, St. Louis, MO.


- **Short, J.** (2019, June). “Managers Can be Everywhere at Once: Empowering Your Remote Team to Make the Right Call” (Workshop). National APSE Conference, St. Louis, MO.

- **Spitalnik, D.M.** (2018, November). "Emerging Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: The Challenge of Transitioning Care from Pediatric to Adult Providers" (Presentation). The Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Fifth Evidence-Based Pediatric Update Symposium, New Brunswick, NJ.


Selected Publications


Editorial Positions

Sharon Lohrmann, PhD
Journal of Positive Behavior Support Interventions (Editorial Board Member)
Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities (Editorial Board Member)

Colleen McLaughlin, MEd
Frontline Initiative (Editorial Board Member)

For a complete list of Boggs Center Publications, visit: http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/publications/publications_list.html
Funding Sources Fiscal Year 2019

The Boggs Center has particular expertise in developmental disabilities and a strong network of relationships with other components of the disability community.

The Boggs Center serves federal and state agencies, community provider agencies, school districts, and other entities through core funding, funded projects, and fee-for-service activities, including per diem consultations.

Total $6,852,773

Boggs Center Grants and Contracts Fiscal Year 2019

Federal

US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs/New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education

- Department of Education Memorandum of Understanding

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Core Grant

US Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration

- Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities

- New Jersey Partners in Policymaking
- Building Capacity to Improve Adult Health Care for Patients with I/DD

State

The Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism/Children’s Specialized Hospital

- Development of a New Autism Screening Tool for Traditionally Underserved Families
- New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence

New Jersey Department of Children and Families

- Children’s System of Care Contract/Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care

New Jersey Department of Human Services

- Division of Developmental Disabilities Contract
Person-Centered Approaches and Supports

The Boggs Center provides community training and technical assistance to service providers, state agencies, families, and individuals with disabilities on person-centered approaches and supports. Under contract with New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, The Boggs Center provides training sessions and courses for Direct Support Professionals, supervisors, and others on the development and implementation of person-centered supports. Training for Support Coordinators focuses on the person-centered planning process and connection to supports and services is also provided on a monthly basis. Additional training topics and other presentations focused on system navigation, community inclusion, and other areas related to meeting the needs and preferences of people with disabilities and their families are provided by Boggs Center staff.

Cultural Competence

The Boggs Center initiated the development and continues to provide coordination of the New Jersey Statewide Network on Cultural Competence, which aims “to strengthen culturally competent services in the state of New Jersey for people with diverse needs, and to facilitate access by individuals, families, providers, and professionals to these services.”

Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

The lecture series is a community and continuing education program provided for state agencies, community provider agencies, people with disabilities, and family members to enhance their knowledge and skills in innovative approaches and state-of-the-art practices for people with developmental disabilities. Eight sessions are held per year, attended by over 1,500 people. Nationally known speakers with expertise in their field serve as faculty for the program.

Direct Support Workforce Development

The Boggs Center collaborates with a number of public and private provider agencies and networks on a variety of strategies to strengthen recruitment, retention, and professional development opportunities for direct support professionals. The Boggs Center serves as the statewide College of Direct Support central administrator, coordinates professional development opportunities for direct support professionals, provides technical assistance, and offers training for direct support professionals and frontline supervisors.
Community-Based Instruction

Community-Based Instruction is a critical component of a successful transition from school to adult life for many students with disabilities. With funding from the NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Community Based Instruction (CBI) training and technical assistance efforts assist schools and school districts in providing instruction for students in the community. These efforts include: providing information to schools and districts through workshops, sharing successful efforts currently occurring in New Jersey school districts, and offering direct technical assistance to schools and districts addressing CBI strategies, training needs, and necessary administrative supports. All activities are designed to create person-centered, positive, observable outcomes for students. Project staff also coordinate a statewide community of practice designed to foster a network of educators committed to identifying strategies that positively impact community based instruction and structured learning experiences and enhance post-school outcomes.

Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST)

The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, in partnership with The Boggs Center, conducts training and technical assistance to promote the implementation of person centered approaches in schools and transition. Project staff work in partnership with districts to plan more collaboratively with students and families and design supports for students that are rooted in their individual strengths and visions for the future. The project has a focus on supporting effective transitions from school to adult life through a scaffolded approach to student discovery across grade levels. The Boggs Center offers statewide training in these approaches, as well as more intensive multi-year support in select school districts. There is growing concentration on the infusion of person centered thinking and planning into classroom curricula, IEP meeting facilitation and content, and collaborative planning efforts for out-of-district students.
**Projects**

**Education**

**Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS)**

New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools (NJ PBSIS) is a partnership between the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education and The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and is funded by I.D.E.A Part B funds. The mission of the NJ PBSIS initiative is to build capacity among New Jersey school personnel to implement a multi-tiered system of support for behavior, conduct, and social-emotional wellness that promotes equity for all students. Now in its 17th year, the NJ PBSIS network includes more than 270 schools from across the state. To build capacity, the NJ PBSIS initiative provides comprehensive training and coaching to network schools, hosts an annual Leadership Forum, and maintains www.njpbs.org, a resource rich web site that makes implementation tools, samples, and usable products available to school personnel for application in their setting.

**Health**

**Aging and End of Life Issues for Adults with Developmental Disabilities**

With support from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, (DDD), The Boggs Center provides customized training and technical assistance and presents workshops on coping with grief and loss, successful aging, and end-of-life issues unique to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Agencies, family members, and health care providers benefit from exploring the realities of these topics as they are experienced by individuals aging with disabilities and their care providers. Additionally, consultation services are available to healthcare providers, including hospice and palliative care services, on specific cases and/or policy interpretation and development.

**Employment**

**Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance**

Through the support of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) The Boggs Center provides Supported Employment Training and Technical Assistance activities to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities by developing competence among service providers to assist people with disabilities choose, obtain, and maintain employment. A four-day Employment Specialist Foundations course is offered to employment staff and interested family members and self-advocates on the history, values, and best practices in competitive integrated employment. The team additionally offers a variety of Supplemental courses on high-demand, high intensity tropics around competitive integrated community employment, as well as training for day habilitation staff on designing meaningful-day programs that advance Employment First policies. On-site technical assistance is available in the areas on which the team trains and upon request, and is tailored to agency-specific needs. Coordination of the annual Facing the Future conference on transition and employment, in collaboration with NJ APSE, remains a high priority of the project.

**Primary Health Care Coordination**

In collaboration with the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, The Boggs Center facilitates a medical home for 151 adults with developmental disabilities by supporting care coordination for adults with developmental disabilities at the Family Medicine ambulatory care site in New Brunswick. A resource unit provides care coordination and supports faculty and resident physicians in caring for patients with developmental disabilities.

**Building Capacity to Improve Adult Health Care for Patients with I/DD**

The Boggs Center was awarded funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities to provide medical professionals with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to appropriately care for adult patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Two sets of tiered curricular modules will be developed: one focused on medical care and clinical considerations and the other on managing challenging behaviors and creating sensory-friendly treatment environments.
Projects

Health

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Developmental Screening & Early Identification with Underserved Populations

The Boggs Center’s efforts around improving screening and early identification of autism and other developmental delays for New Jersey’s underserved children include:

Autism Center of Excellence

With funding from the New Jersey Governors Council for the Medical Research and Treatment of Autism, the New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence (NJACE) was established at Rutgers University. The NJACE provides funding so that a faculty member and fellow from the discipline of Genetic Counseling may participate in the NJLEND program at The Boggs Center. The Boggs Center also collaborates in the review of applications and selection of the annual NJACE Faculty Scholarship award winner.

Research to Develop New Autism Screening Tool

In collaboration with Children’s Specialized Hospital, The Boggs Center has received funding through the NJ Governor’s Council for the Medical Research and Treatment of Autism to develop and test a new screening tool for autism among a diverse and underserved population. This multi-year research project focuses on the development and validation of an autism screening tool comprised primarily of pictures depicting expected developmental milestones or concerning behaviors. The screening tool is designed to be easily understood by parents from diverse cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds.

Research to Explore Experiences of Diverse Families of Children with Autism: The Experience of Latino Families

The Boggs Center has been awarded funding by The Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism for research that explores the experiences of Latino families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This qualitative research study focuses on understanding the impact of diagnosis on the family and pathways from diagnosis to linkage with services and interventions. The study builds on the Center’s ongoing work, in collaboration with Children’s Specialized Hospital, to develop and test a new screening tool for autism among children from diverse backgrounds.

To learn more about Boggs Center projects, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/projects
**Student Programs**

In Fiscal Year 2019, 196 students from 9 disciplines participated in The Boggs Center's Interdisciplinary Training programs. Twenty-four students dedicated a minimum of 40 hours to training, including three developmental behavioral pediatrics fellows; nine medical students; four doctoral-level psychology students; two doctoral-level nutrition students; one doctoral-level pharmacy student; one doctoral-level nursing student; three family fellows; one masters-level nursing student; one masters-level social work student; one undergraduate psychology student; one undergraduate biological sciences student; and one undergraduate exercise science student. Six social work and 162 medical students participated in courses offered through The Boggs Center's student training program.

**New Jersey Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NJLEND) Program**

NJLEND is The Boggs Center's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program, and is part of a national network of LEND programs. NJLEND prepares graduate-level health and allied health fellows to provide high-quality, interdisciplinary, family-centered, culturally competent care addressing the complex needs of children with autism, related disabilities and other maternal and child health populations. All NJLEND fellows are paired with a Faculty Mentor from their discipline who works with them to integrate NJLEND requirements with the requirements of the student's academic program, as well as to guide and reflect on their individual leadership development throughout the 9-month LEND year. Each NJLEND fellow is also mentored by a family living with autism or other early onset disabilities. On May 10, 2019, the third cohort of fellows graduated from the NJLEND program after completing 300 hours of learning through weekly didactic seminars, experiential learning opportunities, and clinical training.

**Medical Student Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities**

All medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School participate in NJLEND through the Seminar on Family Centered Care and Developmental Disabilities, a required component of the third year Pediatrics clerkship. The Boggs Center conducts the seminar 8 times each year in collaboration with the Department of Pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. A key component of the seminar is a visit to the home of a family with a child with a developmental disability. This visit raises the students’ awareness of and sensitivity to the strengths and needs of families of children with disabilities.

**Other Learning Experiences for Future Health Professionals**

The Boggs Center continues to collaborate with the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health to provide educational experiences involving individuals with developmental disabilities to medical students, residents, and fellows. The Boggs Center supports students through the Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program, advises student projects in the Distinction in Service to the Community (DISC) diploma enhancement program, and works to ensure that disability content and practical experience is infused in the first through third years of the required Patient-Centered Medicine course. Additionally, the Center advises medical students fulfilling their independent project requirement and coordinates the Healthcare for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities elective experience for 3rd and 4th year medical students.

**NJLEND Continuing Education for Practicing Maternal and Child Health Professionals**

NJLEND provides continuing education opportunities for practicing maternal and child health professionals. These include: applicable sessions of the Center’s Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series; NJLEND didactic sessions open to families, practicing professionals, and state Title V staff; public lectures; and the annual NJLEND Maternal and Child Health Leadership Symposium and Graduation.
Student Programs

Interdisciplinary Traineeship

The Interdisciplinary Traineeship program at The Boggs Center provides a select group of undergraduate and graduate students with individualized learning opportunities, preparing a cadre of future professionals for leadership in the field of developmental disabilities. All interdisciplinary trainees are paired with a mentor from The Boggs Center and complete an independent project related to an area of interest for the student.

Rutgers School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education – Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities

The Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities is co-sponsored by the Rutgers University School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education and The Boggs Center. The 12-workshop certificate is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of professionals working with people with disabilities and their families in a variety of settings. Workshops include: Introduction to Developmental Disabilities; Starting Out: From Diagnosis Through Early Childhood; Supporting Youth with Disabilities in the Transition to Adult Life; Community Services and Supports: Evolving Approaches; Growing Old Together: Aging and Family Caregiving; Disability Policy Issues; Legal and Ethical Issues; Multicultural Perspectives in Developmental Disabilities; Supporting Families Through Change; and topical electives. The Boggs Center chairs the Certificate Program Advisory Council and provides faculty for the workshops.

Rutgers School of Social Work – Current Issues in Developmental Disabilities Course

During Fiscal Year 2019, Boggs Center faculty taught a graduate social work course in developmental disabilities, Current Issues in Developmental Disabilities. This course introduced masters-level students to important considerations in accommodating the needs of people with disabilities and their families across the lifespan and in education, health, and other community-based settings.

To learn more about Boggs Center student programs, visit: rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/student/overview.html
The Boggs Center actively influences public policy at the national and state levels through participation on boards and committees. Boggs Center faculty and staff share information on best practices and work collaboratively with the larger community to build capacity and create systems change.

**National Appointments and Committees**

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Health and Wellness Action Group (Co-Chair); Direct Support Workforce Division
- Association for Positive Behavior Support: PBIS Leaders Network Policy Workgroup (Chair); PBIS Leaders Network
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities: (Past President); Community Education and Dissemination Council; Autism Special Interest Group (Steering Committee), Data Coordinators; Public Policy Committee; Training Directors Council
- College of Direct Support National Advisory Board
- NADD: Direct Support Professional Certification Subcommittee (Chair); Direct Support Professional Curriculum Development Committee (Chair); US Health Policy Committee (Chair)
- National APSE – The Association of People Supporting Employment First (Board of Directors): Executive Committee (Vice President); Board Development Committee (Chair); Foundation (Board of Directors); Conference Planning Committee; Policy Committee; Regional Leadership Committee
- Northeast PBIS Network Advisory Committee

**New Jersey Appointments and Committees**

- Arc of NJ: Mainstreaming Medical Care Advisory Committee
- Atlantic Health/Overlook Medical Center: Bioethics Committee; Policy Subcommittee
- Bergen County Community College: Turning Point Program Advisory Committee
- Children’s Specialized Hospital: Scientific Advisory Committee
- Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network on Employment (Member)
- Disability Rights New Jersey: Protection and Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities Advisory
- Family Resource Network: Get FIT Statewide Coalition
- Middlesex County Council for Children’s Services: Prevention Committee (Standing Committee Member)
- NJ Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ APSE Board of Directors (President): Executive Committee (President); Conference Committee (Co-Chair); Annual Awards Committee (Chair); Membership and Outreach Committee (Co-Chair); Government Relations Committee
- NJ Autism Center of Excellence: Community Advisory Committee
- NJ Commission on National and Community Service (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- NJ Council for Young Children: Infant and Child Health Subcommittee
- NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (Gubernatorial Appointment): Public Policy Committee
- NJ Department of Children and Families, Children’s System of Care/New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services: Autism Stakeholder Executive Planning Workgroup
- NJ Department of Children and Families: New Jersey Children’s System of Care Stakeholder Planning
- NJ Department of Education: New Jersey Tiered System of Support Development Committee; Social Emotional Learning Development Committee
- NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Education: State Performance Plan Stakeholder Group
- NJ Department of Health: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Advisory Group
- NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities: Charting the LifeCourse Framework Stakeholder Group
- NJ Department of Human Services: Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Steering Committee
- NJ State Rehabilitation Council (Gubernatorial Appointment); Transition Subcommittee
- NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competence
- Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences: Bridging the Gap Advisory Committee
- Rutgers Center for Health Policy: External Advisory Committee
- Rutgers Division of Continuing Studies: Continuing Education Coordinating Council
- Rutgers Robert Wood Medical School: Department of Pediatrics, Division Directors; Distinction in Service to the Community Advisory Committee
- Rutgers School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education: Certificate Program in Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (Chair)
- SPAN: NJ Integrated Systems Community Care Consortium; Medical Home Workgroup
- State of NJ: Independent Developmental Disability Fee-For-Service Transition Oversight Board (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- Transition Coordinators Network of South Jersey
Mission

The Boggs Center, as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, values uniqueness and individuality and promotes the self-determination and full participation of people with disabilities and their families in all aspects of community life.

As a catalyst and resource, The Boggs Center, through partnerships and collaborations, builds capacity in organizations, systems, and communities in a culturally competent manner. The Boggs Center prepares students through interdisciplinary programs, provides community training and technical assistance, conducts research, and disseminates information and educational materials.

Upon request, this material will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities. This report is funded by grant #90DDUC0036-01-00 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

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