

# Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series



**SPRING 2022 WEBINARS**



**Friday, April 1, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and Person-Centered Practice**



### ***Regina Rodriguez Sisneros***

Director of Equity Initiatives & Systems Innovations  
The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), Alexandria, VA

**Friday, April 8, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## **Supported Decision Making**



### ***Michael J. Kendrick, PhD***

Director, Supported Decision Making  
Center for Public Representation, Northampton, MA

**Friday, April 22, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## **Neurodiversity, Self-Advocacy, and Self-Determination**



### ***Julia Bascom***

Executive Director  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Washington, DC



**Friday, May 13, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## **Acknowledging and Fostering the Critical Role of Support Coordinators**



### ***Jennifer Turner, LCSW***

Senior Research Associate/Assistant Director  
UMKC, Institute for Human Development/Life Course Nexus Training and TA Center, Kansas City, MO

Friday, April 1, 2022 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Webinar

## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and Person-Centered Practice

The population of those who experience developmental disabilities is diverse. Cultural and racial identities shape views and expectations of service systems, impacting which supports, if any, people with disabilities and their families choose and use. This presentation will center on the importance of understanding a person's racial and cultural identities for providing person-centered supports with cultural competence and humility. Key concepts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion will be explored and personal narratives of people with disabilities will be shared to demonstrate the alignment of cultural competence and person-centered planning and practice.

### **Regina Rodriguez Sisneros**

Director of Equity Initiatives & Systems Innovations

The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), Alexandria, VA



**Regina Rodriguez Sisneros** is the Director of Equity Initiatives and System Innovations for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. She works to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within the association and supports members in similar efforts, including cultural and linguistic competence. Regina spent 14 years with the Colorado Department of Human Services as the Contract Manager and Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Manager for MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network. She is a graduate of Georgetown University's Leadership Institute for Cultural Diversity & Cultural and Linguistic Competence. Her undergraduate work is from University of Colorado with a focus in Ethnic Studies. Regina is also an alum of the Colorado JFK LEND Program and is their 2021 Emerging Leader for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). Her experience related to disability started personally because of individuals with disabilities within her family, and her professional experience began in 2008 when she became a Certified Brain Injury Specialist.

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## Supported Decision Making

Supported decision making is gaining momentum as a means to support people with disabilities through making life choices while promoting independence, dignity, and freedom. The practice of supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship will be introduced through this presentation. It will also describe the importance of approaches embedded in supported decision making, why they are important, and the benefits they can have for the persons being supported. Resources to learn more about supported decision making and tools to support implementation will be shared.

### **Michael J. Kendrick, PhD**

Director, Supported Decision Making

Center for Public Representation, Northampton, MA



**Michael J. Kendrick, PhD** is Director of Supported Decision Making at the Center for Public Representation and an independent international consultant in human services as it relates to aging, disability and mental health. He has had ongoing involvements in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland, the UK, and other countries. His interests, involvements, and writings have included leadership, service quality, the creation of safeguards for vulnerable persons, intentional personal networks, social integration, change, innovation, values, advocacy, the role of individual persons and small groups in creating advances, evaluation, alternatives to bureaucracy, supported decision making, personalized approaches to supporting people with complex needs, and reform in the human service field amongst others. He has independently evaluated many hundreds of programs, agencies, and systems over the past four decades and spoken to tens of thousands of people.

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## Neurodiversity, Self-Advocacy, and Self-Determination

Disability is a natural part of the human experience, and people with disabilities have the right to be in charge of their lives, supports, and futures. Understanding autism and other developmental disabilities as neurodiversity contributes to building a world that is accessible, inclusive, and fair for everyone. This presentation will explore neurodiversity, self-advocacy, and self-determination and describe how they can shape a culture of inclusion and respect for all. The role of effective advocacy, supports, and policy in creating a more equitable future will also be presented.



### **Julia Bascom**

Executive Director

Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Washington, DC



**Julia Bascom** serves as Executive Director at the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. Previously, she did state-level work in her home state of New Hampshire, where she served on the DD council and co- led an inter-agency team to revitalize self-advocacy within the state. Julia edited *Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking*, an anthology of writings by autistic people, and currently serves on the advisory board of Felicity House, Anthem's National Advisory Board, and the boards of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, the Institute for Exceptional Care, and Allies For Independence.

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## Acknowledging and Fostering the Critical Role of Support Coordinators

Support Coordinators serve a critical role in the lives of people with disabilities and their families, as well as in formal service systems. Their varied and multi-faceted role requires core knowledge and skills to ensure consistent, high quality, person-centered supports. Despite the need for highly competent professionals, support coordination is one of the few positions without a standardized set of core competencies. This presentation will highlight both national and state specific efforts to develop, adopt, and implement core competencies, including the common elements between the various examples, and how these elements can be customized to fit the context of support coordination in New Jersey.

### **Jennifer Turner, LCSW**

Senior Research Associate/Assistant Director

UMKC, Institute for Human Development/Life Course Nexus Training and TA Center, Kansas City, MO



**Jennifer "Jenny" Turner** is a Senior Research Associate at the UMKC-Institute for Human Development. She specializes in organizational and systems change, supporting and training professionals, and is the co-director for the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families. As the Assistant Director of the LifeCourse Nexus team, Jenny leads the development and dissemination of promising practices to enhance person-and-family centered policies and practices within state agencies and provider organizations. Previously the Regional Director for a large provider of state funded services, Jenny was responsible for the development and implementation of an organizational plan to become compliant with the Home and Community Based Settings rule. She also served on state wide work groups for implementation of the Home and Community Based Settings rule throughout the state of Missouri, the development of the Missouri Support Coordinator Core Competencies and related tools, and the revision of directives, guidelines, and service definitions. Her passion for the development and implementation of best practice that will drive systems change and impact families originates in growing up as a sibling of a sister with a developmental disability.

# Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series

## SPRING 2022 WEBINARS

The Boggs Center's Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series is a community and continuing education program provided for professionals, policymakers, individuals 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. Nationally known speakers with expertise in their field serve as faculty for the program. Eight sessions of the Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series are held each year, four in the Fall, and four in the Spring.

Funding for the Series is provided by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Human Services, State of New Jersey (Contract #04ME22C) and the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services (Grant # 90DDUC0036).

## REGISTRATION

**The Spring 2022 Developmental Disabilities Lecture Series will be held on the Zoom Webinar platform.**

**To access the webinars, you must register in advance on The Boggs Center Online Registration System at: <https://boggscenterregistration.rwjms.rutgers.edu/index.php/event/lecture>**

The webinars are free of charge. Space is limited for each of the sessions. Open to people who live or work in New Jersey.

For additional information about DDLS Webinars, including system requirements, please view [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Mahovetz at [deborah.mahovetz@rutgers.edu](mailto:deborah.mahovetz@rutgers.edu) or 732-235-9543

## CONTINUING EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE

As part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, The Boggs Center offers this program for social work continuing education credit per NJAC 13:44G6.4.c(5). The Boggs Center is a registered NJ Department of Education Professional Development Provider. The Spring 2022 sessions have been submitted to the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) for continuing education program approval.

Each session is eligible for 2 hours of continuing education recognition. **To demonstrate completion and receive a Certificate, you must be logged into the webinar from start to finish and complete a survey at the webinar's completion.** Certificates of Attendance will be emailed to all participants who meet these eligibility requirements the week following the event.