



Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Program Overview of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Systems of Care 2020-2021

Course Description

Course Director: Jenean Castillo, PhD

Course Description

The WIHD LEND Training Program consists of three courses: Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and their Systems of Care; Seminar in Evidence-based Methods, and Interdisciplinary Leadership in Action. The Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Systems of Care course (NDSC) provides a population-based perspective and epidemiology of childhood disabilities and examines key issues in assessment and treatment of children with or at risk for neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. It also examines the broad context of health care systems and service delivery for children with disabilities from birth through young adulthood with a strong emphasis on family centered practice and family partnership. In addition a module on policy and advocacy provides an understanding of the history of the disability rights movement, landmark federal and state legislation, and court decisions as well as strategies for community advocacy. This two semester course is taught in nine modules: 1) Early Intervention, 2) Autism Spectrum Disorders, 3) Inclusive Education, 4) Genetics and Genomics, 5) Family Partnerships, 6) Policy and Advocacy, 7) Vulnerable Populations, 8) Coordinated Care and 9) Transition.

Course Goals

The learning activities of this course assist trainees to develop a higher level of competency in these MCH Leadership Competency areas: 1) Knowledge Base/Context; 3) Ethics; 5) Communication; 8) Family-Professional Partnerships, 11) Working with Communities & Systems; 12) Policy

Course Objectives

Learning Objectives for this course are found in individual module descriptions.

Course sessions

Early Intervention (EI); Module Coordinator: J. Castillo, PhD

- Early Intervention 1: Low Birth Weight
- Early Intervention 2: Systems of Care and Intervention Settings

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD); Module Coordinator: P. Towle, PhD

- Autism Spectrum Disorder 1: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, and Etiology
- Autism Spectrum Disorder 2: Treatment Options
- Autism Spectrum Disorders 3: Guest Speaker

Special Education; Module Coordinator: J. Lequia

- Overview of Special Education
- Social Skills Intervention
- Essential Elements of Inclusive Education

Genetics and Genomics; Module Coordinator: J. Villiers, MS, CGC

- Genetics 1: The Vast World of Genetics



- Genetics 2: Finding Red Flags in the Family History
- Genetics 3: Genetic Testing and the Impact of a Diagnosis
- Genetics 4: Social and Ethical Issues in Genetics and Genetic Testing

Family Partnerships (FP); Module Coordinator: K. Millman MS Ed

- Introduction to the Family Partnerships and Transition Modules
- Family-Centered/Family-Directed Practices and Family-Professional Collaboration
- Impact of Policy on Family Support and Family Quality of Life (Combined FP and P & A Session)
- Family Quality of Life and Advocacy Presentations
- Part 1) Family-Focused Disability Organization Interviews: Lessons Learned Part 2) Focus on Siblings of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- Family Mentorship Experience Share-back

Policy and Advocacy (PA); Module Coordinator: N. Brickel, MS

- Overview of Disability Policy
- Impact of Community Advocacy on Policy
- Community Advocacy Leader Interviews Share-back
- LEND Trainee Report-back from AUCD meeting
- Research to Policy & Practice: Focus on Collaboration (NYS)
- Disability Issues and Policy: Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

Vulnerable Populations (VP); Module Coordinator: D. Weisberg, CSW

- The Developmental Risks Resulting from Exposure to Abuse and Neglect
- Child Abuse/Child Welfare: A Public Health Perspective;
- Child Abuse and Neglect: A Multidisciplinary Model for Assessment
- Systems of Care Approaches in Child Welfare

Coordinated Care (CC); Module Coordinator: J. Castillo, PhD

- Life Course Theory and Social Determinants of Health: Life Course Game
- Introduction to Disabilities
- Overview and Evaluation of Children with Motor Impairments
- Identification, Evaluation and Habilitation of Pediatric Hearing Loss
- Bilingualism
- Challenging Behaviors
- Behavioral Health Integration for the IDD/MH Population
- Special Interest Topic on Obesity (title TBD)
- Special Interest Topic on OT/AT (title TBD)

Transition (TM); Module Coordinator: K. Millman MS Ed and Barbara Levitz, MS Ed

- Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy
- Person-Centered Planning for Transition from School to Post-Secondary Education, Integrated Employment and Community Living
- Health Transition and the Medical Home
- Aging and Disability



Course Assignments and point values:

1. Attend in-class sessions (5 points)
2. Participation and Completion of pre-assignments for each session (10 points)
3. Family Focused Disability Organization Interview (15 points)
4. Family Mentorship Experience (20 points)
5. Mid-year Reflective Writing Exercise (15 points)
6. End of Year Reflective Writing Exercise (20 points)
7. Community Advocacy Leadership Interview (15 points)