

DANCING WITH THE SPIRITS

**KEEP CALM
WE ARE
STARTING SOON**

Initiatives by UCEDD's to Address Spiritual Supports (and Lessons Learned)

A webinar series hosted by the Collaborative on Faith and Disability (www.faithanddisability.org)



**Collaborative on
Faith & Disabilities**

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SPIRITS**

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VISION AND MISSION

People with disabilities and their families will have compelling opportunities and supports to develop and express their spirituality, engage in congregational life, and share their gifts and talents in ways that are personally valued and that strengthen communities.

Our mission is to support people with disabilities, their families, and those who support them by providing national and international leadership in the areas of research, education, service, and dissemination related to disability, religion, and inclusive supports.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



A FEW IMPORTANT NOTES

- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted soon on the Collaborative on Faith and Disability website (www.faithanddisability.org).
- All slides, mentioned resources, and several helpful links will also be posted along with the webinar recording.
- Questions can be submitted in the chat box for discussion after the presentations.
- We will read posted questions to the presenters during the Q&A. All phone lines are silenced.
- Our time is brief and so shall the presenters be as well.
- Information about upcoming webinars and the Collaborative on Faith and Disability will be shared at the end of the webinar.

Dancing with the Spirits

UCEDDs have four primary tasks:

- ❖ Training
- ❖ Technical Assistance
- ❖ Research
- ❖ Dissemination

Most funding sources are public.

Spirituality and Spiritual Supports	Two "Worlds" without a Common Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not mandated. • Little funding available for projects • A lot of research on spirituality in other areas of health and mental health, but very little in disability, especially intellectual and developmental disability. • Probably more people with interest in the area than are known, e.g., "Do people feel free to state it?" • Lack of training on inclusion of spiritual preferences and supports in evaluation and planning processes. • Uncertainty about where it might fit in mission and objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious/spiritual supports don't operate with same kinds of systems, language, or processes. • They see a very confusing world of labels, acronyms, and confusing services (and how to access them) • UCEDDs can see a very confusing world of diverse faith traditions, understandings of spirituality,

Areas of Direct Correlation	Nevertheless, more UCEDDs have persisted. Learning how to dance with the "spirits"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual and community supports, i.e., natural supports • Self-determination and choice • Cultural competence • Partnerships in advocacy • Training of community leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCEDDs working in the area have formed the Collaborative on Faith and Disability. • Today, reflections and stories from three UCEDDs who have worked to integrate spiritual supports in a variety of ways. • Oregon, Minnesota, and Georgia





Our Approach

- How does improving spiritual supports fit within a university based, federally funded program
- Participatory Action Research (PAR): Building capacity for person centered, community based supports across our core functions
- Developing partnerships and finding collaborators with similar interests and concern



Signature Projects

- **Community Engagement Grants** that include a spiritual supports emphasis
- **Beyond the Ramp: treat me as a member, not a mission!** a conference to both learn from our community and provide education to people who are interested in promoting inclusion in faith communities and spiritual practices



Community Engagement Grants

- Activating the community to do what it knows it needs to increase inclusion
- offering \$1000 to seed a faith based project that promote inclusion
- Having our advisory board review applications and make funding decision
- Being open to a broad definition of faith and spirituality



Conference: Beyond the Ramp

- Transition panel discussion
- Training for clergy and faith community leaders
- Increasing awareness from a big picture perspective with keynote, Bill Gaventa
- Increased collaboration with community partners
- Learned about other areas where supports would be helpful

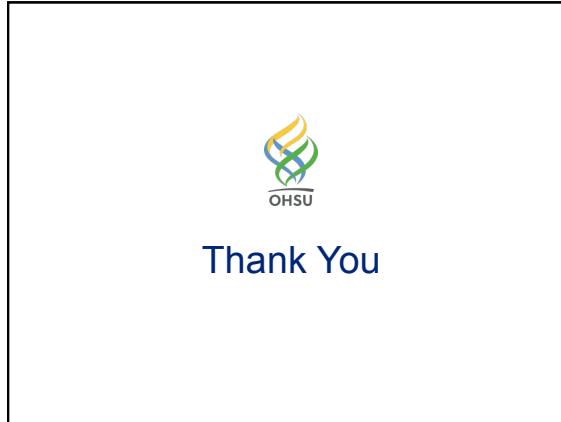


Next Steps

- How do we measure progress?
- Continue with established programs
- Expanding partnership and being responsive to community needs
- Current 5 year plan: expand into continuing education and research
 - Community Externship: Clergy, Chaplain or Lay Leader
 - Research: Survey to understand gaps in support



Thank You





Institute on Community Integration: focus and purpose

You may have heard of:



Putting Faith to Work

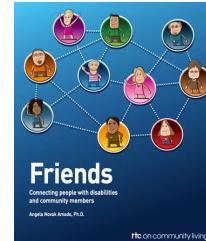


Project Goals

- Goal 1:** Recruit faith communities, implement community-specific assessment, and plan for assisting members with disabilities.
- Goal 2:** Equip and coach faith communities to support individuals with physical disabilities to secure and/or maintain employment.
- Goal 3:** Identify, develop, and deploy resources for faith communities.
- Goal 4:** Evaluate project impact and report.

<https://rtc.umn.edu/PuttingFaithToWork/>

Friends and social inclusion projects



Free resource available: www rtc umn edu friends

Evaluation project: Befrienders and Accessible Congregations Campaign

IMPACT OF TWO NATIONAL
CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMS
ON THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF
INDIVIDUALS WITH
INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Shannen Hutchison

Community Members' Perspectives on Inclusion: Membership of Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Community Organizations

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Available:
<https://ici.umn.edu/index.php?products/view/469>

Luther Seminary



ADDM and MN-ADDM Network

ADDM
Minnesota Autism Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network

1 IN 68

https://ici.umn.edu/products/docs/somali_minneapolis_autism_report.pdf

Connections to faith communities: Better accomplish project goals

- Build trust
- Get ahead of a culturally sensitive message
- Do community-engaged health education
- Engage community leaders in our advisory board, inviting guest speakers
- Contribute to ASD awareness video
- Advise: don't assume everybody understands disability in the same way

2017 Measles Outbreak: Community engagement efforts

- Culturally specific collaborative response strategies:
 - State
 - Community
 - University of Minnesota
 - Media
 - Clinics
 - County
 - Faith leaders

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Inclusive Spiritual Supports at Center for Leadership in Disability-Rationale

- Began in 2011
- Recognition that religious experience plays significant role in resilience and coping individuals and families impacted by disability in the South
- Staff passion /experience for supporting individuals/families navigating congregational contexts
- Commitment to pre-service leadership training that prepares trainees to integrate understanding of disability culture into life and work



Being The Beloved Community: Welcoming Children with Disabilities in our Congregations
May 2016
Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA



Inclusion of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Leadership
November 28, 2017
L'Arche USA





Resetting the Table: Including People with Disabilities in Congregational Leadership- Online Lifelong Learning Course
February- March 2018
Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA



Being the Beloved Community: Welcoming Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Congregational Life
Spring 2019
Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA

Other Examples

- Tennessee, the Kennedy Center, hosting this webinar and the Collaborative website. Variety of research and training activities
- Arkansas-working with congregations around training in autism
- Colorado-LEND Program, respite care in faith communities, training

Inherent Capacity of UCEDDs to Address Spirituality

- Serve as a port of entry into world(s) of disability for clergy and congregations seeking help
- Sanctuary: Safe and neutral territory where diversity of faith communities can come together
- Inclusion in training activities, dissemination
- “Asker” on behalf of individuals and families

Potential Benefits	Training: Potential Partners and Allies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing number of faith based supports for individuals and families. Do you know where they are? Do they know you? • Potential allies in advocacy, community education, and service development • Networks for dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seminaries in your state. Have you talked to them? Many trying to figure out ways to include disability in curriculum. Also have more students with disabilities. (www.ats.edu) • Clinical Pastoral Education programs. (www.acpe.edu) Many in hospitals and medical centers or in major cities. They are training students who will meet people with disabilities and families in hospitals and in their future congregations. Offer didactic resources. Invite to UCEDD training activities.

<h2 style="color: #336699;">Q&A WITH THE SPEAKERS</h2> <hr/> <p>Please post your questions in the chat box</p>	<h2 style="color: #336699;">UPCOMING WEBINARS</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates for 2018, January – May. Third Wednesdays. • January 17: February is Jewish Disabilities Month: Much more than in name only. <p>More info will be posted at: www.faithanddisability.org</p>
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