## Brandeis

THE HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT Lurie Institute for Disability Policy

## 2020 Lurie Institute for Disability Policy ANNUAL REPORT

## WHO WE ARE



The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management leads research that helps shape policies, programs, and practices that improve the lives of people with disabilities across the lifespan.

The Lurie Institute was created by a generous gift from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation in 2007. Over the past fourteen years, we have conducted cross-disciplinary research on real-life topics affecting people with disabilities, including health and healthcare, parenting, home- and community-based services, and more.

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share this report highlighting the 2020 achievements of the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy.



The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy has

always been committed to supporting the rights, well-being, and integration of people with disabilities. In a year like no other, we continued our mission of ensuring equity and inclusion for people with disabilities through our research, community engagement, and training projects. The events of 2020-the COVID-19 pandemic, George Floyd's death and the subsequent groundswell of support for Black Lives Matter, the thirtieth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act-have reminded us of public policy's tangible effects. Our values must be put into practice, not relegated to theory: we intend our research to be used to inform policies that acknowledge the rights, dignity, and autonomy of people with disabilities, especially those who must also contend with racism, misogyny, and other forms of discrimination.

For instance, we worked with the Ford Foundation and the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy to publish "Civic Engagement and People with Disabilities: A Way Forward through Cross-Movement Building," a report that highlights the difficulties people with disabilities encounter when trying to make change in their communities and ways that organizations can help address those roadblocks.

Although the pandemic prevented us from holding events in person, we continued to bring our research into the community with webinars and online forums through the Community Living Policy Center and National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities.

I invite you to enjoy this annual report. If you have questions, comments, or feedback, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

#### Monika Mitra

Nancy Lurie Marks Associate Professor of Disability Policy Director, The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy

## FACULTY & STAFF

MONIKA MITRA Director

**AMY ABUSHANAB** Assistant Director

**ILHOM AKOBIRSHOEV** Research Scientist

> JOE CALDWELL Senior Scientist

**FINN GARDINER** Communications Specialist

MIRIAM HEYMAN Senior Research Associate

> SANDY HO Research Associate

**H. STEPHEN KAYE** Visiting Research Scientist

> **FRANK LI** Research Associate

Eun HA NAMKUNG Senior Research Associate

> **ARI NE'EMAN** Visiting Scholar

**WENDY PEVERILL-CONTI** Senior Department Coordinator

> **LAUREN SMITH** Research Associate

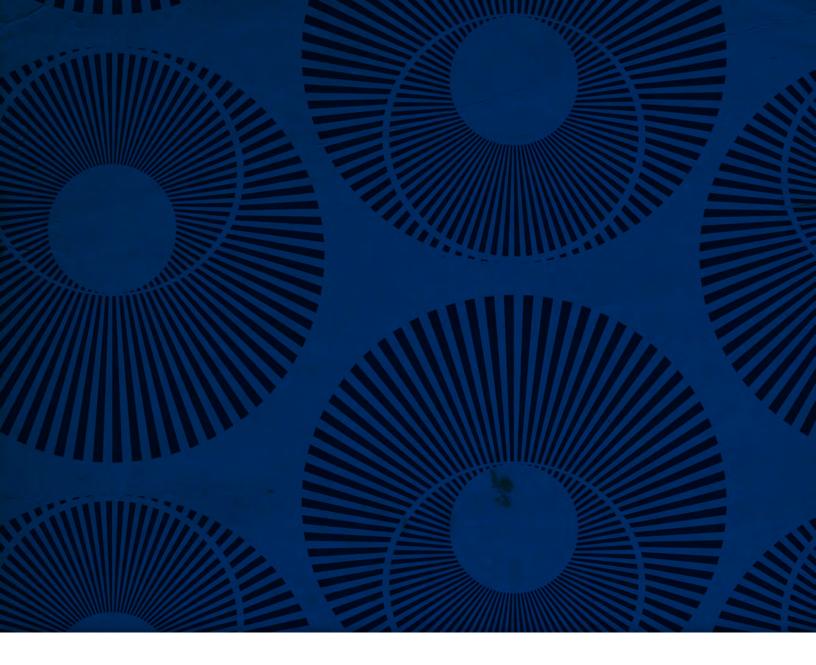
**ROBYN POWELL** Research Associate

**SERAH NTHENGE** Postdoctoral Fellow

**ANNE VALENTINE** Research Associate

MARJI ERICKSON WARFIELD Senior Scientist and Lecturer

> HUSSAINI ZANDAM Postdoctoral Fellow



# RESEARCH

# **2020 RESEARCH**

"For a kid who grew up around the time of the landmark passage of the ADA, I'm drawn to Lurie's research work because stories and perspectives on disability are being told through research in ways that resonate with the disability community."

-Sandy Ho, South Street Seminar

The Lurie Institute conducts wide-ranging research on topics affecting people with disabilities, their families, and their supporters, including health and healthcare, parenthood, civic engagement, opioid use, education, employment, and community living. Moreover, the Lurie Institute is home to two research centers, the National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities and the Community Living Policy Center.

The Lurie Institute manages more than \$2.7 million from federal, local, and philanthropic grants to support our work.

In 2020, Dr. Monika Mitra, the director of the Lurie Institute, was named co–editor in chief of the *Disability and Health Journal*. By leading the *Disability and Health Journal*, Dr. Mitra highlights significant findings in the field, features community-

### NEWLY AWARDED RESEARCH PROJECTS



Piloting Data-Collection Strategies to Measure LTSS Needs and Service Use among Adults under Age 65 with Disabilities **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR** Dr. Joe Caldwell **FUNDER** Long-Term Quality Alliance



Birth, Parenthood, and Health Behaviors of Fathers with Disabilities **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR** Dr. Monika Mitra **FUNDER** HRSA



Service Provision to Parents with Disabilities in the Child-Welfare System

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR** Dr. Miriam Heyman **FUNDER** Brandeis University Office of the Provost



Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training Program on the Health and Functioning of People with Disabilities (Postdoctoral Fellowship)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR** Dr. Monika Mitra **FUNDER** National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research



Impact of COVID-19 on Medicaid Beneficiaries Receiving Home- and Community-Based Services

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR** Dr. Joe Caldwell **FUNDER** The Commonwealth Fund based and partnered research, and promotes junior investigators' research.

### NEWLY AWARDED RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2020

In 2020, Lurie Institute researchers received five new grants to explore new areas of disability research, including the effects on Medicaid recipients receiving home- and community-based services, data-collection strategies to understand how adults under sixty-five use long-term services and supports, and the experiences of fathers with disabilities.

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In May 2020, the Lurie Institute and the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy released "Civic Engagement and People with Disabilities: A Way Forward through Cross-Movement Building," written by Sandy Ho and Monika Mitra of the Lurie Institute and Susan Eaton of the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy.

### *"The visibility of openly disabled politicians has been powerful for me."*

-Sandy Ho, "Disability Rights Are Civil Rights"

Funded by the Ford Foundation, this qualitative study surveyed people with disabilities across the United States about their efforts to make changes in their communities—and the systemic roadblocks they encountered. Although people with disabilities from a variety of backgrounds can be disengaged from civic participation, this disengagement is especially common among people who experience multiple forms of discrimination, such as racism, misogyny, and classism. Philanthropic foundations can use the information in "Civic Engagement and People with Disabilities" to support civic-engagement organizations in creating accessible spaces for people with disabilities to organize across movements and influence public policy.

Following the release of the report, the Lurie Institute and the Center for American Progress cohosted "Disability Rights Are Civil Rights," a panel discussion featuring Rebecca Cokley, thendirector of the Disability Justice Initiative of the Center for American Progress, Claribel Vidal of the Ford Foundation, and Sandy Ho of the Lurie Institute. In this webinar, the panelists highlighted ways that philanthropic foundations, advocacy groups, and individual activists can make civic engagement more accessible for people with disabilities of all racial, gender, cultural, class, and religious backgrounds.

### "Philanthropic organizations need to integrate disability. People need to continue the learning and bridging that happen through relationships."

-Claribel Vidal, "Disability Rights Are Civil Rights"

For instance, philanthropic organizations, community organizers, and activists must acknowledge the role of racism in dividing the disability-rights movement. Philanthropic organizations can also build relationships with disability-rights groups to support them in their advocacy.

### **FACTS & FIGURES**

Children of color with disabilities are less likely to have highquality healthcare than white children with disabilities or nondisabled children of color—the effects of racism and ableism combined are greater than each would be alone.

These disparities persist even in states and metropolitan areas with the best healthcare systems in the country.



City, state, and federal public-health and social-service programs should place a priority on creating programs that address these disparities.

Akobirshoev, I., Mitra. M., Li, S.F., Dembo, R., Dooley, D., Mehta, A., & Batra, N. (2020). The compounding effect of race/ethnicity and disability status on children's health and health care by geography in the United States. Medical Care.

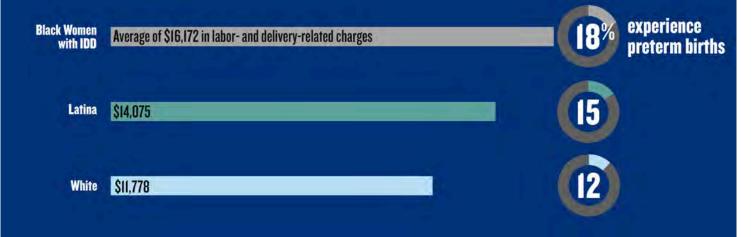


Pregnant women who are deafor hard of hearing are at heightened risk of chronic conditions, pregnancy complications, and adverse birth outcomes.

Mitra, M., McKee, M.M., Akobirshoev, I., Valentine, A., Ritter, G., Zhang, J., McKee K., & Iezzoni, L.I. (2020). Pregnancy, birth, and infant outcomes among women who are deaf or hard of hearing. American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

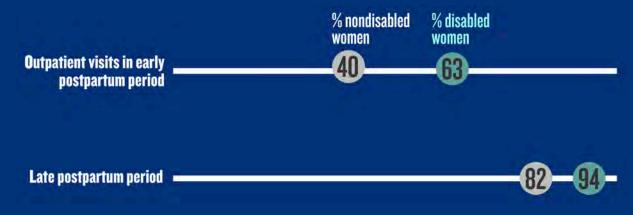
### **FACTS & FIGURES**

Labor and delivery charges were higher for Black and Latina mothers than white mothers with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who were also at higher risk for birth complications than white mothers with IDD, including preterm births.



Akobirshoev, I., Mitra, M., Parish, S., Valentine, A., & Moore Simas, T. (2020). Racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes and labor and delivery charges among Massachusetts women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 58(2), 126-138.

Women with intellectual and developmental disabilities were more likely to have other outpatient hospital visits than those without intellectual and developmental disabilities, both in the early and late postpartum periods.



Clements, K. M., Mitra, M., Zhang, J., & Parish, S.L. (2020) Postpartum health care among women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

## NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR PARENTS WITH DISABILITIES

"I think there's been . . . a greater recognition of the capacity of individuals to live the whole human experience, including meeting folks and falling in love, and having relationships and having kids and all those things that many of us hold dear."

-Mary Sowers, "Using Medicaid to Support Parents with Disabilities"

The National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities conducts research to understand the needs of parents with disabilities and their families, as well as prospective parents with disabilities. Our projects have included studies on the healthcare experiences of parents with disabilities; legislation protecting disabled parents from discrimination; racial and ethnic disparities; parents' interactions with the childwelfare system; and support systems for parents with psychiatric disabilities and their families. Most recently, we've addressed the effects of COVID-19 on parents with disabilities through our webinars, blog posts, and social-media conversations.



results showed that women were more likely to lose their parental rights if . . .



they had a history of drug or alcohol use



their income was below 200% of the federal poverty level



they were previously involved with the child-welfare system



experts testified against them in hearings



they received family-preservation or family-reunification services tailored to parents with disabilities

Powell, R., Parish, S.L., Mitra, M., Waterstone, M.E., & Fournier, S. (in press). Terminating the parental rights of mothers with disabilities: An empirical legal analysis. Missouri Law Review.

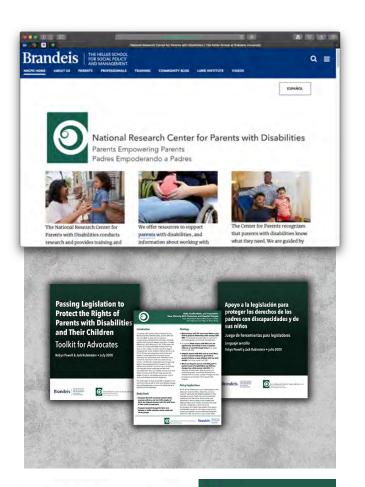
"People with disabilities are enjoying more opportunities than ever to live and work and participate in their communities, and that leads to people wanting to have relationships and form families, something that their nondisabled peers often do."

-Robyn Powell, "Using Medicaid to Support Parents with Disabilities"

Our website, <u>centerforparentswithdisabilities.org</u>, provides resources for parents, professionals, and policymakers, including research summaries, reports, infographics, webinars, videos, workshops, and toolkits, most of which are available in English and Spanish. We also host a community blog for parents with disabilities to share their firsthand perspectives on parenthood, disability, civil rights, and community inclusion.

### "How do a high-risk, almost deafblind mother and her potentially COVID-19–infected young daughter maintain social distance in a small one-bathroom bungalow?"

-Alicia Torres, "Life Is Not a Bowl of Cherries-It's Empty," National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities Community Blog





To register for the webinar, visit

https://brandeis.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN \_6GJKNFC1TFGJ6uzFO3Bwtg

This program is approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886742820-4952) for 1 continuing education contact hour.

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## **COMMUNITY LIVING POLICY CENTER**

In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the Supreme Court ruled that people with disabilities and older adults have the constitutional right to live in the community, but inconsistent enforcement has prevented many from enjoying that right. The Community Living Policy Center, or CLPC, researches home- and community-based services for people with disabilities in the United States, including housing, deinstitutionalization programs, and longterm services and supports such as personal-care attendants. Our research helps people with disabilities, as well as older adults, stay in their communities-and out of institutions, nursing homes, and other congregate settings. By understanding how existing services support people with disabilities, and how these services can improve, policymakers can use our research to develop programs and services that allow people with disabilities to be fully integrated members of their communities.

The current pandemic has underscored the need for home- and community-based services for people with disabilities and older adults-about 40 percent of all COVID-19 deaths in the United States have occurred in nursing homes and other long-term-care facilities. Over the past year, we've held webinars about the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has exerted on people with disabilities and older adults-and methods policymakers can use to address those inequities.

### THE MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROGRAM

44 states and the **District of Columbia** participate in MFP



to Support

**Disabilities** 

es: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; ity Living Policy Center: National Health Policy Forum In top-performing MFP states, nursing-home residence rates went down more quickly than in other states

**Top-performing states include** Connecticut, Iowa, Louisiana, North Dakota, Ohio, and Washington

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#### Parenting is not considered an activity of daily living.

Government-funded home and community-based services, such as personal care attendant services, do not generally offer services to assist parents with disabilities with childrearing tasks.





# EDUCATION

## EDUCATION

"Mentoring the next generation of disability leaders who will advance disability policy will ensure that the mission of the Lurie Institute will be realized for years to come."

-Monika Mitra, South Street Seminar

The Lurie Institute is committed to supporting researchers who are dedicated to advancing the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities. Toward that end, we offer fellowships for undergraduates, doctoral students, and postdoctoral researchers; thesis supervision for graduate students; professional mentoring for students, established researchers, and recent graduates; and courses and seminars on disability justice, public health, and public policy.

### **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

Intended for researchers who have recently completed a PhD in disability studies, sociology, public health, or related disciplines, the Lurie Institute's Postdoctoral Fellowship offers valuable

experience in research that improves the lives of people with disabilities and those who support them. Last year, the program received new

### **2020 GRADUATES**

### SASHA ALBERT · PhD

**DISSERTATION** "State-Level Policy and Abortion Clinics: Understanding How Clinics Adapt to Challenging and Changing Policy Environments"

### **ROBBIE DEMBO · PhD**

**DISSERTATION** "Social Support and Health in Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities: A Network-Oriented Approach"

### **ROBYN POWELL · PhD**

**DISSERTATION** "The Intersection of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Child Welfare System"

funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.

In 2020, our postdoctoral fellows were Drs. **Eun Ha Namkung, Serah Nthenge**, and **Hussaini Zandam**.

### **SPOTLIGHT: POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH**

### Sex Education and Contraception Use among Women with Cognitive Disabilities



Compared with nondisabled women, women with cognitive disabilities were less likely to receive comprehensive sex education before having sex for the first time.



Women with cognitive disabilities who were taught more sexeducation topics were more likely to use contraception when they started having sex.

Namkung, E.H., Valentine, A., Warner, L., & Mitra, M. (2021) Contraceptive use at first sex among adolescent and young adult women with disabilities: The role of formal sex education. Contraception.

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Three Lurie-affiliated doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations in 2020: **Robyn Powell, Robbie Dembo**, and **Sasha Albert**. Dr. Albert is now a senior researcher at the Health Policy Commission, Dr. Dembo is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and Dr. Powell is a visiting faculty member at Stetson University Law School.

"If there is anything we know about challenging social issues, it is that we cannot solve them without peers and mentors. At the Lurie Institute, I found my match."

-Kartik Trivedi, PhD candidate, South Street Seminar

Our current graduate students are **Natalie Chong**, **Emily Crandall**, **Gabby Katz**, **Kartik Trivedi**, and **Anne Valentine**.

The Hon. Jonathan Brant Endowed Doctoral Scholarship named after Judge Jonathan Brant, a Brandeis alumnus and advocate for disability rights—provides financial and academic



**GABBY KATZ** 2020-21 BRANT FELLOW

support to Brandeis doctoral students specializing in disability policy. The 2020-21 Brant Fellow is **Gabby Katz**. Previous Brant Fellows include Drs. Robbie Dembo '20 and Robyn Powell '20. "I'm currently working with the Lurie Institute in investigating ways to center the health and social services people receive in their home... We want to uncover processes that empower people to choose services that support their personal life goals."

 $-\operatorname{Gabby}$  Katz, PhD student and Brant Fellow, South Street Seminar

### UNDERGRADUATES

Established in 2019, the Lurie Institute's Undergraduate Fellowship in Disability Policy offers Brandeis University undergraduate students the opportunity to develop research skills and expand their knowledge of disability policy through direct research training with established Lurie Institute investigators. Undergraduate fellows were invited to present at research conferences alongside Lurie researchers; for example, undergraduate fellows presented for the American Public Health Association, the South Street Seminar, and the New England Science Symposium. As of fall 2020, we have trained eighteen fellows.

The 2019–2020 undergraduate fellows were Carmela Belizaire, Anna Davidge, Shoshi Finkel, Maddy Pliskin, Jack Rubinstein, and Regina Tham, and the 2020–2021 undergraduate fellows are Aishwarya Khanna, Luca Swinford, Michael Atkins, Sabrina Chow, Anna Cass, and Zoë Pringle.

### UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING

Mentors
Ilhom Akobirshoev
Joe Caldwell
Miriam Heyman
Frank Li
Rachel Sayko Adams
Lauren Smith

Students

Anna Cass Michael Atkins Luca Swinford Sabrina Chow Zoë Pringle Aishwarya Khanna

"I have been provided with a research opportunity that I never thought would be possible at the undergraduate level—an opportunity to work with brilliant and caring people who are leading research regarding marginalized groups to advocate for social change."

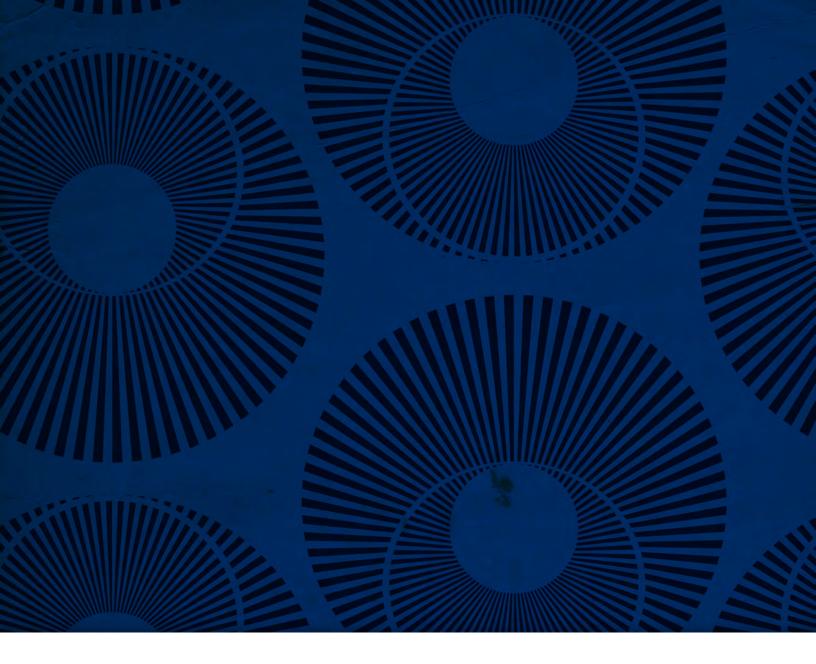
—Michael Atkins, Lurie Undergraduate Fellow, South Street Seminar

### **OTHER MENTORING**

### Monika Mitra

2020 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Mentor to Health Policy Research Scholars Program

AcademyHealth 2020 Annual Research Meeting Virtual Conference



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

## **EVENTS & WEBINARS**

### SELECTED LURIE INSTITUTE WEBINARS

### Best Practices in the HCBS Settings Rule: Bringing HCBS to the Twenty-first Century

*Presenters* Ari Ne'eman, Samantha Crane, and Alison Barkoff *Moderators* Anne Womer and Joe Caldwell

Little People and Parenting Presenters Laura Stout, Kelly Lee, and Francisca Winston

Supporting the Lives of Children of Disabled Parents Presenters Erin Andrews and Kara Ayers

Long-Term Services and Supports Coordinator: A Promising Practice to Advance Independent Living Philosophy and Recovery Principles within Integrated Care Presenters Dennis Heaphy

### Passing State Legislation to Protect the <u>Rights of Parents with Disabilities</u>

*Presenters* Robyn Powell, Kimberly Tissot, and Sara Gelser

### <u>Disability Rights Are Civil Rights: A</u> <u>Conversation on Inclusive Democracy</u>

**Presenters** Rebecca Cokley and Claribel Vidal **Moderator** Sandy Ho

### Using Medicaid to Help Parents with Disabilities *Presenters* Robyn Powell, Mary Sowers, and Nikki Villavicencio

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS BY LURIE FACULTY AND STAFF

#### MONIKA MITRA

### Disability-Related Disparities in Maternal Health in the United States

South Asia Centre for Disability Inclusive Development & Research, Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad, India

### Intersecting Research on Opioid Misuse, Addiction, and Disability Services

Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire Disability Statistics Workshop

### ILHOM AKOBIRSHOEV

**Does Medical Home Reduce the Economic Burden Related to Care Coordination for Children with Special Health-Care Needs?** American Public Health Association

Emergency-Department Visits Involving Opioid Use Disorder and Associated Mortalities among Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing Adults in the US Annual Disability Statistics Compendium

### FINN GARDINER

**Neurodiversity Rising: Eliminating Bias in Hiring** Neurodiversity in the Workplace

#### SANDY HO

**ADA at 30: Building an Inclusive Progressive Movement** Center for American Progress Fund

#### EUN HA NAMKUNG

**Birth Intention of US Fathers with Disabilities** American Public Health Association

#### SERAH NTHENGE

**Perinatal Experiences of Childbearing Women with Physical Disabilities** AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

#### **ROBYN POWELL**

**Family Law and the ADA: Treatment Plans, Reasonable Accommodations, and Resources** Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel's Carrie Ann Lucas Disability Advocacy Training

### Supporting Disabled Parents and Their Families: Perspectives and Recommendations from Parents, Attorneys, and Child-Welfare Professionals PART

### LAUREN SMITH

**Clinician Experiences Managing Pregnancy Care of Women with Intellectual Disabilities** Navigating Caregiver Roles in Pregnancy Care

#### HUSSAINI ZANDAM

**Prevalence of HIV among Women with Disabilities and Use of Modern Contraceptives in Sub-Saharan Africa** American Public Health Association

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** & ADVISORY BOARDS

### ORGANIZATIONS

**ADvancing States** American Association of People with Disabilities American Bar Association American Council of the Blind American Foundation for the Blind Arc of the United States Association of University Centers on Disabilities Autism Women's and Nonbinary Network Autistic Self Advocacy Network Boston Center for Independent Living **Centene** Corporation

**Child Welfare League** of America **Disability Policy** Consortium **Disability Rights Education & Defense** Fund **Employment Options**, Inc. **Massachusetts Behavioral Health** Partnership Massachusetts Department of Mental Health **Massachusetts Bureau of Substance** Addiction Services MassHealth Mental Health America

National Association of the Deaf National Association of Social Workers National Disability **Rights Network** Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Topeka Independent Living Resource Center Washington Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Washington Research and Data Analysis

Washington State Independent Living Council

### PEOPLE

**Elizabeth Bostic** Lydia X.Z. Brown Reid Caplan Nikki Cherry Henry Claypool Kim Connor Susan Connors Jess Cuculick **Cheryl Cumings** Deborah Delman Maryanne Frangule Morénike Giwa-Onaiwu Jill Hatcher Melinda Haus **Dennis Heaphy** Barbara Herbert **Kevin** Irvine Julie Kegley Jeff Keilson

### PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

Erin Krebs	Roslynn Rubin
Jennifer Lee	Mark Salzer
Linda Long-Bellil	Leo Sarkissian
Mike McKee	Nicole Lomerson
Spencer Milo	Shickling
Mike Oxford	Jennifer Senda
Susan Parish	Denise Simon
Julie Petty	Laura Stout
John Pirone	Susan Vaughan
John Piselli	Heather Watkins
Tammy Rayess	Anne Whitman
Lisa Razzano	
Roxanne Reddington Wilde	
Carmen Rosado	

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation
- Commonwealth Fund
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
- National Institutes of Health

### CONTACT US

### LURIE INSTITUTE

<u>lurie.brandeis.edu</u> <u>facebook.com/LurieInstitute</u> <u>twitter.com/LurieInstitute</u>

### NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR Parents with disabilities

<u>centerforparentswithdisabilities.org</u> <u>facebook.com/nrcpd</u> <u>twitter.com/NatRCPD</u>

### **COMMUNITY LIVING POLICY CENTER**

communitylivingpolicy.org twitter.com/CLPolicy