



Happenings Fall 2016

News for and about RTC/CL [Partners](#),
[Advisors](#) and Stakeholders

RTC/PICL Award Will Promote Community Participation

The Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) has been awarded a five-year, \$4.375 million grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research to promote community participation for adults with physical disabilities. The project is a collaboration with the University of Montana that will be co-



directed by Glen White at KU (*pictured on left*) and Craig Ravesloot (*right*) at Montana.

The new Research and Training Center on Promoting Interventions for Community Living (RTC/PICL) will investigate the effectiveness of evidence-based interventions that modify home environments and enhance the personal skills of people with disabilities as a way to increase their community participation. It will also promote the

dissemination and utilization of successful practices.

White said the new grant provides an opportunity to more fully develop strategies that have proven effective in the center's previously funded research, including two projects from the current RTC on Community Living. [Read the announcement.](#)

Center Staff Partner on CDC-Funded Project

The University of Kansas Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies has been awarded funding to help improve the health of individuals with disabilities by increasing access to programs and removing barriers to services designed to promote healthy living. Jean Hall of IHDPDS directs the [Kansas Disability and Health Project](#) (DHP), which is also staffed by our partners Martha Hodgesmith, Dot Nary and Val Renault.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded the Kansas DHP for 2016-21 to improve the health and quality of life among people with mobility limitations and

intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) by adapting and implementing evidence-based programs.

Center Hosts Community Living Summit



About 45 people gathered in Alexandria, Va., for the Community Living Summit hosted by the RTC on Community Living on Sept. 20. Policymakers from NIDILRR and the Administration on Community Living, disability advocates, and representatives of national disability organizations met with our research partners, advisors and research participants to learn about the results of this Center’s interventions.

For each presentation, the researchers were joined by one of the intervention’s research participants and a member of our Scientific and Consumer Advisory Panel. This allowed our audience to hear perspectives from consumers, CIL staff and other scientists regarding the successes and future implications of each intervention. For copies of the presentations and fact sheets, visit our [Summit webpage](#). (Videos of the presentations will be posted by early December.)

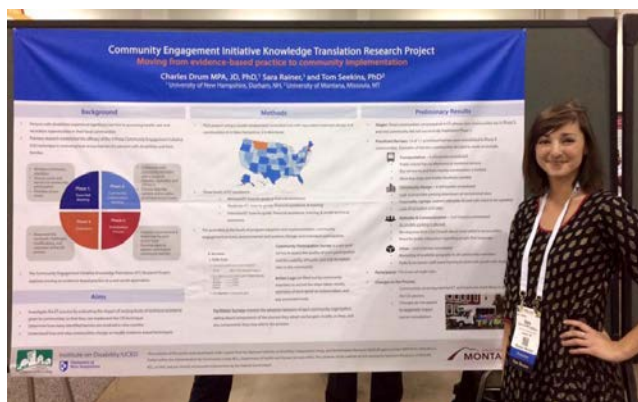
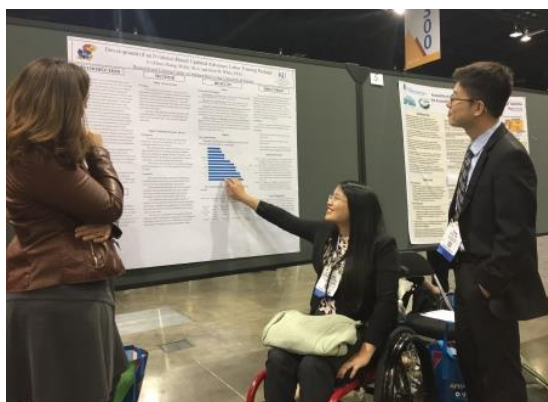
The Center also hosted an Expo on Sept. 19 to kick off the Summit. In the photo above, Jessica Dashner (left) displays her training for informal personal assistants to (from left) Jamie Simpson, Dot Nary, Aruna Subramaniam and Andrew Myers. See more photos in our [Facebook album](#).

Center Staff Serve as Advisors

Glen White has been named to the advisory board for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), a funder of our center’s work.

White and Craig Ravesloot were appointed to a National Academy of Science planning committee for a national workshop on “Affordable and Accessible Housing for Vulnerable Older Adults and People with Disabilities Living in the Community,” which will be convened on Dec. 12.

Martha Hodgesmith has been appointed by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as a member of its Kansas Advisory Committee.



Dot Nary has been invited to join the advisory board of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD), a public health practice and resource center on health promotion for people with disability.

Presentations: Disseminating Our Research

Our research partners have recently presented their work at a variety of national and regional conferences. At the American Public Health Association 2016 meeting, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, partners presented the following:

- Glen White moderated a session on “Health education strategies, interventions, and programs for people with disabilities: Is Participation Good?”
- Craig Ravesloot presented “Feelings Associated with Daily Activities Reported by People with Impairments Living in the Community”
- Tom Seekins presented the poster “Engaging Patients and Stakeholders in Developing a Hospital Discharge and Rural Transitions Model”
- Alice Zhang presented the poster “Development of an Evidence-Based Updated Advocacy Letter Training Package”
- Kelsey Shinnick presented a roundtable discussion on “Examining the Effects of Multiple Interventions to Deter Access Aisle Parking Violations”
- Sara Rainer presented the poster “Community Engagement Initiative Knowledge Translation Research Project: Moving from evidence-based practice to community implementation”

Pictured below: Alice Zhang (left) and Sara Rainer (right) at the APHA

At the APRIL conference, held Oct. 21-24, these partners presented:

- Craig Ravesloot, Lillie Greiman and Andrew Myers gave a session titled “Bet on the Value of Equal Opportunity for Community Participation: Fresh Research Results from the RTC on Disabilities in Rural Communities”
- Glen White, Sara Obermeier and Jerry Shultz presented “Building Community Capacity: Creating a Trail of Evidence to Verify Community-Based IL Outcomes”

- Alice Zhang presented “Parking Etiquette: Reserving Van-Accessible Spaces and Deterring Parking in Access Aisles”
- Kelsey Shinnick presented "Examining the Effects of Multiple Interventions to Deter Access Aisle Parking Violations"

Dot Nary presented on three topics related to the CDC-funded Disability and Health Program (DHP) at the Kansas Interhab conference, Oct. 13-14:

- Kansans with Disability CAN Be Healthy!
- Polypharmacy: Why is it a problem and what can we do about it?
- Health for People with Intellectual Disabilities (at the Idea Café)

On Oct. 5-7, 2016, partners presented at the Southwest Conference on Disability:

- Glen White and Kelsey Shinnick: “Examining the Effects of Multiple Interventions to Deter Access Aisle Parking Violations”
- Martha Hodgesmith, Val Renault and Rocky Nichols (Executive Director, Disability Rights Center of Kansas): “Using a Community Engagement Process to Inform State Employment Policies”
- Glen White and Alice Zhang: “Development of an Evidence-Based Updated Advocacy Letter Training Package”
- Glen White and Christina Holt: “Building Capacity for Full Community Participation: Some Lessons Learned from Center for Independent Living Efforts”
- Charles Drum and Sara Rainer led an interactive workshop on “Learning to Mobilize Communities to Remove Barriers to Participation,” where they engaged participants in a mock town hall meeting.

This fall, Glen White presented “Continuity of Community Living: An Independent Living Perspective” at a workshop for the National Academy of Science in Washington, DC. The workshop was entitled “Supporting Community Living and Participation for Older Adults and People with Disabilities: Strengthening the Workforce and Community Infrastructure.”

Charles Drum presented the poster “Community Engagement Initiative Knowledge Translation Research Project: Moving from evidence-based practice to community implementation” at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities conference in August.

Seekins Receives UM Award

Research partner Tom Seekins, director of the NIDILRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities (RTC: Rural), received a Distinguished

Alumni Award from the University of Montana (UM) in September. He was recognized for his extensive work to improve the lives of people with disabilities and for bringing issues facing rural Americans with disabilities into the research arena.

RTC on Community Living Team

Research Partners

The University of Kansas

Glen W. White, PhD, RTC/CL Director
Martha Hodgesmith, JD, Associate Director
Jean Ann Summers, PhD, Research Director
Dorothy (Dot) Nary, PhD
Megan O'Brien, PhD
Jerry Schultz, PhD
Christina Holt, MA
Aruna Subramaniam, MS
Val Renault, MA
E "Alice" Zhang, MA
Kelsey Shinnick, BA

University of Illinois at Chicago

Fabricio Balcazar, PhD

University of Montana

Craig Ravesloot, PhD
Tom Seekins, PhD
Lillie Greiman, MA
Andrew Myers, MA

University of New Hampshire

Charles E. Drum, JD, PhD
Andrew Houtenville, PhD
Amanda Reichard, PhD
Sara Rainer, BS

Washington University in St. Louis

Jessica Dashner, OTD, OTR/L

Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

Pimjai Sudsawad, ScD

Scientific and Consumer Advisory Panel (SCAP)

Scientific Representatives

Tony Cahill

Catherine Graham
Margaret (Peg) Nosek
Phillip Rumrill

Consumer Representatives

Dara Baldwin
Gwen Gillenwater
Ron Garcia
Stan Holbrook
Bob Michaels
Jamie Simpson

We welcome your news and feedback. Contact Val Renault, yrenault@ku.edu, 785-864-0575.