



Happenings

Spring 2012

News for and about RTC/CL Partners,
Advisors and Stakeholders

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Publications

Amanda Reichard is lead author of "[Quality of diabetes care for adults with physical disabilities in Kansas](#)", which was published in Disability and Health Journal (Vol 5, No. 1, January 2012). Co-authors are Hayley Stolze, Ana Carolina Sella, and Theresa I. Shireman.

This article by Dot Nary is in press at *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*: Froehlich-Grobe, K., **Nary, D.E.**, VanSciver, A., Washburn, R.A., & Aaronson, L. "Truth be told: Evidence of wheelchair users' accuracy in reporting their height and weight."

Presentations

Glen White made a presentation to the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns on May 18, which included information on RTC/CL research as well as other projects being conducted by RTC/IL staff, his trainings in Peru (see "International Work" below) and his collaboration with Delta Air Lines (see "Now on YouTube").

Glen White and Charles Drum were responders for "State of the Science: Disability and Rehabilitation in Rural America." This unique web conference was sponsored by the RTC on Disability in Rural Communities at the University of Montana, where Tom Seekins and colleagues hosted the April 17-20 conference. It is [archived online](#).

Amanda Reichard will present an abstract she co-authored with Mike Fox at the AcademyHealth annual meeting on June 23. The presentation is titled "Using Population-Based Data to Examine the Relationship between Disability and Health among Dually Eligible (Medicare/Medicaid) Adults."

On June 19, she will make a poster presentation at the American Association on Intellectual

and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) titled “What We Can Learn about Individuals with IDD from Medicaid Claims Data.”

Last fall, Reichard was invited to present at the Kansas Quality of Care Project, *Learning Workshop on the ADA Standards, Resources and Questions Answered for Healthcare Practitioners*. (See “Resources” below for materials developed for this event.)

She also made an oral presentation at the 2011 American Public Health Association annual conference on *Quality of Diabetes Care for Adults with Physical Disabilities*.

Fabricio Balcazar was invited to make a presentation to the winter meeting of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, representing University of Illinois at Chicago faculty on January 18, 2012 in Chicago.

Andrew Houtenville presented a webcast titled “What Counts? Latest Disability Statistics from Federal Surveys and Resources” on Jan.25, 2012. The webcast was sponsored by the Knowledge Translation for Employment Research Center and is archived [online](#).

Charles Drum presented “Community Engagement: From Health Care to Community Living” at the 2011 APRIL Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

Dot Nary delivered the keynote address at the Spina Bifida Association of Northeast New York annual conference on April 28. Her address was titled “Living with Spina Bifida for 56 Years: What I've Learned and What I Still Need to Learn.”

She also spoke about pressure ulcer prevention to a peer support group for individuals with mobility issues at Independence, Inc., a CIL in Lawrence, Kan., on May 4.

Cat Howland presented “Best Practices to Level the Playing Field in Disasters for People with Disabilities” at the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity in April as both a poster and oral presentation. (See “[Fact Sheets, Posters and Other Publications](#)” for the poster.)

Training

Amanda Reichard, Dot Nary and Cat Howland contributed modules to an online School of Nursing graduate-level course at the University of Kansas Medical Center which debuted this spring. “Caring for People with Disabilities” is the first comprehensive disability awareness course that has been offered in the nursing school.

Reichard’s presentation is titled “The Intersection Between Disability and Chronic Disease”; Nary’s module is titled “Health Care Advocacy”; and Howland’s is “Snapshot for Health Care Personnel: The Unique Disaster-Related Needs of People with Disabilities.”

The course was created by two disability programs at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The Disability and Health Program and the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program partnered with the KUMC to offer the two-hour elective course. Plans are in process to make this course and all its components available to any nursing school interested in this topic.

International Work

Glen White and University of Kansas Honors program student Sam Ho went to Perú in March to teach medical rehabilitation professionals how to better care for patients with spinal cord injury (SCI). White has previously delivered a series of workshops to Peruvians with SCI about strategies to prevent or reduce the severity of secondary conditions.

For this training, he and Ho collaborated with health professionals from major medical rehabilitation centers in the U.S. to develop workshops for professionals who treat SCI patients, including medical rehabilitation physicians, nurses and other therapists. [Read more here.](#)

Glen White is collaborating with Kyung Mee Kim, PhD, and recent KU graduate Chiaki Gonda Kotani, MA, to replicate the MICL [R-5 CIL services](#) research in Korea and Japan. This international team is working with national CIL organization directors in both countries to survey independent living center staff about how they rank various services offered by their organizations.

In the News

Amanda Reichard's Medicaid research is featured in the University of Kansas Chancellor's *"State of the University 2012"* video report. [Watch the video](#) and see the "Building Healthy Communities" section for Reichard's work (at 4:57).

The Community Engagement Initiative (R-6) to increase access to healthcare was featured in the Lawrence-Journal World (11/1/11). The article titled ["KU research center working to reduce barriers to health care for people with disabilities"](#) features the experiences of Ranita Wilks, who is one of our CIL staff partners on the project at Independence Inc.

Kudos to Cat Howland, program manager for emergency preparedness in collaboration with our state Disability and Health program. The CDC has featured Kansas' emergency preparedness programs twice. Its weekly feature, [Have You Heard? Facts From The Field](#) (11/3/11) discusses ways the program influenced state policy changes for establishing and operating emergency medical shelters to better support people with disabilities.

The CDC also featured the [Nobody Left Behind](#) project in a CDC.gov feature article email on 3/28/12.

Service

Amanda Reichard was invited to serve on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) expert panel to define adults with chronic health care needs (ACHCN).

Honors & Awards

Martha Hodgesmith was awarded the 2012 Chief Justice Kay McFarland Lifetime Achievement Award by the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka in Feb. The award recognizes an individual who has achieved professional excellence in her field and has influenced other women to pursue

legal careers, opened doors for women lawyers in a variety of job settings that historically were closed to them, or advanced opportunities for women within a practice area or segment of the profession.

Fabricio Balcazar was awarded the “Professor of the Year Award” by the College of Applied Health Sciences at University of Illinois at Chicago in February. The award recognizes his “Continuing groundbreaking scholarship, advocacy, and global impact on the lives of people with disabilities.”

Jessica Dashner, OTD OTR/L, was awarded an honorary membership into Pi Theta Epsilon, the Occupational Therapy Honor Society.

Glen White received official recognition from the Policia Nacional Del Peru Dirección de Salud (Lima, Perú) for his training on prevention of secondary conditions to the National Policia Hospital doctors, physical and occupational therapists.

Amanda Reichard completed the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute fellowship program in May.

New Resources

The RTC/IL has developed [“Disability Resources for Healthcare Providers.”](#) You can refer practitioners to this page for:

- **How to Make Your Medical Practice More Accessible to People with Disabilities**
 - [Getting tax incentives for adjustable-height exam tables, accessible scales and facility improvements](#)
 - [Tips for improving access for people who have vision and hearing disabilities](#)
 - [Notes on disability etiquette](#)
- [IRS Tax Form 8826 for "Disabled Access Credit"](#) (PDF)
- [Outstanding Programs to Replicate to Promote the Health of People with Disabilities](#) (PDF)
 - This fact sheet identifies successful programs for training consumers, training medical professionals and paraprofessionals, and removing barriers.
- [Cancer Prevention for People with Disabilities](#) (PDF) - This resource guide lists informational websites, continuing education courses and research articles.

Now on YouTube

The RTC/IL has created these new videos about our research and emergency preparedness projects.

- [“The KU Diet Project for People with Physical Disabilities”](#) features NIDRR Field-Initiated

Research led by Muriel Saunders and Amanda Reichard.

- [“Disability and Air Travel: How the University of Kansas and Delta Air Lines are Collaborating to Improve the Flying Experience for People with Disabilities”](#) features David Martin, Delta’s Disability Program Manager.
- [“Emergency Preparedness Kit for People with Disabilities”](#) provides tips from Glen White for creating an office kit.
- [“Animal Emergency Preparedness”](#) gives the basic steps for keeping your service animals and pets safe in a disaster, delivered by Val Renault.
- [“Emergency Preparedness Tips for People with Disabilities”](#) provides guidance from Cat Howland on how to prepare for an emergency.
- [“Be Prepared: Proper Handwashing”](#) displays proper handwashing technique as a preventive technique for seasonal and pandemic flu.

Who’s Who in the RTC on Community Living

Research Team

The University of Kansas

Glen W. White, PhD, RTC/CL Director
Martha Hodgesmith, JD, Associate Director
Amanda Reichard, PhD, Research Director
Dorothy (Dot) Nary, PhD
Jean Ann Summers, PhD
Megan O'Brien, PhD
Amalia Monroe-Gulick, MLS
Jerry Schultz, PhD
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Graduate research assistants:
Lillie Greiman
Andrew Myers

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Charles E. Drum, JD, PhD
Andrew Houtenville, PhD

Washington University in St. Louis

David B. Gray, PhD
Jessica Dashner, OTD, OTR/L

U.S. Department of Education

David Keer, Program Specialist

Scientific and Consumer Advisory Panel (SCAP)

Scientific Representatives

Tony Cahill, PhD

Al Condeluci, PhD

Catherine Graham, MEBME

Margaret (Peg) Nosek, PhD

Phillip Rumrill, PhD

Consumer Representatives

Gwen Gillenwater

Linda Gonzales

Stan Holbrook

Bob Michaels

Jamie Simpson

We want your news, as well as feedback about our website: www.rtcil.org/cl. Send to Val Renault, vrenault@ku.edu, 785-864-0575.