

Changing the Way We Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



Laura Buckner (she/her)

Laura has 30+ years' experience in the disability field. A Licensed Professional counselor and former special educator, Laura's professional life is invested in training on the local, state, and national levels. She is employed by the Texas Center for Disabilities at The University of Texas in Austin <https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu>. Laura is a Certified Mentor Trainer in Person Centered Practices through The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices (www.tlccpcp.com) and a certified Ambassador in the Charting the LifeCourse work created at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute for Human Development (<http://www.ihd.umkc.edu/>). Laura has considerable experience facilitating Person-Centered Plans and in mentoring trainers to teach others in person centered practices. Other work includes a collaborative effort with Baylor Medical Genetics (Houston) and Trauma Informed Care Training for those working with children with intellectual/developmental disabilities who have experienced trauma. Laura's greatest expertise comes from her experience as a Mom. Her first-born son was given a scary diagnosis at 3 months of age, with a gloomy prognosis. That 31-year-old son, a charming, funny, and hard-working young man who has defied many odds is both impetus and inspiration to Laura's work to create inclusive communities...and the plans that enable people to live lives of choice successfully, with the right supports, in those communities.



Diana Cejas (she/her)

Diana M. Cejas, MD, MPH is a pediatric neurologist and faculty of the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her clinical work and research focus on improving care delivery and health outcomes for children and young adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Since surviving cancer and a stroke during her residency, Dr. Cejas has devoted much of her career to patient advocacy and improving communication between healthcare providers and the disability community, particularly young disabled patients of color. She shares her own story and other commentary on disability and health via essays and other nonfiction. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* and *Neurology*; prestigious literary magazines including *The Iowa Review*, *Ecotone*, and *Passages North*; and anthologies including *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century* and *A Measure of Belonging: Twenty-One Writers of Color on the New American South*.





Melanie Davis (she/her)

Melanie Davis is 35 years old, and has lived with Cerebral Palsy since birth, as well as other disabilities. This experience has afforded her many opportunities in the disability advocating space, and very quickly became a passion of hers. She has completed various leadership programs and is on track to complete a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University Nebraska at Omaha. She is currently a project assistant at the Munroe-Meyer Institute's University Center in Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. She plans to continue her work in the disability space, as she believes the lived experience piece is what truly shapes the best policies, which lead to a fully inclusive society.

Donnie TC Denome (they/them)

Donnie TC Denome is an autistic self-advocate, a nonspeaking writer and poet, and an award-winning journalist. They hold a Master's of Public Health degree with a focus in health education for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Donnie has worked with the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, SARTAC, and CommunicationFIRST. They are passionate about health justice, equitable education for people with disabilities, and labor organizing.



Jeiri Flores (she/her)

Jeiri Flores is 32 year old and has cerebral palsy. Currently, she works as an advocacy specialist at one of the nations University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) where she advocates for the betterment of people with disabilities. When she is free she likes to hang out with her nieces and nephews.

Tammy Fried (she/her)

Tammy Fried, LCSW is the Assistant Clinical Director at the Rose F. Kennedy/Children’s Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (RFK/CERC) at Montefiore Medical Center. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in New York State. Tammy has worked in the field of developmental disabilities for over 20 years. In her role, she manages clinical staff and clinical workflows, as well as compliance with regulatory bodies. She is also a member of a multidisciplinary team, participating in the evaluation and diagnosis of children with developmental disabilities. She obtained research reliability in administration of the ADOS-2 to aid in diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Tammy developed a specialized program for children with significant developmental delays and their families; she provides individual, group and family psychotherapy and parent support groups. She is currently the Principal Investigator of a service grant for children with autism through New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Tammy also co-developed an annual parent educational workshop for parents of children with special needs and provides in-service lectures to professionals, trainees and the community on therapeutic interventions, transition, sexuality, and other topics for this population. Tammy obtained her Bachelor of Social Work from McGill University and a Master of Social Work from New York University.



Timotheus “T.J.” Gordon Jr. (he/him)

Timotheus “T.J.” Gordon Jr., MFA, MS, is a research associate at the Institute on Disability and Human Development at University of Illinois at Chicago. Gordon uses his passion for self-advocacy, racial equity, disability culture, and autism acceptance to create webinars, training sessions, and publications on autism and race, inclusion in communities of color, exploration of sexuality in the disability community, coping with COVID-19 pandemic, mental health emergency services, and more. He is also a co-founder of Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC), which is supported by the Institute on Disability and Human Development. Chicagoland DPOCC is a group of disabled people of color in the Chicagoland area that promote disability pride, self-advocacy, and inclusion in communities of color throughout the Chicagoland area. In addition to his self-advocacy work, Gordon has also written essays and reviews related to disability and race. His writings appear in the Disability Studies Review, the “All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism” anthology, and ADA 30 in Color. He is one of the interviewees who appeared in the documentary, Code of the Freaks, where he discussed autism representation and intersections of disability and race in movies.



Elizabeth Perkins (she/her)

[Dr. Elizabeth Perkins](#) is a Research Associate Professor and the Associate Director of the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities UCEDD, at the University of South Florida (USF). She has a PhD in Aging Studies and a BA (summa cum laude) in Psychology, both from USF. Dr. Perkins is a Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities (RNLD) trained in the United Kingdom - learning disabilities is the UK equivalent of intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD). Dr. Perkins' current work includes training activities, research, resource development, and information dissemination focused on improving healthcare for adults and older adults with IDD and their caregivers. Dr. Perkins' work has been published in notable journals including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Dr. Perkins is also the author of numerous health advocacy resources and tools including *My Health Passport*, and *My Health Report*. Dr. Perkins is a Past President of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). She is also a fellow of AAIDD and the Gerontological Society of America. She has received many accolades including being a National Honoree by the [National Historic Recognition Project](#) for her significant contributions to IDD field in the US during 2000-2020. Most recently, EP Magazine honored her as one of [50 Hero Advocates](#) also in the IDD field.



Hoangmai (Mai) H. Pham (she/her)

Hoangmai (Mai) H. Pham is President of Institute for Exceptional Care, a non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dr. Pham is a general internist and national health policy leader. She was Vice President at Anthem, responsible for value-based care initiatives. Prior to Anthem, Dr. Pham served as Chief Innovation Officer at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, where she was a founding official, and the architect of foundational programs on accountable care organizations and primary care. Dr. Pham has published extensively on provider payment policy and its intersection with health disparities, quality performance, provider behavior, and market trends. She serves on numerous advisory bodies, including for the National Academy of Medicine, the National Advisory Council for the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality, the Maryland Primary Care Program. Dr. Pham earned her A.B. from Harvard University, her M.D. from Temple University, and her M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University where she was also a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.





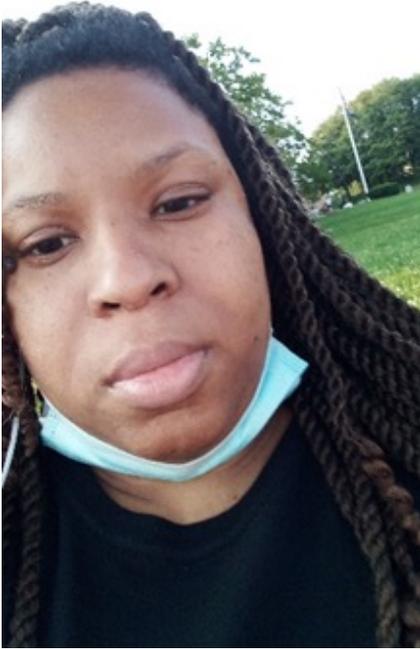
Maria Marquez (she/her)

Maria has been LEND Self Advocacy Faculty since January 2019. She has over 25 years of experience of self-advocacy in developmental and intellectual disability. She was appointed by governor Brown, then appointed by governor Galvin Newsom for her second term for The State Council on Developmental Disability member at LARGE. She is appointed to the following State Council Committees: executive committee, consumer advisory committee, self-determination (co-chair), legislation committee, and self-determination advisory committee as well as the self-determination work group. Maria also sits on the Developmental Disabilities Services task force. She is involved in various presentations to help roll out the self-determination program for the Department of Developmental Services. She is on the self-advocate of Los Angeles committee for the State Council in the Glendale office. She consults on adults with developmental and intellectual disability and serves as a key note speaker for conferences statewide on developmental and intellectual disability.

Maria Isabel Nogueron (she/her)

Maria was born in Mexico City in 1958. In 1989 she moved to Galveston, Texas, to work for a year on her doctorate. That same year she met her husband and moved to Milwaukee, WI where he was a Professor at Marquette University for over 30 years. They have two children, Fernando, an engineer working in Indiana, and Isabel, working at Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee in Environmental Services. Isabel is 24 years old and was born with Down Syndrome while she was a postdoctoral fellow in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She considers herself a strong advocate for her daughter and all individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities. It was her daughter who made her reconsider her career path and become a teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools System where she has served in different capacities. Being a mother to a child with I/DD and in constant contact with families with children with I/DD as peer and teacher has greatly enriched her life. She takes joy and pride in sharing what she has learned by being a member of this strong, generous, and resilient community.





Jessica Salmond (she/her)

Jessica is a self-advocate, recovery coach, volunteer peer support specialist, and mom of seven. She participates in numerous disability advisory boards and groups, including: the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, People on the Go, Special Olympics Advisory Group, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities Plain Language Advisory Group, and John Hopkins' Healthy Families Advisory Board. She has a WRAP certification and has graduated from the Arc of Maryland's Partners in Policymaking program and Parents' Place of Maryland Baby LEADers program. Jessica has appeared in YouTube videos and magazine articles about self-advocacy and has received awards for both her advocacy and volunteer work.