



RUTGERS

Graduate School of Applied
and Professional Psychology

Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center (DDDC)



An integral part of the Graduate School of
Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) at
Rutgers University-New Brunswick since 1972.

2020 - 2021



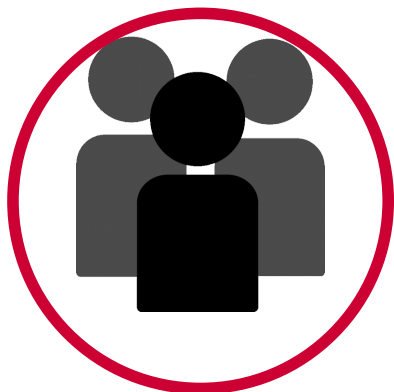
Catriona Francis Ed.M., BCBA
Director of DDDC

Annual Report

This Annual Report reflects the outcomes achieved at our center over the past year and affirms our mission as an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program serving the autism community.

The world has faced an unprecedented global health crisis because of the outbreak of COVID-19. Since March 2020, this pandemic has posed unique challenges for individuals with autism and their families in New Jersey and beyond through the impact it has had on access to information, services, and supports.

The DDDC has continued to fulfill its three-part mission during these challenging times. We have kept our commitment to training and research to support individuals with ASD, and we have made a number of programmatic adaptations and added new services to support the treatment and education of people with ASD.



57

**CENTER BASED
LEARNERS SERVED**



18

**ADULT CLIENTS
SERVED**



70

**UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS TRAINED**

ABOUT US

The Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center (DDDC) is an integral part of the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. The DDDC has been serving the needs of people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and their schools since 1972. As an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program, we use these principles to organize our delivery of services. We recognize our responsibility to work collaboratively with the families of the children and adults we serve, and with the agencies that fund their treatment.

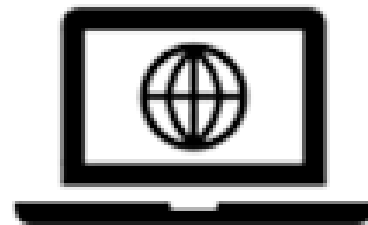
As a university-based program, our commitment includes the education of undergraduate and graduate students and the dissemination of knowledge through research, training, and consultative services. We also provide information about the treatment and education of people with autism spectrum disorders to the professional community and the general public. Our mission of service to people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and their schools is carried out through the following services and programs:

- The Douglass School
- Douglass Adult Program
- Outreach Services

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES RELATED TO COVID-19 WEB PAGE

The DDDC vetted trust-worthy resources from New Jersey and around the country to provide accessible COVID resources to support individuals with autism as well as their parents and siblings. Resources supporting the management of challenging behavior, the practice of self-care, access to health and emergency planning resources, and access to online activities were housed on the DDDC's Information and Resource Related to COVID-19 web page. <https://dddc.rutgers.edu/news-events/covid-19-information>.



100+

COVID-19 RESOURCES

AUTISM SERVICES NETWORK

The Autism Services Network (ASN), an extension of GSAPP's Psychological Services Network, offered free tele-support and resources to families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Services were provided by Rutgers-affiliated Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), clinical psychologists, and supervised trainees with experience in ASD. The program provided individualized resources, supportive short-term coaching and guidance, and referrals for more intensive and long-term service arrangements.

"One in 32 children is diagnosed with an ASD in New Jersey. We wanted to make sure we could provide support for those families during this especially challenging time," said Lara Delmolino Gatley, clinical professor, and director of Applied and Academic Autism Services at GSAPP. "We hope to help foster independent activities and routines at home, promote social engagement and offer support to foster leisure and vocational skills."



SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on everyone. However, those with ASD and the individuals who care for them are among those disproportionately impacted by it. The DDDC provided monthly parent support groups to parents of our DDDC community as well as siblings support groups for siblings of individuals with ASD from the broader community. When center operations were impacted by the pandemic, Dr. Fiske restructured these support groups using a virtual format to ensure that those in need of support were not neglected during this especially difficult time. The DDDC's flexibility and adaptability also ensured the continuation of training opportunities for graduates learning to provide these invaluable services to the community.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAINING: BUILDING CAPACITY

The DDDC's commitment to graduate trainees was unwavering. Faculty restructured the format of supervision and training activities to ensure a rich training experience despite our reduced center operations. These programmatic shifts ensured a high-quality training experience that prepared graduate trainees to support the autism community despite practicum experiences that have been impacted by this pandemic.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The DDDC specializes in providing services to school aged children with autism who also face significant learning and behavioral challenges. Our center is committed to supporting staff who are working under very stressful conditions. The DDDC continues to collaborate with University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) to provide staff self-care programs. Our collaboration with UBHC began over a year ago with a pilot program offered to our Intensive Support Classroom staff. Our second DDDC self-care program, began on January 19, 2021, for a group of 14 DDDC staff who volunteered to participate. This program is designed to teach strategies to help reduce stress related to working in this challenging field during a challenging time.



"We are embedding health and well-being at the heart of our Center's goals because our staff are our greatest asset, and we recognize that a healthy happy and committed workforce is vital the success of the individual's with whom we work."



CORONAVIRUS AT THE DDDC: RELECTIONS ON EDUCATION AT THE DDDC ONE YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC

One year ago, the World Health Organization declared the spread of COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic. Reacting to the virus, schools at every level were sent scrambling. Institutions across the world switched to virtual learning, with teachers, students, and local leaders quickly adapting to an entirely new way of life. The DDDC was forced to stop traditional services and begin teaching students and clients in their homes through remote instruction. The DDDC mobilized to provide support to staff and caregivers to develop and implement remote instructional strategies tailored to student/client needs and individual family preferences. During the last year, the DDDC:

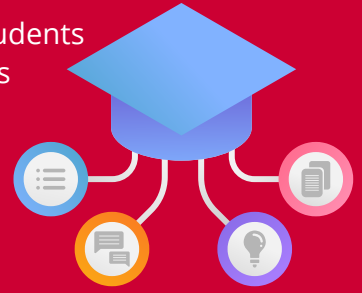
- Provided resources to staff to develop remote instruction materials & strategies specific to individual students
- Developed instructional materials for home use by caregivers
- Provided training on using technology for instruction
- Supported caregivers for behavior, functional communication, and skills training
- Modeled teaching skills for caregivers
- Provided access to a variety of online resources
- Delivered instruction with a variety of internet platforms and resources
- Increased frequency of communication with staff & caregivers (email/phone calls/video calls)
- Introduced a hybrid model of instruction as of September 2020 that allowed students and clients to return to the DDDC for a combination of in-person and remote instruction.
- In order for the DDDC to have a safe return to in-person services, the administration worked with various departments at Rutgers University to ensure staff access to routine testing, personal protective equipment, and early access to vaccinations. We also received assistance from the university to secure cleaning supplies and other supplies necessary to ensure safe center operations. The center also used space creatively to ensure that physical distancing could be maintained among DDDC students/clients during in-person services. This proactive collaboration among university departments and the DDDC solidified our return plan and gave the DDDC the ability to protect the safety of our students, clients, and staff.
- The DDDC's school nurses Bethany Carlson and Diana Garces worked every day to prevent the spread of infection at the DDDC. Their preparedness, training, and clinical guidance were helpful for administration, staff, students, clients, and their families and critical to our ability to operate safely.



STUDENT TRAINING

The DDDC provided training to **70** university students in the following disciplines during FY2021:

- 5 Psy.D. Psychology Students
- 13 Master's level Practicum Students
- 35 Undergraduate Fieldworkers
- 2 Psychiatry Fellows
- 6 Family Practice Residents
- 9 Nursing Students



RESEARCH

In FY 2021, the DDDC engaged in the following academic endeavors:



3 Peer Reviewed Publications



10 Doctoral Student Dissertation Support



13 Professional Symposia



6 Book Chapters

COMMUNITY TRAINING

In FY 2021, the DDDC provided training to 500 people through:



4 Conference Symposia/Papers



9 Professional Workshops/Invited Presentations

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The DDDC provides training and consultation services in the community.



School Consultation
226 Hours



Home-Based
525 Hours



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Staff

Alex Abrantes
Katie Accordino
Megan Ambrosy
Meredith Bammond
Shelley Bertino
Marlene Brown
Jenna Budge
Nadine Byczkowzki
Bethany Carlson
Robyn Cohen
Jilesa Cowan
Megan Dent
Cat Francis
Dhanalakshmi
Eagambaram
Kate Fiske
Termerra Fournoy
Lara Gatley
Peter Gencarelli
Mike Gianotti
Sharon Grant
Victoria Grenci
Ileana Guerero
Rion Hoffman
Eileen Jennings
Arlena Jordan
Karen Keenan
Caitlin Kehoe
Bob LaRue
Deborah Lee
Matt Lucciola
Isabella Massaro
Margaret Mateyka
Jackie Molnar
Esther Nam
Debra Paone
Laura Peterson
Jessica Plucinsky
Jackeline Rodriguez

Ingrid Rodriguez
Jaspreet Singh
Donna Sloan
Surina Stepien
Faith Torres
Karly Unger
Renee VanNess
Karishma Vashwani
Cristina Webb

Parent/family members current students/clients

Melissa Alvarez
Christopher Austin
Linda Austin
Stephanie Basile
Jim Christy
Dan Clemente
Kathy Downey
Jen Frantz
Tom Frantz
Donald Gordon
Lisa Horrocks
Ed Jacobson
Matt Mester
Laura/Bill Myers
Leslie Newport
Sue Penyak
William Richardson
Liz Shain
Lisa Singer
Diana Slinsky
Dion VanderVoort
Marguerite Walsh
Julie White
Sally Yockman
Layla Zagey

Former Staff

Maria Arnold
Craig Domanski
Robin Hussey
Robert Isenhower
Michele LaRocca
Christopher Manente
Janet Matthews
Jim Maraventano
Josh Milstein
Patrick Nardella
Daniel Park
Kim Sloman
Lisa Toole
Kristina Truet
Jackie Weber

Friends of the DDDC

Emily Accordino
Matthew Ayres
Bruce Bammond
Nick Bammond
Tanya Beauchamp
Joseph Bertino
Jeremy Bond
Tara Mae Budge
Janice Crawford
Siddesh Dabholkar
John Darragh
Mark Darragh
Orion DeChristafano
Kaitlyn Delehanty
Leonard Delmolino
Lorraine Delmolino
Aniket Despande
Claire Drootin
Andrea Escoffrey
Harrison Escoffrey
Garrett Escoffrey
George Escoffrey

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

continued,

Mitchell Ferges

Dona Forman

Thomas Francis

Linda Gencarelli

Selena Gironda

Michael Gourlay

Barbara Hawke

Cynthia Healy

Nathaniel Hettrick

Daniel Higgins

Christopher Holte

Ariel Ijaduola

Kelly Jones

Marian Kapp

Maria Kehoe

Owen Kehoe

Will Kehoe

Jillian Kimberlin

Jaye Kogut

Jonathan Koffler

Jean Koziel

Bhashkar Krishnan

Ivelise Laguer

Ha Lee

Lucciola Family

Brianna Lucciola

Denis Massey

Pat Massey

Sean Massey

Leslie Malachi

Courtney McDermott

Barbara Miller

Mark Mitchell

Suh Nam

Ryan Neavil

Nicole Newman

Jordan Newman

Todd O'Connor

Roseann O'Toole

Anthony Paoello

Camila Patino

Sebastian Patino

Catherine Peterson

Craig Peterson

Carol Plucinsky

Yigal Rechtman

Marnita Robertson

Michelle Robertson

Sherrin Richards

Glenn Roemich

Benji Rodriguez

Marlon Russo

Michael Rutkowski

Lisa Scalatella

Sandra Scarlatella

Tracey Scatterday

Francis Schwarz

Lisa Shatz

Laura Simone

Michael Storer

Beth Troiano

David Zangaro

Endowments & Other Donors

Alderman Family

C&C Club (Cultural &

Charitable Club of

Somerset Run)

Henriquez Family

Franz/Lawrence Family

Jan Handleman/Arlen

Families

Mannello Family

Edith Neimark

Sandra Harris

Michael Powers

Thank
you

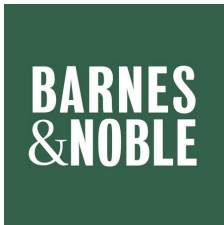


DONATE



Thank You!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



C&C Club of Somerset Run --Somerset, NJ
 Barnes and Noble at Rutgers University
 Edison Elks Club
 Goodwill Industries -- East Brunswick, NJ; Springfield, NJ; Bound Brook, NJ
 First Reform Church -- New Brunswick, NJ
 Fish Hospitality Program, Inc. -- Dunellen, NJ
 Francis E. Parker Memorial Home -- Piscataway, NJ
 Longhorn Steak House -- North Brunswick, NJ
 Men with Mops Customers: Cedar Village -- East Brunswick, NJ
 Global Insurance Company -- Metuchen, NJ
 Private Homeowners In Middlesex County
 Raritan Valley YMCA -- East Brunswick, NJ
 The Farmers Market at Rutgers Garden
 Rutgers, Give Where You Live Program
 Rutgers Dining Services
 Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Horticulture Program

RESEARCH PARTNERS



The New England
Center for Children®

Autism Education and Research



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Autism Partnership
 New England Center for Autism
 Scott Center at the Florida Institute of Technology
 University of Wisconsin

OUR TEAM

Faculty

Ryan J. Kettler

Ph.D., NCSP Interim Dean of Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

Lara Delmolino Gatley

Ph.D., BCBA-D, Executive Director of DDDC/Associate Dean of GSAPP

Kate Fiske

Ph.D., BCBA-D, Director of Family Support Services/Director of Academic Training

Robert H. LaRue

Ph.D., BCBA-D, Director of Behavioral Services

Staff

Catriona Francis

Ed.M., BCBA, Director of DDDC

Debra Paone

Ph.D., BCBA-D, Director of Training and Consultation

Marlene Brown

M.S., BCBA, LBA (NY) Associate Director of Consultation and Communications

Barbara Kristoff

Ed.D., CCC-SLP, BCBA-D, Assistant Director/ Principal of Douglass School

Donna L. Sloan

M.A., BCBA, Assistant Director of Douglass Adult Program & Douglass School

Jill Atschinow

Senior Department Administrator

CONTACT US

Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
151 Ryders Lane/25 Gibbons Circle
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-8557



848-932-4500



732-932-4509



dddc.rutgers.edu