



West Virginia University®

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES



Annual Report

20
23

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

ABOUT the WVU CED

The West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVU CED) is a federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). We are part of a national network of similar centers across the country and serve as a resource to the community in the areas of education, research and service as it relates to the needs of people with disabilities. As a unit within West Virginia University, we also provide multiple services and training programs for students and professionals to make an impact through education, healthcare, leadership and advocacy.

The WVU CED is composed of 9 programs, 5 clinics and 3 initiatives.

Services at the WVU CED are designed to increase the independence of all West Virginians with disabilities so they can enjoy an improved quality of life.

Learn more about CED services at:
<https://cedwvu.org/about-ced/programs/>.

More than 75 employees make up the WVU CED Team.

Team members are housed at the main office in Morgantown, West Virginia near the main campus of WVU, in Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) offices throughout the state, and at our office in the southern portion of West Virginia which moved into a new building in South Charleston. Three additional employees became the first three faculty positions within the center after being approved as the Department of Disability Services within the School of Medicine, Professional Programs. Faculty represent occupational therapy, speech pathology and audiology, biostatistics/epidemiology, pediatrics, and developmental psychology. Lastly, our center affiliates list has increased by 10%, which is attributed to our efforts to increase outreach and collaborations with partners within the state.

Message from the Director

Dear Reader,

The WVU CED has been a prominent disability network partner in WV for more than 40 years! Our mission is to contribute to the direct services and training opportunities in WV for individuals with disabilities and their families. We also work hard to contribute to national, and international research to push all of us to incorporate evidence-based programming, designs, and new approaches in our work with individuals with disabilities. Sharing information from partners within the state, across the nation, and across the globe is also an important piece of our mission.

Our services continue to focus on all individuals, regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion. We continue to work with experts from the University and elsewhere to expand our language access to provide services to those who need additional access supports. Our programs, clinics, and initiatives examine issues related to all disabilities and we consider how one's lived experiences evolve over time.

In 2022-23, we completed the first year of another 5-year competitive award cycle. This was an exciting period in which we specifically pushed ourselves to provide services in the following four areas: access to quality healthcare; health and wellness; employment; and transitions. These areas represent needs highlighted by our disability network partners, our advisory committee, self-advocates, families, and data. In this annual report, we have highlighted just a few examples of the good work being done by our team across the state. I encourage you to visit our website <https://cedwvu.org/> for more details about these and other activities at the WVU CED – or to stop by and visit us in one of our branch offices.

Thank you –

Lesley



Dr. Lesley Cottrell, PhD

The **WVU CED** contributes to West Virginia University's **TEACHING, SERVICE AND RESEARCH missions**. Below are examples of highlights within each domain that occurred this year.

TEACHING

- Became home to the WVU Department of Disability Services that offers a minor and undergraduate certificate in Disability Studies as well as micro-credentials for students, faculty and staff.
- Created three faculty positions within the CED.
- Received national accreditation for the WVU Country Roads college program for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
- Offered interdisciplinary training and observation opportunities to WVU students through internships, practicums, field placements and long-term training mentorships.
- Provided training to health science students to improve care to patients with disabilities.
- Created an adapted dance instructor training program.
- Collaborated with partners to provide first responder trainings.

RESEARCH

- Coordinated WVU Medicine Children's Hospital Research Consortium meetings and clinical research efforts.
- Served on the WVU Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- Collaborated with the WVU Medicine Cancer Institute to recruit participants for HPV survey and consulted on future research project implementation.
- Lead the RECOVER pediatric COVID clinical program in West Virginia.
- Lead the IMPACT WV research study on patient navigation among families impacted by neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) or substance exposure in utero.
- Reviewed charts to study the transition of care from pediatric to adult medicine provider for patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Participated in the IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network (ISPCTN) neurodevelopment work group at WVU.

SERVICE

- Continued programming and services to increase independence of individuals with disabilities in West Virginia.
- Instituted weekly case reviews to improve client services and coordination.
- Offered community mental health counseling sessions.
- Partnered with the WVU Division of Occupational Therapy on the Go Baby Go project to give away modified, ride-on cars to young children with disabilities.
- Developed an expedited version of the Ohio State University traumatic brain injury screening tool.
- Opened new foster care homes for individuals with disabilities through the Specialized Family Care program.
- Led support groups for families of children with disabilities.

536
students

5,270
clients

54
research projects

1,143
community trainings

Highlights of 2022-2023

Brazelton Training Center (Training)

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center Learning Network has certified the WVU CED as a new training site with faculty from the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry and the WVU School of Nursing. The new designation allows the WVU CED to provide Brazelton's international training curriculum to support West Virginia families in recovery and their children who have experienced prenatal exposure.

Brazelton Touchpoints is an evidence-based approach to building strengths-based, collaborative family-provider partnerships in service of strong, healthy family-child relationships from before birth throughout early childhood. The Brazelton Touchpoints Center has collaborated with the IMPACT WV program at the WVU CED to make training opportunities like this one available to the state's community of family-facing providers.



New podcast launched: Adjusting the Sails (Dissemination)

Adjusting the Sails is a podcast about the lives and specific challenges children with special healthcare needs and other disabilities face along with their families, caregivers and service providers, and how to manage those challenges. The podcast is a platform for all disability-related topics to be discussed and serves as a mediator between families and caregivers, allowing them to share their stories and experiences. Adjusting the Sails features guest speakers, panelists and a variety of program representatives and service providers to offer education and training to the listener.

CED launches new disability micro-credentials/badges (Interdisciplinary Training)

The WVU CED developed a new way for students, faculty and staff from across the country to learn about disabilities and disability services and supports. New micro-credentials (badges) are available in Disability Inclusion Identity, Disability Awareness, Disability Advocacy, Disability Impact and a specialized one for Country Roads students.





Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation grant expands accessible biking opportunities (Research)

The West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS) program at the WVU CED created the “Adventure is for Everyone” project thanks to funding from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. This project is increasing ways for individuals with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairments to participate in outdoor sports by having access to adaptive hand cycles. WVATS is partnering with Wamsley Cycles in Morgantown and the Challenged Athletes of West Virginia at Snowshoe Mountain Resort in Snowshoe, West Virginia to house the new accessible bikes and make them available for people to borrow. By housing the bikes with places that offer both traditional and adapted bikes in one location, friends and families can have an inclusive recreation experience. The equipment provided by the grant will increase opportunities for individuals to experience outdoor adventures without barriers, which also increases inclusive activity opportunities for family and friends. WVATS will track usage as a part of analyzing the need for outdoor recreation for people with disabilities in West Virginia.

Mental health services are now available through the CED (Direct Services)

Mental Health Services are now available at the WVU CED for individuals with disabilities and their families. The CED’s new mental health specialist offers individual, group and family counseling sessions in person and virtually to allow statewide coverage. Support services are also available to providers and community agencies for technical assistance to better serve individuals with disabilities and mental health conditions.

Our Reach



6,651 direct service hours

84 technical assistance activities provided to
1,156 participants totaling **526** hours

63,005 products disseminated to
an audience of **637,324** people

Research publications

Acord-Vira A, et. Al. **Education and Skill-Building Interventions for Caregivers of Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393090. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2009. PMID: 36166577.

Acord-Vira A, et. Al. **Health and Well-Being Interventions for Caregivers of Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393100. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2010. PMID: 36166578.

Acord-Vira A, et. Al. **Relationship Building Interventions for Caregivers of Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393110. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2011. PMID: 36166574.

Boatman D, et. Al. **Cancer screening behaviors and associations with childhood trauma, resiliency, and patient-provider relationships: findings from an exploratory study of Appalachian cervical cancer survivors**. J Appalach Health 2023;5(1):22–37. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13023/jah.0501.03>.

Devlin LA, et. Al. **The Influence of Mediators on the Relationship Between Antenatal Opioid Agonist Exposure and the Severity of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome**. Matern Child Health J. 2023 Jun;27(6):1030-1042. Doi: 10.1007/s10995-022-03521-3. Epub 2023 Mar 11. PMID: 36905529; PMCID: PMC10323767.

Gross R, et.al. **Researching COVID to enhance recovery (RECOVER) pediatric study protocol: Rationale, objectives and design**. medRxiv [Preprint]. 2023 May 12:2023.04.27.23289228. doi: 10.1101/2023.04.27.23289228. Update in: PloS One. 2023 Jun 23;18(6):e0286297. PMID: 37214806; PMCID: PMC10197716.

Heck SJ, et. Al. **Sex differences in college students' knowledge of concussion and concussion education sources**. Concussion. 2023 May 3;8(3):CNC108. Doi: 10.2217/cnc-2023-0001. PMID: 37691852; PMCID: PMC10488458.

Jones DL, et. Al. **Adaptation of an evidence-based, fall-prevention, Tai Ji Quan exercise program for adults with traumatic brain injury: focus group results**. Physiother Theory Pract. 2022 Sep 14:1-9. Doi: 10.1080/09593985.2022.2120788. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36103634.

Mallow J, et. Al. **Feasibility and Acceptability of Community-Based Telehealth to Prevent Long-Term Care Readmission**. Telemed Rep. 2023 Jun 26;4(1):135-146. Doi: 10.1089/tmr.2022.0040. PMID: 37771699; PMCID: PMC10523410.

Nguyen L, et. Al. **Rural Family Satisfaction with Telehealth Delivery of an Intervention for Pediatric Obesity and Associated Family Characteristics**. Child Obes. 2023 Apr 10. Doi: 10.1089/chi.2022.0210. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37036783.

Scaife, B. et.al. (2022). **Long term care and autism: A neurodiversity approach**. SIS Quarterly Practice Connections, 7(3).

Watson SE, et. Al. **Facilitators and barriers to pediatric clinical trial recruitment and retention in rural and community settings: A scoping review of the literature**. Clin Transl Sci. 2022 Apr;15(4):838-853. Doi: 10.1111/cts.13220. Epub 2022 Jan 21. PMID: 35037409; PMCID: PMC9010274.

Wheeler, S. & Acord-Vira, A. **Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury**. Am J Occup Ther July/August 2023, Vol. 77(4), 7704397010. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.077401>

Wheeler S, et. Al. **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Interventions for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393160. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2016. PMID: 36166576.

Wheeler S, et. Al. **Education and Skills Training Interventions for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) (Dates of Review: 2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393120. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2012. PMID: 36166582.

Wheeler S, et. Al. **Goal- and Client-Directed Interventions for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393130. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2013. PMID: 36166575.

Wheeler, S. et. Al. (2022) **Neurodiversity and client centered occupational therapy to support meaningful employment for autistic persons**. SIS Quarterly Practice Connections, 7(3).

Wheeler S, et. Al. **Physical Activity Interventions for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393140. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2014. PMID: 36166581.

Wheeler S, et. Al. **Self-Regulation and Relaxation-Based Interventions for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury (2013-2020)**. Am J Occup Ther. 2022 Sep 1;76(Suppl 2):7613393150. Doi: 10.5014/ajot.2022/76S2015. PMID: 36166583.

Grants and Contracts

In this fiscal year, the CED leveraged **\$7,809,473** in funding from 19 state, federal and foundation grants.

Sources of Funding

Federal funding ●

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),
Administration for Community Living (ACL),
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities (AIDD)**

University Centers for Excellence in
Developmental Disabilities Education, Research
and Services (UCEDD) West Virginia Assistive
Technology System (WVATS)

West Virginia Traumatic Brain Injury Mentor

Public Health Workforce

Expanding Disabilities Network Access to
COVID-19 Vaccines

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),

**Health Resources and Services Administration
(HRSA),**

Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental
Disabilities (LEND)

Appalachian Rural Health Integration Model
(ARHIM)

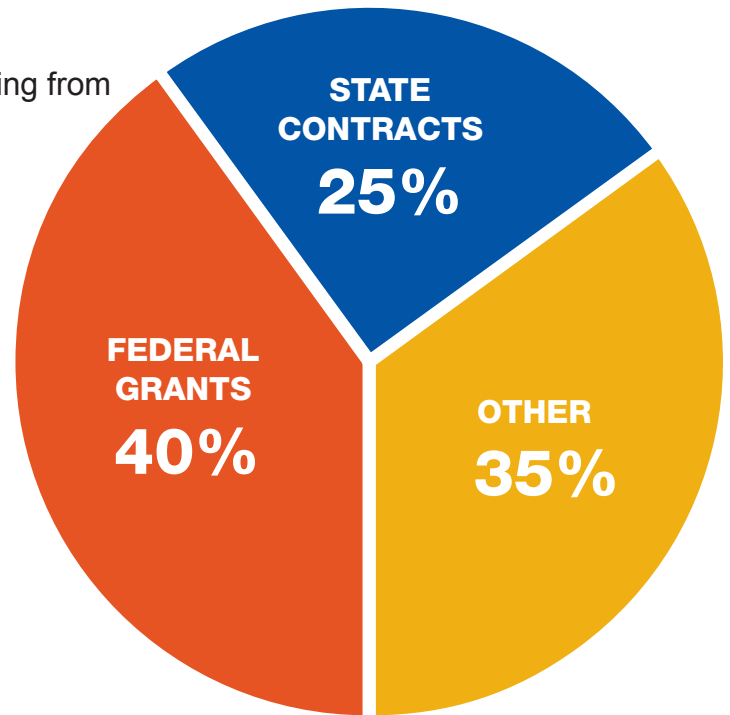
West Virginia Family-to-Family Health Information
Center Network (F2F)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),

Social Security Administration (SSA),

Office of Acquisition and Grants (OAG)

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)



State funding ●

**Department of Health and Human
Resources (DHHR)**

Specialized Family Care (SFC)

Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

Traumatic Brain Injury Program (TBI)

Paths for Parents (P4P)

Mentoring and Oversight for Developing
Independence with Foster Youth (MODIFY)

Regional Transition Navigator Services
(RTNS)

Other funding ●

Adventure is for Everyone

Accountable Health Communities

Project SCOPE

Navigating Healthcare Transitions from
Pediatrics to Adult Care

Mid-Atlantic Assistive Technology
Champions



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CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES

WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer – Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran. 10/23