

## **Greetings from Director Jean Hall**



Greetings, All! I am incredibly excited to have joined the RTC/IL team in July of this year. I had to hit the ground running because the center has been extremely busy lately, as the stories below illustrate. The RTC's main efforts currently focus on activities related to our Promoting Interventions for Community Living (RTC/PICL) grant, which is testing two interventions delivered through centers for independent living to support meaningful community participation for people with disabilities.

I also bring three grants with me to the RTC, which focus on improved educational and employment outcomes for youth with disabilities, access to physical activity and health promotion services for people with disabilities, and experiences of people with disabilities with health reform initiatives under the Affordable Care Act. In sum, all of this work focuses on empowering people with disabilities to live independently, be active in their communities, and experience improved health and quality of life. Even though it has been almost 50 years since Ed Roberts and the Rolling Quads successfully advocated for the first curb cut, much work remains to be done to ensure that all people with disabilities can be full and equal participants in their communities. The RTC/IL will be there to help in the effort.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Glen White, who retired in March as RTC Director, a position he held since 2002. His commitment to the work of the center and to independent living helped make the RTC successful. I hope that my entire career (starting at a center for independent living) and personal life experiences with disability have prepared me for this new role, and I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me or any of the RTC staff if you have questions about our work or we can provide technical assistance. Thank you for your interest in and support of the RTC!

## **Register for Systematic Review Webinar on Oct. 29**



All are invited to attend a webinar on "Multifaceted Interventions for Supporting Community Participation Among Adults with Disabilities: A Systematic Review" on Oct. 29 at 2-3 pm Eastern time.

Judith Gross and Amalia Monroe-Gulick conducted the systematic review as part of the Research and Training Center on Promoting Interventions for

Community Living, with technical assistance from the Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (KTDRR), which is hosting the webinar.

This systematic review contributes to RTC/PICL's research to identify multifaceted interventions that are effective in facilitating increased community participation for adults with disabilities. The findings may help service providers understand and apply multifaceted interventions that support adults with disabilities. The results also inform researchers and policymakers about current gaps in the research knowledge base.

Register at <http://ktdrr.org/training/webcasts/webcast63/index.html>. The webinar will be archived online.

### **Hodgesmith Retires – and Continues as Volunteer**



Congratulations to Martha Hodgesmith, who retired on Sept. 30 from her role as associate director of the center after 15 years. Her long history of involvement with the independent living movement and her legal expertise on disability policy brought valuable context to the RTC's research and trainings. She continually explored new ways for the center's work to benefit the lives of people with disabilities and, as the leader of our knowledge translation work, she established fruitful connections with many individuals and organizations both nationally and locally.

Hodgesmith will now be a volunteer working to archive the RTC's files of almost 40 years so that future researchers will have easy access to them at KU's Spencer Research Library.

### **Nary Recognized at National and Statewide Conferences**



Congratulations to Dot Nary, who received three well-deserved awards this year for her work as an advocate and mentor. At the National Council on Independent Living conference in July, she was awarded the Regional Advocacy Award for Region VII.

State groups also expressed their appreciation. The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum recognized her with their Mentoring Matters Award on July 12, and at the Kansas Disability Caucus on Aug. 10, she received the Grassroots Advocate Award. Her passion for disability rights and equity for all continue to inspire her colleagues and friends.

*Pictured: Nary (right) received the Kansas Youth Leadership Mentoring Matters Award from Carrie Greenwood (left) and Julia Connellis.*

## New Resource Available for "Making Homes Visitable"



All too often, steps and other environmental barriers contribute to social isolation for people who use mobility devices. Dot Nary and colleagues have produced [Making Homes Visitable: A Guide for Wheelchair Users and Hosts](#), which provides tips for making visits possible.

The resource offers ideas for how to start a conversation about visiting, which is often the first step to including everyone in a party or gathering. Worksheets for the wheelchair user and host guide them in providing the essential information to each other, and possible solutions are offered with a barrier checklist.

## Facts Sheets on Disability Legislation Help Consumers Know Their Rights

Staff in the [RTC/PICL](#) created six fact sheets about disability laws as part of the “Out and About” intervention, which assists consumers in setting community participation goals and addressing barriers to participation. These topics were selected as a result of national survey of centers for independent living, and members of the center’s Scientist-Consumer Advisory Panel provided feedback on the content.

Each fact sheet includes one or two scenarios that illustrate how understanding disability legislation enables people with disabilities to advocate for change. An additional fact sheet offers information on how to build a support network.

- [Americans with Disabilities Act Fact Sheet](#)
- [2010 Standards for Accessible Design Fact Sheet](#)
- [Fair Housing Act Fact Sheet](#)
- [Olmstead U.S. Supreme Court Decision Fact Sheet](#)
- [Affordable Care Act Fact Sheet](#)
- [Help America Vote Act Fact Sheet](#)
- [Social Support and Networking Fact Sheet](#)

## Publications

Jean Hall and colleagues published "[Medicaid Expansion as an Employment Incentive Program for People With Disabilities](#)" in the *American Journal of Public Health* (Sept. 2018). *U.S. News & World Report* featured the study’s findings that there is a higher rate of employment among people with disabilities in states where Medicaid has been expanded. In September, Hall also presented this research at an interdisciplinary KU forum called “Red Hot Research.”

Hall and colleagues also published "[Oral Health Needs and Experiences of Medicaid Enrollees with Serious Mental Illness](#)" in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (online August 2018). This study investigated the experiences of Kansas Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness in accessing dental services, examined their oral health risk factors, and identified oral health needs and outcomes.

## Presentations

Thanks to all who visited our exhibit at the NCIL conference in July and, in advance, to those of you who will visit us at the APRIL conference in October. RTC/PICL research partners gave and are scheduled to give these presentations:

- Hayley Steinlage and Spencer Neal from The Whole Person presented “Participating (Not Just Living) in the Community!” at NCIL.
- Hayley Steinlage, Lillie Greiman and Bronwyn Troutman from Summit Independent Living Center will present “Expanding the Reach of the IL Philosophy: Building Successful Community Partnerships” at APRIL.
- Craig Ravesloot, Lillie Greiman and Rayna Sage will present “Cutting Edge IL Research on Rural Community Living” at APRIL.

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