

We wish you a happy Thanksgiving!



Greetings from the Research & Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) at the University of Kansas. The RTC/IL is committed to supporting centers for independent living and other community-based organizations that serve people with disabilities in their work. This update informs you about products and research that you and your staff may find useful.

New Center Focuses on Community Living

We're delighted to announce that our work to increase community participation will continue in a new center: **The Research and Training Center on Community Living.**

The RTC/IL received a five-year, \$4.25 million grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to help people with disabilities live in and participate more fully in their communities. The staff for this center includes disability researchers from KU, the University of New Hampshire, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Montana.

Plus, a **Scientific and Consumer Advisory Panel** will help us keep the work relevant to the needs of people with disabilities. We also hope to collaborate with many of you on the research projects included in this center. Please visit our emerging [RTC/CL webpage](#) for more info.

More Videos: Sharing Our Collaborations



We've added another video to our YouTube channel, with thanks again to Audrey Schremmer-Philip, Executive Director of Three Rivers CIL in Wamego.

In [Living Well with a Disability: One CIL's Success Story](#), she talks about the ways Three Rivers has adapted the health promotion program for consumers of various ages and backgrounds.

Our DisabilityReady program has added videos in which our staff present information and share their experiences:

- [Emergency Preparedness Tips for People with Disabilities](#) - Cat Howland
- [Living Well With a Disability](#) - Leslie Schmille

- [Dot Nary: The ADA and Me](#)
- [Martha Hodgesmith: The ADA and Me](#)

Do Your Healthcare Providers Know . . . ?

- That tax incentives are available to buy adjustable height exam tables and accessible scales?
- That they can deduct remodeling expenses to improve access for people with disabilities?

Our new [fact sheet “How to Make Your Medical Office More Accessible to People with Disabilities”](#) gives information on these subjects, along with tips on how to hire sign language interpreters, how to make alternate formats for patient education materials and more.

This is just one of the [disability resources for physicians and other healthcare providers](#) you can find on our website. These resources are part of our ongoing work to improve access to healthcare, which includes these recent activities:

- Dr. Amanda Reichard was invited to present information on “Disability – ADA Standards and Resources” at the Kansas Quality of Care Project Learning Workshop on Oct. 14. Due to illness that day, Dr. Dot Nary graciously presented instead. Some 90 physicians and other clinicians attended the talk, representing primary care clinics from around the state.
- **The Whole Person** in Kansas City held an Infrastructure meeting as part of their participation in the [Community Engagement Initiative](#) (CEI) to identify and remove barriers to healthcare access for people with disabilities.
- **Independence Inc.** in Lawrence is also working on the CEI, focusing on outreach to improve communication with healthcare providers.
- We’re partnering with [The Disability Rights Center of Kansas](#) to hold six Town Hall meetings across the state, funded by a grant from the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. The town hall meetings will focus on gathering information about the healthcare experiences of people with developmental disabilities. Stay tuned for a meeting in your area.

College Students Learn Their Rights, Practice Self-Advocacy



Over the past two years, 75 students with disabilities at KU, Kansas State University, Haskell Indian Nations University and Kansas City Kansas Community College have learned about their legal rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) through our ADA Accommodations Training Project.

The students also learned how to advocate for themselves through role-playing and other skill-building exercises, as shown in this photo from the Kansas State session. Dr. Glen White, Dr. Jean Ann Summers and Leslie Schmille are conducting the NIDRR-funded research development project.

[Visit our website](#) to learn more.

Glen White Takes CIL Research to Asia

Which CIL services are most important in South Korea and Japan? Dr. Glen White is collaborating with Visiting Scholar Kyung Mee Kim, PhD, and recent KU graduate Chiaki Gonda Kotani, MA, to replicate research in those countries that has been conducted in the U.S.

The international research team is working with national CIL organization directors in Japan and Korea to survey independent living center staff about how they rank various services offered by their organizations.

See [R-5 on our MICL website](#) for results from American CIL staff members who were surveyed about how they rank their centers' services in terms of importance and their levels of satisfaction. The stateside project is now surveying consumers to learn which CIL services they value most highly.

Amanda Reichard's Health Disparities Research Makes News

Dr. Amanda Reichard's health disparities research was featured by the University of Kansas in an article titled "[Preventive care can boost results, shrink price tag of Kansas Medicaid.](#)" The story was picked up on a national level by Kaiser Health News and by numerous news organizations in Kansas and Missouri.

You can also listen to a short audio piece about her research titled "[Medicaid in Kansas](#)" on KU's "Research Matters" website.

Martha Hodgesmith Joins ADRC Board

Martha Hodgesmith, JD, has been invited to join the Kansas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Advisory Board. As an advisor, she'll help guide the agency in the process of implementing its vision and strategic plan.

Dot Nary Receives Fellowship to Study Visitability

Dot Nary, PhD, has won a Switzer Fellowship from NIDRR, which will support her research project: "Is there really no place like home? An exploratory study of the impact of non-visitable homes on wheelchair users."

The qualitative study will allow Dr. Nary to interview wheelchair users about their experiences in visiting the homes of family members, friends, etc. She will use the data to document barriers that limit the participation of people with disabilities in their communities. Her study may also support the "visitability" policy initiative, which proposes ordinances that all new single family homes be built with accessibility features.

Have You Been Recognized?

Congratulations to the Whole Person in Kansas City. Their local Fox 4 TV station did a feature story

on how they helped a child with Down syndrome learn to communicate through sign language.

Do you have kudos to share? Let us know and we'll spread the word through our Facebook pages ([RTC/IL](#) and Living Well with a Disability).

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