As the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) for South Carolina we are proud to serve as a bridge between the university and the community for the benefit of people with intellectual, developmental and related disabilities. Our efforts focus on addressing meaningful issues, finding solutions and advancing research related to the needs of people with disabilities and their families. We recognize that people with developmental disabilities have the right to live independently, exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their community through full integration and inclusion.

Our mission is to enhance the well-being and quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families.

We collaborate with persons with disabilities, their families, and organizations to develop new knowledge and best practices, train leaders, and affect systems change.

CDR is a member of the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD).

Please free to contact us with any questions that you may have about the Center for Disability Resources, or about developmental disabilities in general.

Center for Disability Resources
USC School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics
Columbia, SC 29208

Website: http://uscm.med.sc.edu/cdrhome/

Phone: 803-935-5231
Fax: 803-935-5059

Trainee Opportunities

The training opportunities offered to university students at the Center for Disability Resources are created to provide the individual student with a learning environment that fits his/her interests. We strive to make this a mutually beneficial experience for both the student and the staff who supervises them. Internship requirements vary by academic program as well as by project placement. We currently supervise students who are attending the University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University and Winthrop University.

What type of student do we look for?
- Motivated
- Passionate
- Committed
- Responsible
- Mature

What disciplines are represented by our interns?
- Social Work
- Genetic Counseling
- Public Health
- Speech/Language Pathology
- School Psychology
- Pediatrics

“As a former UCEDD and LEND trainee, I received the opportunity to network with statewide leaders in the disability field and to engage in truly meaningful work that has made a lasting impact on both my personal and professional development.”

-Rebecca Wells, MSW, MPH
What We Do

Our History: The Center for Disability Resources traces its roots to 1974 when it began as a Developmental Disabilities Council funded collaborative effort between the University of South Carolina and Winthrop College, becoming a University Affiliated Program in 1975. In 1992 it was reorganized solely at USC School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. In the past decade we became recognized by the federal government as a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and relocated to three buildings on Farrow Road in northeast Columbia. With approximately $4.5 million in annual funding from grants and contracts, we take great pride in ongoing achievements that benefit people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the organizations that provide them supports.

Individuals Motivating People to Achieve Change Together (IMPACT)

IMPACT is the state-wide self-advocacy council in South Carolina. A CDR staff member provides support to the group’s leaders as needed to assist with the growth and functioning of the group. IMPACT SC members present and attend statewide and national conferences and represent our state by participating in various committees to address issues, such as, transportation and voting rights. IMPACT SC believes in encouraging positive change for people with disabilities through working together to enhance lives while making a stand for change.

Contact:
Kristi Hartwell * 803-935-5947
kristi.hartwell@uscmed.sc.edu

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

This effort implements the SIS, a validated assessment that measures an individual’s support needs in personal, work-related, and social activities in order to identify and describe the types and intensity of the supports an individual with intellectual/developmental disabilities requires to succeed in a community setting. The SIS was designed to be part of person-centered planning processes that help all individuals identify their unique preferences, skills, and life goals.

Contact:
Doreen Chapel * 803-546-3416
doreen.chapel@uscmed.sc.edu

The Team for Early Childhood Solutions (TECS)

TECS conducts key activities for South Carolina’s statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families (BabyNet). These include: Managing the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD); maintaining the database for the BabyNet System Personnel Credential enabling BabyNet to ensure that providers of early intervention services meet the state’s personnel standards; and researching and reporting information on Child and Family Outcomes that measure the efficacy of early intervention efforts in South Carolina, assisting BabyNet in meeting federal reporting requirements.

Contact:
Stephanie Hicklin * (803) 935-5270
stephanie.hicklin@uscmed.sc.edu
TECS Website: http://uscm.med.sc.edu/tecs/index.asp

Secondary Transition Projects at CDR

CDR currently implements two different secondary transition grants. The first is the South Carolina Transition and Employment Advancement Model (SC-TEAM). The second is the Expansion of the Transition Alliance of South Carolina (E-TASC). Both projects aim to: build capacity around implementing evidence-based practices to improve the transition planning process as well as employment outcomes for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Both projects also use Interagency Transition Teams to improve post-school outcomes for students with disabilities.

Contact:
Joy Ivester * 803-935-5279
joy.ivester@uscmed.sc.edu

South Carolina Act Early Team

The SC Act Early Team is an autism-focused effort of key stakeholders improving on a national initiative to enhance services in South Carolina. It’s mission is to provide focused collaboration among leaders representing professionals, state agencies, universities, healthcare systems, private organizations, and families to improve the quality of life for children, youth, and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families and to create and maintain a repository of information on evidence-based autism practices for use in South Carolina.

Contact:
Dr. David Rotholz * 803-935-7819
david.rotholz@uscmed.sc.edu

The Center for Disability Resources Library

The CDR library is the largest collection of its kind in the Southeastern United States. Designed to aid the information needs of families, faculty, students, staff, and other professionals working with individuals with disabilities, the Center for Disability Resources Library consists of over 5,300 books, videos, brochures, and audiobooks covering a variety of disability-related topics. The library's website provides access to an online catalog of library materials and directs users to additional high quality disability related resources.

Contact:
Steve Wilson * 803-216-3206
steve.wilson@uscmed.sc.edu
Library website:
http://uscm.med.sc.edu/CDR/index.asp

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP)

The SCATP is a part of a national network of technology-related assistance programs. The goal of the SCATP is to enhance independence, productivity and quality of life for all South Carolinians through access to assistive technology devices and services. SCATP provides training, technical assistance and works with consumers, service providers, state agencies and policy makers to support children and adults with disabilities in their efforts to acquire and use technology as a routine part of day-to-day living.

Contact:
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carol.page@uscmed.sc.edu
SCATP Website: http://www.sc.edu/scatp