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Acknowledgments

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Developmental Disabilities Network Journal

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Journal Subject Area: The DDNJ publishes high-quality research and evaluation about the multiple systems that serve individuals with disabilities and their families. Central to these systems is the "Developmental Disabilities Network," a group of federally designated programs in each U.S. state and territory, that provide advocacy, training, research, and service focused on the unique needs of people with disabilities and their families. This journal specifically highlights programs, practices, and policies that encourage the full inclusion of people with disabilities in communities and all aspects of

public life.

Advertisements: The DDNJ accepts digital advertisements. For advertising rates and specifications, contact editor.ddnj@usu.edu.

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Acknowledgments

We are excited to share this latest issue of DDNJ with you! This is an open issue that covers a wide-range of topics, as opposed to the special focused issues that we have started putting out each fall/winter. This particular issue is a catch-up issue with a wide variety of different articles that we have been wanting to publish for a long-time, and some of these authors have been very patient. This is one of the challenges with publishing just twice a year, and we are greatly appreciative to the authors who have patiently worked with us to pull this latest issue together.

As you may have noticed, we have moved into a pattern of partnering with different groups to publish a special issue once every year. Our first special issue was a partnership with the AUCD Council on Research and Evaluation (CORE) and focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our second special issue was a partnership with the AUCD Multicultural Council and was focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We currently have an open call for abstracts for a special issue on co-occurring mental health issues and intellectual/developmental disabilities. This upcoming special issue is a partnership with the [National Research Consortium on Mental Health and Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities](#), and we are hoping that some of you will consider submitting your work for this special issue. We have included the latest Call for Abstracts on the pages following these Acknowledgments.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all individuals and organizations whose contributions made this latest issue of the *Developmental Disabilities Network Journal* possible. The collaborative efforts, expertise, and support provided by these remarkable individuals have enriched the content and ensured the continued success of our journal.

First and foremost, we extend our sincere thanks to the authors who dedicated their time, knowledge, and efforts to researching and writing the insightful articles included in this issue. Your contributions have significantly advanced our understanding of developmental disabilities and inclusive systems of care. These authors' work has the potential to positively impact the lives of countless individuals, families, and professionals who live, learn, and work within our communities.

We are grateful to the reviewers who volunteered their expertise and provided invaluable feedback and constructive criticism to enhance the quality and rigor of the published papers. Your meticulous review process has been instrumental in maintaining the scholarly integrity of our journal and fostering academic excellence. We could not do what we do without your kind dedication of time and insight.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the members of the editorial board and the editorial staff for their unwavering commitment, professionalism, and dedication. Your tireless efforts in managing the submission process, coordinating the peer-review process, and ensuring the smooth publication of the journal have been instrumental in maintaining its high standards. A special

thanks goes to our Managing Editor, Alex Schiwal, and our Copy Editor, Mary Ellen Heiner! Both Alex and Mary Ellen are integral to DDNJ and I am deeply indebted to their tireless efforts to keep the presses rolling.

We are also grateful to the many UCEDDs, LENDs, IDDRCs, DD Councils, and P&As that submit their work to DDNJ, and who share this research with their staff and constituents. The DD Network's commitment to promoting research, advocacy, and collaboration in the field of developmental disabilities has provided a vital platform for the dissemination of knowledge and the exchange of ideas.

Furthermore, we extend our thanks to the USU Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice and the USU Library whose financial and technical support has enabled us to produce this journal. Your investment in research and education has played a crucial role in advancing the field of developmental disabilities and improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Last, we extend our appreciation to our readers, whose engagement and support have been instrumental in the success of the *Developmental Disabilities Network Journal*. Your enthusiasm for the journal and its mission inspires us to continue promoting high-quality research and disseminating knowledge to foster positive change in the field. Research needs readers; otherwise it is just sending data out into the void! We are grateful for your continuous support and encouragement.

We acknowledge that this list is not exhaustive, and we apologize for any unintentional omissions. The collective efforts of everyone involved have made this latest issue of the DDNJ a testament to the collaborative spirit and dedication of the developmental disabilities community.

If you would like to be a reviewer for DDNJ, we would love to add you to our reviewer board. We are seeking individuals with broad expertise in disability research, policy analysis, participatory action research, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are especially interested in recruiting individuals with developmental disabilities, siblings of individuals with disabilities, and/or parents of children with disabilities as reviewers. If you are interested in joining our review board, please send us a short email describing your areas of expertise and any past review experience. If you have a resume or CV, please attach that to the email. Please send emails to editor.ddnj@usu.edu. You can also call us at 435-797-0836 if you need assistance submitting this information.

Thank you so much for reading and supporting the work of DDNJ! We hope that you find value in this issue, and we are interested in your thoughts and feedback. If there are ways that we can make this publication more accessible or inclusive, we want to hear from you. Please send your comments and feedback to editor.ddnj@usu.edu.

Thank you so much.

Matthew T. Wappett, Ph.D.
DDNJ Editor-in-Chief

Call for Abstracts

Winter 2023-2024 Special Issue:
Mental Health Aspects of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Many individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who have mental health needs, receive ineffective services and supports. One dimension of supports that is often overlooked by both providers and researchers is wellbeing among persons with IDD. Without attending to a person's strengths and addressing gaps in basic human needs, such as enhancing social relationships and helping one achieve meaning, it is quite difficult for persons with IDD to flourish. Discrimination and trauma also play a significant role in the lives of people with IDD, which can contribute to an increase in mental health needs. While new opportunities for integrated mental health services, improvements in diagnosis and treatment, and the advent of positive psychological and strength-based practices offers significant promises, greater research and dissemination of information on best practices is needed.

Our Winter 2023-2024 special issue will be dedicated to the wellbeing and mental health aspects of persons with IDD. We are interested in all facets of this topic, with a particular focus on engagement with people with IDD, integrated wellbeing and mental health assessment and treatment approaches, inclusive research, and positive mental health. We welcome abstracts that explore all aspects of wellbeing and mental health research within the context of the lived experience of persons with disabilities, their families, and the communities in which they live – in all states, territories, and tribal nations. This may include, but is not limited to: (1) measurement, (2) services, (3) treatments and approaches, (4) strengths-based research, (5) well-being and life satisfaction, (6) intersectionality, (7) program evaluation, (8) cohort and longitudinal studies, and (9) lived experiences. We need to know not only the problems, but also solutions moving forward. We welcome both quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as the intersection of the two through mixed methods.

We are specifically interested in seeing work on the following topics that involve persons with an IDD:

- How strengths are identified and activated
- The inclusion of persons with the lived experience of IDD in the provision of all aspects of their wellbeing, mental health treatment and support
- Effective program models
- How to engage persons with lived experience of IDD and their families in all aspects of wellbeing and mental health research
- Effective methods to improve wellbeing and mental health
- Intersectionality (e.g., race/ethnicity/spoken language) and its relationship to wellbeing and mental health
- Wellbeing and mental health in older adults
- Wellbeing and mental health in the LGBTQ+ community
- Crisis prevention and intervention services, including engagement with first responders

In general, we are looking for articles that demonstrate what works! We want to publish articles that have clear implications for enhancing engagement and partnerships, research, policy, and practice. Abstracts and final articles should reflect a commitment to research and ethics (Institutional Review Board Approval).

This special issue is a collaboration between DDNJ and the National Research Consortium on Mental Health in IDD. **Please send a plain language abstract of 250-500 words to editor.ddnj@usu.edu by July 30th, 2023.**

We will review abstracts in August and will invite articles for full submission by August 30th, 2023. Full articles will be due by November 1, 2023, and will be reviewed again by peer reviewers and editorial staff prior to publication in February 2024. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at editor.ddnj@usu.edu. A call for reviewers will be shared after we review abstracts, but if you are interested and know you will be available this winter, please email the editor with a short description of your area of expertise.

More on the National Research Consortium can be found at <https://centerforstartservices.org/mhidd-national-research-consortium>. Promising projects, especially those that meet the Consortiums' research priorities, will be invited for a grant submission to further their research. Grants can be funded up to \$50,000 for 2 years. We look forward to your submissions and are thankful for this opportunity to focus on these important topics.