



Tamar Heller, PhD is head of the University of Illinois-Chicago Department of Disability and Human Development and directs its University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for the State of Illinois. As Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities: Lifespan Health and Function, Dr. Heller oversees a comprehensive research program focusing on health and wellness, later life family caregiving, and public policy and programmatic interventions to improve the life of adults with developmental disabilities as they age.



Lawrence T. Force, PhD is a gerontologist and director of the Center on Aging and Disability Policy at Mount Saint Mary College – Newburgh, NY. Having worked in the field of aging and disabilities for over 35 years, Dr. Force is a nationally recognized coauthor of *End-of-Life Care: A Guide for Supporting Older People with Intellectual Disabilities and Their Families* as well as author of *The Detoxing of Caregivers: Key Tips for Survival, Strength and Patience* and several scholarly works on dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease in people with I/DD. Dr. Force is the founder and CEO of AgePlan, a national organization in advocacy and training.



Caitlin E. Coyle, PhD is a research fellow and assistant professor of gerontology at the University of Massachusetts-Boston where she conducts applied research on the topics of social isolation and aging with lifelong disability. Dr. Coyle earned her doctorate in gerontology from UMass Boston and completed postdoctoral training at the Yale School of Public Health. Dr. Coyle’s work supports cities and towns in New England as they consider ways to build more inclusive communities: planning, development, and improvement to the services and supports being provided to older adults and people with disabilities.



Michelle Putnam, PhD is associate professor and associate dean for research at Simmons College School of Social Work in Boston, MA. With an emphasis on how public programs and public policy meets the needs of persons aging with disability, Dr. Putnam examines collaborations between aging and disability service providers and their dual capacity to serve this group’s long-term care and support needs. She is engaged at the national and international level in building bridges across the aging and disability fields and is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.



Holly L. Hardaway, OTR, CALA, CAPS is credentialed as an occupational therapist both in NJ and nationally, a certified aging in place specialist, and NJ-licensed certified assisted living administrator. Her expertise in adult rehabilitation for over 30 years includes aging in place, hand therapy, home care, neurological rehabilitation, acute care rehabilitation and home modifications. Ms. Hardaway is also certified to deliver the evidence-based Skills2Care™ program by Jefferson Elder Care.



Craig Escudé, MD, FAAFP is the President of Health Risk Screening, Inc., located in Clearwater, Florida, and the founder and clinical director of the Developmental Evaluation, Training and Educational Consultative Team (DETECT) program in Mississippi. This program provides resources, consultation and educational support to increase the availability of capable, competent and compassionate community-based healthcare for people with I/DD.



Colleen Beach, MSW, LSW is a specialist professor at Monmouth University School of Social Work who focuses on elder justice and community living options for older adults. For over 15 years, she has served older or vulnerable adults in adult medical day care, hospice, and rehabilitation facilities. Ms. Beach's memberships include the National Adult Protective Services Association Education Committee, American Society on Aging and National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse



Lori Norris is director of the National Center for Innovation and System Improvement at Fedcap, bringing over 23 years' experience in the areas of advocacy and educational/vocational services for those with disabilities and barriers to employment. She has significant experience in creating programs, services, policies and training that facilitate the successful employment and education of people with disabilities.



Ellen Nalven, MEd is the executive director of Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of NJ (PLAN/NJ) and board member of the National PLAN Alliance through which she educates families on the importance of life planning to promote independent living and quality of life for individuals with disabilities. She serves as legal guardian and trustee for special needs trusts and oversees the delivery of case management, advocacy and life planning services for over 600 people.



Ruth Loew Schildiner, MA, CFLE, CAS is an expert eating disorders/food addictions and healthy eating across age groups. Formerly assistant professor of home economics at Montclair State University and with over 25 years of private practice and teaching experience, she blends evidence-based research with practical strategies to enhance the wellbeing of the health professionals she teaches and to help produce positive outcomes in their clients.



Margaret Gilbride, JD, CT is director of Transition, Employment, and Aging & Disability at The Rutgers- Robert Wood Johnson Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities. Working in the disability field for over twenty-five years, Ms. Gilbride has conducted ongoing research and training related to the impact of aging, grief, and loss on people with developmental disabilities, with a concentration on bioethical issues they encounter in healthcare provision and end-of-life treatment.



JESPY Clinical LCSW Team conducts group and individual support counseling with our clients aged 45+ to develop coping skills, enhance social connections, and facilitate community integration. Their credentials include post-graduate certificates in Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy at the Albert Ellis Institute, Advanced Assessment and Diagnosis, and soon to be completed certificates in Gerontology and Developmental Disabilities. The team provides clinical insight and skills enhancement to members of our interdisciplinary staff.