

# Baylor Center For Developmental Disabilities

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the Baylor University Center for Developmental Disabilities (BCDD) Newsletter! I am the Director of the BCDD and my goal is to support the current programs within our center and find opportunities for growth in services, clinical training, and research.

We are excited about current programs and future initiatives as we aim to address the critical needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. This year we have over 30 students providing direct services to individuals in the Central Texas community specializing in applied behavior analysis, school psychology, social work, and special education. We provide over 55 hours of services for over 25 clients on a weekly basis and hope to serve more! We are always looking to partner within Baylor University and with outside agencies to provide unique clinical and research experiences for our student all while serving our community.



We hope you find this newsletter enlightening and inspiring as we work to better serve our clients, families, students, and faculty here at the BCDD. We will provide information on our current programming, upcoming initiatives, and ways you can be involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristen Padilla-Mainor".

Kristen Padilla-Mainor, EdS, LSSP, BCBA  
Director, Baylor University Center for Developmental Disabilities  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Psychology  
Baylor University



## BCDD MISSION STATEMENT

The Baylor Center for Developmental Disabilities (BCDD), in collaboration with Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's hospital, exists to advance quality of life for individuals and families impacted by developmental disabilities and delays. To advance this mission, BCDD acts as a training center to conduct innovative research, provide specialized clinical and support services, and develop effective interventions and resources while preparing purposeful leaders for the future.

## BCDD VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is that the BCDD will become a nationally recognized hub for addressing the critical needs surrounding individuals with developmental disabilities and delays and a premier training ground for graduate-level students in diverse but related fields.

**To achieve this bold vision, our efforts are focused on six strategic priorities:**

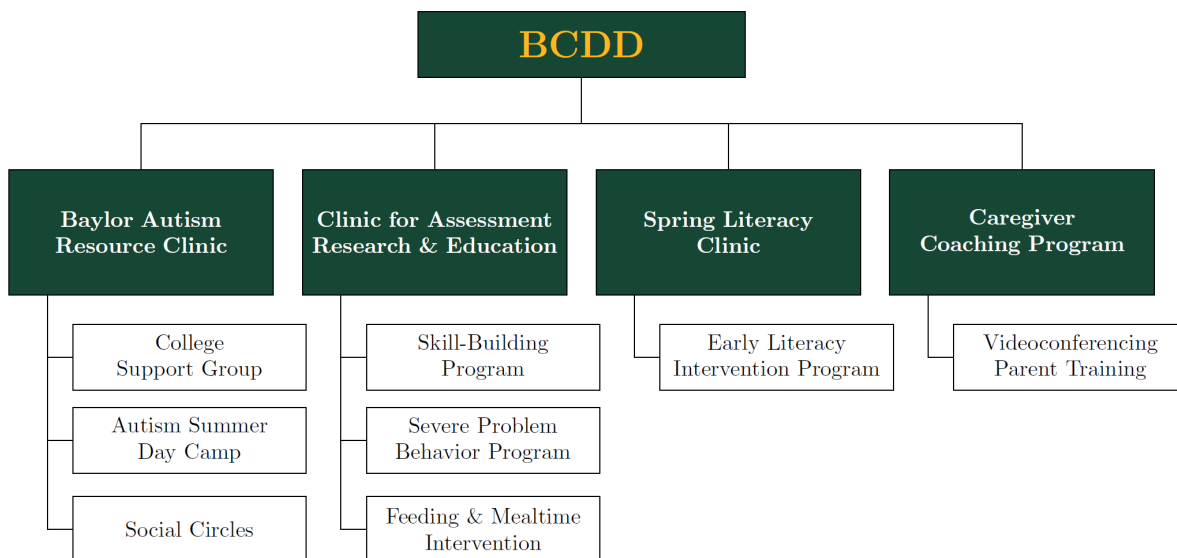
- Developing strategic partnerships for shared knowledge and collaborative service models
- Collaborating within the Baylor family and with institutions of higher education in recruitment and training of highly-qualified future clinicians and leaders in developmental disabilities
- Collaborating with community and higher education partners in research to hasten our ability to translate critical findings into practical and effective, cutting-edge applications
- Disseminating our efforts through national publications and conference presentations
- Expanding our community reach by growing clinic programs and recruiting a wide range of disciplines under the BCDD umbrella
- Finding generous, compassionate donors who recognize the vast and pervasive needs of this growing population who will commit, partner, and aspire with us

***These children, young adults, families, and future leaders are worth our greatest efforts.***



The BCDD is comprised of three clinics and various programs:

- **Baylor Autism Resource Clinic (BARC):** provides services for children with developmental disabilities, specifically Autism. These services include an Autism summer day camp, College support group for students with Autism, and Social Skills groups. The Social Skills groups helps individuals learn and practice social and communication skills, enhance emotional learning, and foster relationship building.
- **Clinic for Assessment, Research, & Education (CARE):** Offers a skill building program that works with individuals from birth through adulthood using ABA therapy to enhance communication, social, adaptive, behavioral, and other needs. The Severe Problem Behavior Program helps caregivers manage their child's challenging behavior through conducting an initial assessment and developing an individualized intervention. The Feeding & Mealtime intervention program uses therapeutic techniques of ABA to treat inappropriate mealtime behavior.
- **Spring Literacy Clinic:** Serves children from 3 years to second grade to help develop early literacy skills. Individualized instruction is given to meet the needs of each child by special education students at Baylor in small group settings.
- **Caregiver Coaching Program:** Funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, this program using videoconferencing teaches caregivers to implement evidence-based interventions with their child.



## COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear BCDD families,

With the Coronavirus pandemic, we are following Baylor University's and the City of Waco's guidelines. In-person services will be canceled for the remainder of the semester. We place an importance on the health and well-being of our students, staff, and clients. We are doing our part and practicing social distancing. We understand that ending services here at the center can be disruptive to you and your child's routine.

Here are some ways the BCDD is offering support to you:

- We have created a list of local and online resources that may be helpful for your family during this time. Among the list are mental health resources, COVID-19 information, and Autism Spectrum Disorder specific resources. This resource guide will be emailed out.
- If you need toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, hand soap, or flushable wipes contact us at [bcdd@baylor.edu](mailto:bcdd@baylor.edu). We have these items in stock specifically for BCDD families.
- If you are needing support or resources, you can contact [bcdd@baylor.edu](mailto:bcdd@baylor.edu) to set up a consultation with our social work intern to discuss your needs.

We hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy. The BCDD is here to support you. Please let us know what we can do to help you!

We will reach out to you all regarding summer programs and services once we learn more about university practices and supports.



## CONSORTIUM

This past January the BCDD held its first consortium. This brought faculty from across the university together who are currently involved with research and clinical practice in the area of developmental disabilities. The goal of this was to share the BCDD values, mission and vision with them and to collaborate on making the BCDD an interdisciplinary center.

The current initiatives are:

### **1. Postsecondary Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities**

- The BCDD postsecondary program aims to provide a collegiate experience to educate and train young adults with intellectual disabilities for independent living, gainful employment, and community and social engagement in a caring, Christian environment..
- The Baylor postsecondary program is geared to educate young adults with intellectual disabilities between 18 and 26 years of age. Students will earn a certificate that combines classroom instruction with practical career building experiences. Certification is contingent on mastering skills related to work readiness and independent living as measured by program assessments. Students will learn how to practically apply both independent living and employment skills.
- The BCDD recently received two gifts totaling \$200,000 to begin the development and planning of the program. Additional funding will be needed to continue these efforts. Ms. Padilla-Mainor has been working closely with SOE Development to pursue funding or identify donors.

### **2. Interdisciplinary Assessments**

- Our goal is to develop an interdisciplinary assessment team that includes Baylor faculty and students from school psychology, applied behavior analysis, communication sciences and disorders, social work, and others. This team will provide interdisciplinary assessments for Central Texas families with children suspected of having developmental disabilities.



### 3. Preschool Program for Children with Intellectual Disabilities

- The BCDD faculty plans to develop a pre-school program that allows for seamless integration of multiple fields (e.g., applied behavior analysis, special education, social work, school psychology, and communication sciences and disorders) and programs (e.g., B.S.Ed., Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Ed.S. in School Psychology).
- The program will provide person-centered, wrap around services from a multidisciplinary team of professionals to improve skill acquisition and reduce challenging behaviors that preclude children from benefiting from inclusive educational settings. Faculty intend to partner with local education agencies to determine and address specific needs of children with developmental disabilities/delays.

### 4. Medical Partnership

- Partnerships between the BCDD and medical centers or facilities have numerous benefits for faculty, students, medical personnel, and communities. Medical partnerships could support multiple initiatives – interdisciplinary screenings, medical professional trainings, and research – in addition to offering placements for practica and internships for students.
- Kristen Padilla-Mainor (BCDD Director) and Grant Morgan are pursuing a partnership with medical centers and/or facilities. Target partners include:
  - Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's
  - Waco Family Health Center
  - Dell Children's Medical Center
  - University of Texas Dell Medical School.



## 5. Telehealth Clinic

- The Baylor University Caregiver Coaching Program offers individualized coaching for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In the current program, parents receive approximately 6 weeks of training from BCBAs or pre-service BCBAs. BCBAs are specialists in evidence-based practices for children with ASD. The program is provided via telehealth technology (similar to Skype or FaceTime) so that parents do not have to travel to Baylor's campus.
- Dr. Stephanie Gerow, Dr. Tonya Davis, Ms. Kristen Padilla-Mainor, and Dr. Jessica Akers were awarded nearly \$500,000 in funding from the Texas Higher Educational Coordinating Board to conduct trainings for parents of children with ASD via telehealth technology.
- To date, the program has served more than 50 children with ASD in Texas. In this program, children learned skills that will lead to more positive long-term outcomes. Specifically, we target: (a) social skills, (b) problem behavior, (c) adaptive skills, (d) communication, and (e) pre-academic skills.
- We hope to increase the number of families served and the types of services offered via telehealth conferencing which could include other therapeutic services, consultation, and more.

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## 6. Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Related Disabilities (LEND)

- LEND programs provide long-term, graduate level interdisciplinary training as well as interdisciplinary services and care. The purpose of the LEND training program is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with disabilities. They accomplish this by preparing trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and by ensuring high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.
- Kristen Padilla-Mainor (BCDD Director) is currently working with faculty from the University of Texas at Austin and Texas State University to write a proposal for the LEND grant competition, which should be announced in November 2020.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Rylee McHenry



Meet Rylee! Rylee is from Plano, TX, and is a junior at Baylor University studying Neuroscience. Rylee has been an undergraduate research fellow at the BCDD for almost two years. In this role, she assists in research and attends research meetings. Rylee says, "The BCDD is the only place on campus where I can learn more about ASD and increase my passion for advocacy... I have the incredible opportunity to assist with research and get hands-on experience."

Rylee was recently accepted to an incredible research internship for the summer at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Center for Autism Research. She will be a research assistant on a project developing an artificial intelligence-based program that can diagnosis ASD by viewing videos of patients and their interactions.

Rylee has known for a long time that she wanted a career in Autism research. After graduating, Rylee plans on going to graduate school to obtain her PhD in clinical psychology. Her dream is to specialize in pediatric clinical neuropsychology and work in a clinical and research setting. Rylee is very thankful for her relationship with the BCDD, faculty, and graduate students. The BCDD is very grateful to have an undergraduate research fellow as dedicated and hardworking as Rylee is.





## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The BCDD has a resource library for parents and caregivers in the community. This library includes books, manuals, and DVDs on topics such as parent support, behavior management strategies, family member resources and special topics. There are available for checkout at the BCDD. Please contact the BCDD for more information.

The Heart of Texas Disability Resource Guide (HOTDRG) is a place created to give parents a go-to place to access the most up-to-date information for their child with special needs and/or disabilities available in Central Texas. On the website parents & caregivers can access the event calendar and stay up-to-date on events happening around the community. Parents can also submit inquiries on services their child needs and the HOTDRG team will connect them to services locally that meet their needs. The HOTDRG website is [www.hotdrg.com](http://www.hotdrg.com).

## COLLEGE SUPPORT GROUP

The Baylor Center for Developmental Disabilities along, with the Office of Access and Learning Accommodations (OALA) at Baylor, offers a weekly support group for college students with Autism during the Fall and Spring semesters. This group is open to MCC, TSTC, and Baylor students. The group typically meets in OALA on Baylor's campus.



## MAKE A GIFT

To keep our service fees at an affordable cost, the BCDD is always seeking generous donors to support client scholarships, student training, and staff support. Please consider donating to the BCDD. To donate visit our website or contact:

**Michele Tigelaar | Baylor University**  
**Director of Development, School of Education**  
**Michele\_Tigelaar@baylor.edu**  
**254-227-7373**

We hope this newsletter serves you and provides helpful information. If you have any needs, questions, or concerns throughout the semester don't hesitate to call us at 254-537-1042 or email [bcdd@baylor.edu](mailto:bcdd@baylor.edu).

