

Commissioner's Medical Grand Rounds

An Introduction to Working with People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Across Health Care Settings

Friday, December 15th, 2023 12:00pm-2:00pm ET

People with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities have the same health care needs as people without disabilities. However, the health care system does not adequately address their needs. Studies have repeatedly found gaps in healthcare services for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, from dental care to preventative care.

This session will outline the barriers to care people with developmental disabilities face and introduce providers to working with people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Two experts in the field will speak to their experience working with people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and what providers need to do to treat people with culturally competent care. The session will close out with a conversation with a person with lived experience so providers can hear directly from a person with a developmental disability on what they need when accessing the healthcare system.

The Grand Rounds Program is free of charge for all providers in NYS. Advance registration is requested.

Please click [HERE](#) to register to attend the live webinar.
Registration ID is not required.

A recording of this session will be available for viewing on the NYSDOH website.

Continuing Education:
Please visit https://www.health.ny.gov/commissioner/grand_rounds/

Moderator:



James V. McDonald, MD, MPH

Commissioner, New York State Department of Health

James V. McDonald M.D., M.P.H., was appointed Acting Commissioner of Health January 1, 2023. Prior to joining the New York State Department of Health in July of 2022, Dr McDonald served at the Rhode Island Department of Health since 2012. At the Rhode Island Department of Health, he served in multiple roles including, Interim Director of Health, Chief Administrative Officer of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, Medical Director for the COVID unit, as well as the Medical Director for Center for Customer Services and the Drug Overdose prevention program. He was also a member of the Governor's task force on Preventing Overdose deaths. Dr. McDonald has faculty appointments at the Brown School of Public Health as well as the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. McDonald earned his M.D. from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago, his pediatric residency in the US Navy, and his preventive medicine residency from the State University of New York. He earned his MPH from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He earned his B.S. in Biology from Siena College. Dr. McDonald is board certified in pediatrics as well as preventive medicine. His diverse career includes officership in the U.S. Navy, as well as private practice in rural areas where health care shortages existed. Dr. McDonald also served in the Indian Health Service in the Navajo Nation, serving as Medical Director of Outpatient Medicine in Chinle, Arizona.

Special Appearance:



Kerri Neifeld, M.S.W

Commissioner, The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Kerri Neifeld serves as the Commissioner of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) following her nomination as Commissioner by Governor Kathy Hochul in early November of 2021. Prior to her nomination, Kerri most recently served as Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene in the governor's office. Before working in the governor's office, Kerri was Assistant Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) where she managed the Division of Shelter Oversight and Compliance. Kerri joined OTDA as Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner while serving as an Excelsior Service Fellow, before being promoted to Assistant Deputy Commissioner. Prior to joining the Excelsior Service Fellowship Program, Kerri was a Fellow on Women & Public Policy at Rockefeller College's Center for Women in Government & Civil Society. A passionate advocate for others, Kerri also worked as a Project Manager at the Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, a Child Protective Services Caseworker and a Foster Care Caseworker as well as a Youth Care Worker at WAIT House Homeless Youth Shelter. Kerri plans to use her years of public service experience to inform new and innovative ways to support and serve people with developmental disabilities. Kerri holds a B.A. from Elmira College and an M.S.W. from the University at Albany School of Social Welfare.

Speakers:



Dr. Stephen Sulkes, MD

Dr. Steve Sulkes is a Professor of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center School of Medicine and Dentistry and Co-Director of the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities, one of the three University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). The Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and is a member of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), a network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice for individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities through research, education, and service. Dr. Sulkes received his MD degree from the Boston University School of Medicine. He completed residency in pediatrics at SUNY Upstate University Hospital and his fellowship in developmental-behavioral pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital.



Dr. Vincent Siasoco, MD, MBA

Vincent Siasoco, MD, MBA is a board-certified Family Physician. He specializes in the care of patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Social Medicine and Department of Pediatrics. He is the Director of Primary Care at the Rose F. Kennedy (RFK) Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center at Montefiore (CERC) and Director of Community Engagement/ Demonstration Projects at the RFK University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). He is the Faculty Advisor of the Student Chapter of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry at Einstein. Dr. Siasoco received his MD degree from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. He completed his Family Medicine residency training at St. Clare's Hospital (Now part of Ellis Hospital). He received his MBA from the Robert Willumstad School of Business at Adelphi University and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. Dr. Siasoco is on the Board of Directors at the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Helen: The Journal of Human Exceptionality. He is a Clinical Director for Special Olympics and Chair of the Special Olympics New York Health Advisory Council. He is Co-Chair of the Cerebral Palsy Associations of NY State's Medical Director's Council and an appointed member of OPWDD Advisory Committees. In 2019, he was awarded the Golisano Health Leadership Award by Special Olympics New York.



Dr. Izel Obermeyer, OTR/L, ATP, BCTS, FAOTA

Izel Obermeyer, Ph.D., was appointed Chief Clinical Officer at the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD), in 2020. She previously served WIHD as the director of the assistive technology program since 2006. She is an occupational therapist (OT) who graduated from the University of Pretoria, Vona duToit OT school in 1987. She was a LEND fellow at WIHD in 2006/2007. She completed her post professional Master's degree in 2008 and started working on her PhD in 2017. She has worked in South Africa, Namibia, Brazil, Kenya and the USA. In her current role, she oversees and manages the adult health services, the behavioral health program, the dental program, the speech and hearing center, the early intervention program and assistive technology and occupational therapy services for WIHD. She coordinates all graduate level assistive technology courses, which are being taught for Master's programs in special education, for a number of colleges in the area. She is involved in the development of smart technology initiatives within WIHD and is an active advocate for assistive technology inclusion in schools. Izel is the project leader for the Multimedia Technology Center at WIHD and has been working on developing and using multimedia for person-centered work as well as instruction for the past number of years. She often presents papers at conferences, colleges and schools. She recently co-authored a chapter on cognition and executive function in children, for the 3rd edition of the book "Cognition across the life span".



Claire Polin Self Advocate

Claire Polin is a self-advocate and a member of the Hear Our Voices organization. Claire has participated in many professional speaking opportunities. She is passionate about improving quality of care for individuals with disabilities in medical settings. Claire is also a Certified Sexual Education teacher for people with disabilities. In addition to her work at WIHD, Claire is also a mentor to high school students with disabilities.