

Wisconsin Legislative Council Symposia Series on Early Access to Autism Treatment

Week 1: “Early Childhood Autism Screening and Diagnosis”

September 8, 2020

Speaker Biographies

Erin Miller, Autistic Adult.

Erin Miller is an autistic adult. She graduated UW-Whitewater with a hard-won degree in English writing. She sits on the Urban Autism Summit Planning committee--and has spent most of her adult life advocating for others.

Gail Chödrön (PhD), Assistant Scientist, University Center for Excellence In Developmental Disabilities, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Gail Chödrön, PhD, is an Assistant Scientist and coordinator of community training and technical assistance at the Waisman Center, UW-Madison. She received her doctorate in public health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Chödrön’s research and community training focus on implementation of developmental monitoring in early childhood settings, with a particular focus on timely access to identification and services among medically underserved families. She served as the CDC’s Act Early Ambassador to Wisconsin from 2011 to 2019.

Maureen Durkin (PhD, DrPH), Evan and Marion Helfaer Professor of Public Health and Chair, Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

Maureen Durkin is an epidemiologist at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, where she is Professor and Chair of Population Health Sciences. At UW-Madison, she also has an affiliate appointment in the Department of Pediatrics and is a Waisman Center investigator. Dr. Durkin received her undergraduate degree and her PhD in anthropology from the UW-Madison, and her MPH and DrPH degrees in epidemiology from Columbia University. Her research focuses on the epidemiology and prevention of neurodevelopmental disabilities and childhood injuries. Dr. Durkin has served as principal investigator on several federally funded studies related to autism, including the Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System and the Study to Explore Early Development of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Lindsay McCary (PhD), Senior Psychologist and Affiliate Faculty in Educational Psychology and Pediatrics, University of Wisconsin.

Lindsay McCary, PhD, is a senior psychologist and affiliate faculty in educational psychology and pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She received her doctorate in school psychology at the University of South Carolina. She serves as coordinator of community model services and the director of the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic at the Waisman Center. Dr. McCary’s research focuses on early identification of autism spectrum disorder in high-risk populations. More recently, her work has focused on capacity building efforts to increase access to diagnosis

and treatment of autism spectrum disorder through innovative clinical models and training of graduate students and practicing professionals.

Angelica Salinas (MS, CRC), Research Program Manager, Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System, Waisman Center.

Angelica Salinas is the Program Manager for the Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System and she is also the parent of a 17 year-old Autistic teen. She earned a graduate degree in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. As the Program Manger she leads a team of Public Health Record Abstractors to conduct public health surveillance of autism spectrum disorders in 4 and 8-year old children in a 8-county area in southeastern Wisconsin.

Maria Stanley (MD, FAAP), Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Chief, Division of Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Medicine Medical Director, Waisman Center.

Maria A. Stanley, MD, FAAP, is a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She is a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and completed her residency in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital in Boston. She has over 20 years of experience caring for children with a broad range of developmental differences. Her work also includes participation in training, research, and outreach activities. She serves as Medical Director for the Waisman Center and cares for patients in the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic, the Newborn Follow Up Clinic, and the Down Syndrome Clinic.