

Developmental Disabilities FAMILY CLINICS

The Institute on Disability and Human Development
www.idhd.org/FamilyClinics.html

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With consideration of cultural needs and perspectives the Developmental Disabilities Family Clinic provides comprehensive assessment and treatment services for children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities.

IN MEMORIAM



Elina Manghi, Psy.D., was the TAP (The Autism Program) co-director at the UIC Developmental Disabilities Family Clinics. Previously, she had been one of the DHD faculty, and the clinical director of the Family Clinics. Dr. Manghi was an inspirational and visionary leader who has left a strong legacy of her work in the community. With her strong commitment to serving the underserved she fostered the development of a vibrant Hispanic program serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. She was a key leader in founding Grupo Salto, the support group of Latino families of children with autism that has grown to over 400 families. In addition she was co-director of our LEND program. Most of all Elina was an amazing human being with her warmth, passion and humanity. Her loss will be deeply felt by many of us at UIC and in the community.

SUCCESS STORY

UIC Family Clinics is, for my daughter and I, the best place ever. It was here that she was diagnosed with autism 6 years ago. When we first came to this clinic, I was afraid because being of Mexican descent, my first language is Spanish. I thought I would need an interpreter. From the very first moment we were there, we were treated with respect. The staff was very friendly and we were made to feel comfortable.

When I was first informed about my daughter's diagnosis, I felt lost, isolated and I did not know what to do or where to go. Here at the clinic, they provided me with the support that I needed. I learned how to make a picture schedule to help my daughter learn to use the bathroom. I also began to attend trainings given that helped me, and other parents, to learn more about autism.

At the Family Clinics, my daughter began receiving speech therapy and this was so wonderful for her. When she was first diagnosed at the age of 3 1/2, she had the vocabulary of an 8 month old child. At that time, she was also not providing eye contact. Currently, she is a fluent speaker in both Spanish and English and can sustain a conversation, with good eye contact. Through the therapy, she has learned to not only improve on her language skills but also to understand concepts that were difficult for her.



I have participated in a mother's Group, Grupo La Esperanza, run by the bilingual psychologist and social worker. They listen to our needs and provide us with information and strategies that we could use when working with our children. This group allows us to share our stories, our challenges and our successes with each other.

We would like to say "thank you" to the staff at the Family Clinics. We would be lost in this labyrinth called autism, if it were not for people like you.



Over 2,000 people received service and training from the Developmental Disabilities Family Clinics in FY2011. This work was made possible by grants from Illinois Department of Human Services, The Autism Program (TAP), The Combating Autism Act (CAA), and by third party payments from Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance carriers.

CURRENT SERVICES

- Diagnostic evaluations
- Individual psychotherapy
- Group therapy
- Social skills groups

Call intake at (312) 413-1490. Located at UIC, 1640 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608.

NOW RECRUITING

- Adult dating skills group – February
- Family support group for Latino families of children with autism (Grupo SALTO; 312-996-0903)
- Social group for college students with ASD (Call Lana Roth at 312-413-4624)
- Teen (ages 16-19) dating skills group - February (Contact Katie Frank 312-413-1116 or kfrank7@uic.edu)

Upcoming Events:

- January - March: Application process for graduate student training
- January 25: "Up with Down Syndrome" Presentation at Midwestern University
- January 27: Jane Addams college of social work internship fair
- March 8: Sexuality and Disability webinar for home-based support services workgroup