

Developmental Disabilities FAMILY CLINICS

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.

PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



Linda Sandman MSW, LCSW has been the Clinical Director of the Developmental Disabilities Family Clinics since 2009. She has promoted the development of skills building groups for adults with developmental disabilities at the Clinic on topics like Anger Management, Dating/Relationship Skills, and Social Skills. She has given numerous community presentations on the topics of Healthy Sexuality and Anger Management for Adults with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities to parent support groups, community agencies and at professional conferences. In addition, Linda directs the training program for graduate students in the fields of social work, counseling and psychology at the Clinics. She has been a field instructor and has trained graduate students in the field of social work for the past 19 years.

Linda has always enjoyed working with adults and became particularly interested in issues relating to self-advocacy and improving the quality of life for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sexuality education has become an important focus of Linda's work because of the critical need for information and training in this area. Linda has enjoyed the opportunity to work with a variety of provider agencies and family support groups, as well as the adults with disabilities served by the Clinics. Linda received her MSW from the UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work and has spent most of her career working with adults from diverse backgrounds in mental health settings, including 16 years on an inpatient psychiatric unit. Linda is bilingual (Spanish/English) and bicultural and has always sought out opportunities to work with Latino families.

SUCCESS STORY

My son is 11 years old now. He is a high functioning autistic boy with some emotional disorders. About two years ago he started having more and more problems. I decided to look for help. I visited couple of places, but, unfortunately, I could not find help for him. Usually he was offered medication and that was the end of help for him. Things have changed when we came to this clinic at UIC. The social group program has worked for him so well. Before, he never wanted to attend any programs, he would get easily frustrated and discouraged. It has never happen at UIC. He was always very happy to attend the meetings. He liked all the therapists and he even met some friends. Lately, we were invited to another boy's birthday party. I think, [he] was surprised himself that he met boys who are just like him.

When the first session was about to end, I was worried what is going to happen. Thank God, we were offered a continuous help: next session. With the next session we were offered a group for parents as well. And that is such a great help...There were tears and laughs, and the great feeling that somebody really understands your struggles. We were happy for our boys who finally found a place where they do not feel as flies in a bee house (that was the expression one of the boys used explaining how he feels among his peers).



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UIC Department of Disability and
Human Development
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

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 Combatting 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 anger management group – February
- Adult dating skills group – February
- Children ages 3–6 who have challenges with communication, relating and interacting. Screenings now. Group beginning December/January. (Contact Sara Shields-Cole 312-413-1486 or Irma Hernandez 312-413-1819)
- 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)

Upcoming Events:

November 5: Panel on networking for graduate students at University of Chicago SSA

November 15: Workshops on sexual self-advocacy at Speak Up Speak Out Self-Advocacy Summit