

# For Immediate Release

## The University of Cincinnati Center For Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD) receives grant to establish a Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities (CDHPD) from the Administration for Community Living

CINCINNATI, OHIO – The University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD), has received a three-year, \$1.5 million grant to lead a national coalition to establish the Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities (CDHPD). The grant is made possible by the Administration on Community Living and the goal is to identify and reduce life-limiting healthcare inequities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by improving access to medical protocols that reduce medical discrimination.

The coalition includes seven other partners: The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, University of Kentucky University Center on Disability, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Family Voices, the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry. The Center is the first of its kind and will develop resources for healthcare professionals to understand the civil rights and support the needs of Americans with disabilities as they access routine and lifesaving care throughout the lifespan. The Center will also engage people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to learn more about advocacy related to healthcare discrimination.

Kara Ayers, UCCEDD Associate Director, is excited to lead this project, “This newly established Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities is forged from incredible partnerships with leading experts in the fields of medicine, disability, and bioethics. We are honored to have the opportunity to address and reduce medical discrimination and healthcare inequities faced by people with disabilities. By guiding healthcare to be more equitable for people with disabilities, we can ensure better outcomes from the start to the natural end of life.”

### **About The University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities**

The vision of the UCCEDD, which is part of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and affiliated with the University of Cincinnati, is that all people, including children and adults living with disabilities, and their families, fully participate in society and live healthy, safe, self-determined and productive lives. UCCEDD is a leader in working with and on behalf of children and adults with disabilities and their families so they can lead the lives they want. The UCCEDD accomplishes its mission through education, training, research, impact on policy and information dissemination. The Center is designated as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) by the United States Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. [www.ucucedd.org](http://www.ucucedd.org)

