

2021 Online KT Conference: Research Results for Policy Outcomes

Hosted by AIR's Center on KTDRR
October 25, 27, and 29, 2021

Center on
**KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION FOR
DISABILITY & REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

at American Institutes for Research ■



Through *the* Looking Glass

Being useful to parents with diverse disabilities, their children, and families

Megan Kirshbaum, PhD
Founder & Executive Director
Through the Looking Glass

**39 years of synergy
between intervention,
research, knowledge
dissemination, and public
policy action in a disability
culture-based organization.**

Context

In 1982, TLG emerged from family therapy in the disability civil rights movement.

- To bring disability culture perspectives to early preventive intervention
- To reduce obstacles and nurture the potential of all members of families with disabilities



Intervention

- Specialists with personal/family disability experience
- Relationship-focused mental health and developmental services
- Adaptive parenting supports/OTs
- Groups
- Early Head Start center
- Consultation

Parents with Disabilities in Intervention Projects

- Low-income parents/caregivers of color with diverse cultures, languages
- With all categories of disability
- Approximately 175 families annually

Identification of Issues

- TLG evolved through discovering and addressing gaps in services, research, problems in national practice, and public policy.
- Obstacles experienced by parents with disabilities.

**Identified pattern of
pathologizing parents with
disabilities in practice and
research.**

Goal of conducting research from a disability culture perspective

- To contribute to the reduction of obstacles experienced by parents with disabilities

Research

- Identifying needs and social obstacles
- Documenting solutions
- Addressing discriminatory practice
- Investigating negative assumptions about child outcome
- Developing practical resources
- Counteracting invisibility

Role of immersion in low-income, ethnically diverse disability communities

Fuels awareness of the urgency for dissemination of results and public policy change.

Intervention-derived knowledge

- Identification of issues for research and public policy change
- Expertise for training service systems

**Dilemmas and opportunities
of a commitment to
responding to urgent
community needs for
services**

The daunting degree of need for improvement in national practice, training, and public policy

- Parenting uncovering issues in new social realms
- Highlighting limits in disability systems

Parenting as the new frontier of disability rights

**TLG's rule that our research
projects include elements
promptly useful to parents
with disabilities**

**Baby care adaptations and
custody practice as
examples of synergy
between intervention,
research, knowledge
dissemination, and public
policy action**

**Legislation crucial but
not sufficient.**

**Critical need for local
in-person services.**

Recommendations

- Funding of demonstration projects to support expansion of local services
- Support for curricula regarding parents with disabilities within professional training programs
- Training to diverse intervention systems provided by specialists with services expertise

Implement recommendations of Rocking the Cradle, including

- Mandate training custody evaluators
- Expand definition of DME to include parenting adaptations
- Expand PAS to fund in-home childcare assistance
- Include parents with disabilities in data systems on local, state, national levels
- Expand P&A to include consultation and representation regarding custody of parents with disabilities

To Contact TLG:

www.lookingglass.org

tlg.lookingglass.org

Through the Looking Glass
3075 Adeline Street, Suite 120,
Berkeley, CA 94703



www.ktdrr.org



ktdrr@air.org



4700 Mueller Blvd, Austin, TX 78723



800.266.1832

Center on

**KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION FOR
DISABILITY & REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

at American Institutes for Research ■