

Developmental Disabilities Center

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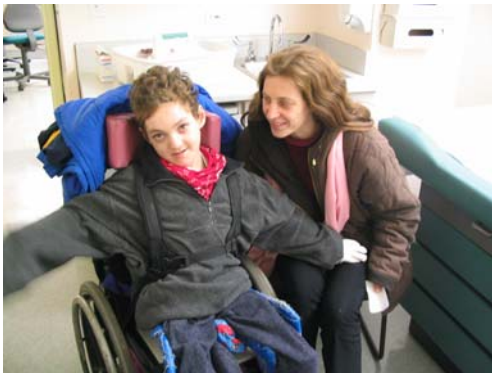
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THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CENTER

The DDC is a medical home for multiply-handicapped, developmentally disabled children and young adults in New York City. It also provides pediatric neurology services to residents of New York City and the surrounding areas, drawing from as far away as Orange County.



The American Academy of Pediatrics has recently acknowledged that children with special needs require numerous special services and the input of a multidisciplinary team. Currently this care is often fragmented, because these children and their families must visit many different facilities to receive care. The AAP has proposed that an innovative model be used to provide all this care in one center - thereby creating a "medical home."

The Developmental Disabilities Center at Roosevelt Hospital/Beth Israel Medical Center qualifies as a "medical home." Originally founded in the 1960's as a clinic for infants diagnosed with congenital rubella, it has grown to be a nurse-coordinated center dedicated to serving the needs of developmentally disabled persons from birth through adulthood. The program combines the expertise of several departments, using their specialties in a multi-disciplinary approach to manage the health needs of children and adults with chronic neurologic conditions. Coordination of services takes place in one center, with all required medical and social services readily available and easily accessible. The Center reaches out to local schools, daycare programs, medical clinics

and private pediatrician's offices to target children in the community with special needs. Special emphasis is placed on reaching the underserved, poor population in Manhattan and the outer boroughs.

At the Center, the poorest and neediest of New York City's families are assisted in navigating the Medicaid bureaucracy. Children receive care in a setting where all the providers regularly communicate with each other, indigent families and new immigrants need not worry about payment, and families feel comfortable with the staff. They are cared for from birth into



adulthood.

Outpatient care is provided at Roosevelt Hospital in a handicapped accessible, multidisciplinary, caring, comfortable environment, where the needs of families, clients and caregivers are met in a timely fashion. Families and caregivers feel comfortable talking to the professionals who care for their child.



Inpatient services, when necessary, are delivered at Beth Israel, in an environment that is an extension of the outpatient facility. It has comfortable rooms, the latest in state-of-the-art treatment, caring concerned professional staff, and excellent communication between in- and out-patient staff. Beth Israel also contains a state-of-the-art epilepsy monitoring unit as well as a

cerebral palsy and spasticity program.



Affiliated with the DDC is the Developmentally Disabled Center Preschool Program. This program combines the expertise of the special education teacher with that of occupational, physical and speech therapists. It coordinates with the providers in the Developmental Disabilities Center, addressing the needs of families through weekly parent groups and interdisciplinary meetings. When the child "ages out" of the program, appropriate educational placement is sought for elementary school. Referrals come from the community as well as from the DDC. Currently the preschool program serves about 40 children.



SERVICES PROVIDED::

PEDIATRICS - two half-day sessions per week, with care for our handicapped children, including well child care, sick care, and follow up for graduates of the neonatal intensive care unit.

NEUROLOGY - four half-day sessions per week, focusing on the care of children with

epilepsy, attentional issues, autism, headaches and neuromuscular disorders.

PSYCHIATRY - one half day session each week, with care provided to an extremely underserved population of children with behavioral problems and children with psychiatric diagnoses. Children and adults with developmental disabilities are also seen. Recently, psychiatry and psychology residents have begun to see patients.

ORTHOPEDECS - one half-day session twice per month, providing care to children with cerebral palsy, scoliosis and gait disorders

INTERNAL MEDICINE - one half-day session twice a week to provide primary medical care to adults with developmental disabilities, neurological disorders, and those living in group homes.

SOCIAL WORK – half-time CSW provides counseling and medical social work services to children and families experiencing the stress of dealing with lifelong chronic disease, along with attendant issues regarding housing, access to health care, education and social problems. The other half of the social worker's time is spent at the preschool.

NEUROSURGERY - One half day session twice per month, focusing on the care of children with brain tumors, issues of spasticity requiring surgery, ventriculoperitoneal shunt follow-up, macrocephaly and craniofacial disorders.

DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN to provide developmental evaluations of children whose parents and primary caregivers are concerned about their progress. (Part of the pediatric clinic.)

WHEELCHAIR CLINIC to meet once per month to address the needs of this population. Equipment is often broken or larger sizes are needed. These needs are better served in one central location with less fragmentation of care

Associated clinics include ophthalmology, dentistry and genetics.

The clinic is run and coordinated by two Registered Nurses – (1.5 FTE's) and a registrar and translator, and family aide/translator/secretary.



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