

Meaghan Edwards

Instructor

Community Rehabilitation & Disability Studies

Cumming School of Medicine

University of Calgary

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Faculty of Medicine

2013-2016

“Expanding connections: exploring social support within a Family Quality of Life framework”

World Scholar Award recipient

University of Sydney, NSW, Australia

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Honours

1996-2000

Dean’s list standing

St. Francis Xavier University

Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada

Certificate in Community Based Research

2007

Wellesley Institute

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Certificate IV Training and Assessment (TAE IV)

2015

CBD College

Sydney, Australia

Current Position

Instructor

January 2017-present

Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Cumming Medical School

University of Calgary

Relevant Experience

Research Fellow

February 2013-December 2016

Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney

- *Lead coordinator* of NSW State Experts on National Disability Insurance Scheme evaluation. Responsible for community engagement as well as data collection

and analysis and interim and final report preparation. Worked in collaboration with a team of experts at the National Institute for Labour Studies at Flinders University.

- *Lead Curriculum Development coordinator* in collaboration with the University of the Southern Cross. Responsible for establishing and maintaining partnership and developing a suite of Master's level courses at the School of Health to be offered in an on-line format. Course topics include disability and Quality of Life, inclusion, Disability and Physical Health, and Person-Centred Organisations.
- *Tutor* responsible for three units within a Diploma of Community Services and Diploma of Disability Studies. Deliver modules on the topics of Person-Centered Practice, Supported Decision Making, and Inclusive Communities.
- *Research coordinator* for an evaluation of an Australian federal government funded behavioral support program.
- *Trainer* on person-centred active support within community based organisations. Includes delivering classroom training as well as observations of practical application in group homes and day programs.
- *Researcher* on a federally funded research project exploring ageing with and without a lifelong disability. Responsible for planning, data collection and analysis.
- *Project co-coordinator* on an evaluation of a series large residential centre closures. Included collaborative work with health professionals, government bodies, and research team members.
- *Tutor* on the unit *Disability Issues: Theory, Policy and Practice*. Masters Level, Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney.
- *Co-facilitator* in person-centred planning workshops and training programs for organisations.
- *Coordinator* of an inclusive, innovative social networking group for people with and without disability entitled "Waves of Inclusion". Responsible for securing funding for program through grants totally over \$40,000.
- *Researcher* on various evaluations and community-based projects commissioned by both state and federal governmental departments. Role includes utilizing expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, preparing ethics applications, carrying out data collection and analysis and preparing reports.

Supervisor of Research and Evaluation

September 2009-January 2013

Mukibaum Treatment Centres, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Responsible for:

- Supervising, coordinating, and planning research projects in a treatment centre serving over 150 adults and children with complex disabilities.
- Establishing and maintaining community based research partnerships.
- Supervising and mentoring psychology and social work placement students as well as two full time and one part time research assistant.
- Building evaluation capacity and developing evaluation projects within the centre.
- Disseminating research findings in professional journals and conferences
- Involving staff and people served in the research projects and communicating results in a meaningful manner.
- Training agencies and staff on the ethics and administration of a Family Quality of Life Project
- Coordinating communications and assisting in methodological decisions as a member of the International family Quality of Life Project.
- Establishing and maintaining a research ethics committee including writing terms of reference and appointing members.

- Networking with key practitioners, policymakers, and researchers within social service, health and disabilities field

Researcher

April 2008-August 2009

Mukibaum Treatment Centres, Toronto, Ontario

- Coordinating, tracking research projects under supervision of Executive Director.
- Conducting interviews for research with family, staff and people with disabilities for research projects.
- Training research assistants in data collection and methodology
- Attending local and national conferences in research and disabilities
- Compiling and presenting research reports
- Editing Newsletter and assisting in editing journal for professionals and parents

Research Assistant

February 2006-March 2008

Mukibaum Treatment Centres, Toronto, Ontario

- Recruiting and interviewing research participants
- Analyzing research data, conducting interviews, writing literature reviews.
- Providing support on other research projects as necessary

Volunteer Positions

Co-Coordinator of International Partnerships, Secretary

August 2016-present

International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities-Academy

Executive Member

May 2012-current

International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities –Quality of Life Special Interest Research Group

- Providing input and advice on directions of new research and analysis of data

Board Member

June 2009-March 2013

Woodgreen Advocacy Board

- Attending monthly meetings developing concrete action plans and working towards influencing policy on issues affecting urban Toronto (e.g. Affordable Housing, Poverty Reduction, Child care)
- Developing community engagement strategies and participating in round tables on community issues

Executive Member

April 2011-December 2013

*Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities
Special Interest Research Group*

- Planning an annual conference, reviewing abstracts and deciding upon student research awards

Executive Team Secretary

June 2011- January 2013

Beaches East York New Democratic Party

- Assessing community issues and creating strategic plans

Contributions to Training

Trainer Person-centred active support

May 2016-December 2016

Centre for Disability Studies

- Training direct support workers and managers in person-centred active support techniques in a classroom setting followed by practical, on-the ground observations and training in the field.

Supervisor and trainer of Research Assistants

September 2015-December 2016

Centre for Disability Studies

- Training research assistants in methodology, ethics, interviewing techniques and data analysis both quantitative and qualitative.

Supervisor of clinical research students

January 2010-January 2013

Guelph Humber University, Ryerson University, University of Toronto

- Training students in research methodology and ethics and data entry

Family Quality of Life Training

Go4Kids Project-York University

- Trained two research assistants on the administration, ethical considerations and data analysis of the Family Quality of Life Survey (2006).

Supervisor of Psychology Students

September 2009-January 2013

Guelph Humber University

- Training students in research methodology and ethics and data entry
- Supervising major research papers.

Community Agency Research Training

January 2008-January 2013

Family Quality of Life Project

- Instructing community based partners on ethics and administration of the Family Quality of Life Survey

Memberships and Committees

International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities

Family Quality of Life Project-International Group

Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities

Publications

Refereed

Wark, S., Canon-Vanry, M., Ryan, P., Hussain, R., Knox, M., **Edwards, M.**, Parmenter, M., Parmenter, T., Janicki, M. and Leggatt-Cook, C. (2015), Ageing-related experiences of adults with learning disability resident in rural areas: one Australian perspective. *British Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 43: 293–301.

Edwards, M., Holder, M., Baum, N.T., Brown, R.I. (2014) Nutrition program for people with complex disabilities. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities* 11 (1), 62-67.

Isaacs, B Wang, M., Samuel, P., Ajuwon, P., Baum, N., **Edwards, M.**, Rillotta, F., (2012) Testing the factor structure of the family quality of life survey – 2006. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 56 (1), 17-29.

Werner, S., **Edwards, M.**, Baum, N., Brown, I., Brown, R., & Isaacs, B.J. (2009). Family quality of life among families with a member who has an intellectual disability: An exploratory examination of key domains and dimensions of the revised FQOL Survey. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 53, 501-511.

Werner, S., **Edwards, M.**, Baum, N. (2009). Family Quality of Life Before and After Out-of- Home Placement of a Family Member with an Intellectual Disability. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 6 (1) 32-39.

Petrowski, N., **Edwards, M.**, Isaacs, B. J., Baum, N., Brown, I. (2008). Family Quality of Life: Preliminary Analyses From an On-going Project. *Journal on Developmental Disabilities*, 14 (2) (pp. 111-1114). Toronto: OADD.

Brown, I., Petrowski, N., **Edwards, M.**, Isaacs, B. J., Brown, R. I., Baum, N., & Werner, S. (2008). A family quality of life approach for social workers: Lessons from the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Submitted to *Journal of Family Social Work*. (submitted)

Conference Proceedings

Edwards, M. Family Quality of Life and social support. *To be presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Melbourne , Australia, August 2016.*

Edwards, M Families with a member with a disability: Building and sustaining social support. *Presented at the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Conference, Melbourne, Australia, November 2015.*

Edwards, M., Inclusion in social support networks for families with a member with a disability. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities Asia Pacific Congress, Tokyo, Japan, September, 2013.*

Edwards, M., Holder, M., Baum, N., Health and well-being for adults with intellectual disabilities: Nutrition for individuals living in community residential settings. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Halifax , Canada, July 2012.*

Edwards, M., Baum, N., Isaacs, B. Family Quality of Life for Families on Waitlists: Formal and Informal Supports. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Halifax Canada, July 2012.*

Edwards, M., Isaacs, B., Baum, N., Brown, I. (2011). Family Quality of Life: the role of support from others. *Ontario Association for Developmental Disabilities Research Special Interest Day, St. Catherine's Ontario, April, 2011.*

Edwards, M. & Petrowski, N. (2010). Family Quality of Life: Families' perceptions of support from others and support from services. *Poster session presented at the Ontario Association for Developmental Disabilities Research Special Interest Day, Toronto, Ontario, April 2010.*

Baum, N., **Edwards, M.**, (2010). (co-presenter) Symposium: Transition, An evaluation of a transition process to a specially designed day program environment. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Rome, Italy, October, 2010*

Baum, N. **Edwards, M** (2010) (presenting author) The quality of life of families on a wait list for appropriate services. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Rome, Italy, October, 2010*

Baum, N., **Edwards, M.**, Isaacs, B., Downie, R., (2010). The influence of the domains of health and finances on family quality of life. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Rome, Italy, October, 2010*

Isaacs, B., Downie, R., **Edwards, M.**, Baum, N. (2010). The influence of values, careers, leisure, and community domains on family quality of life. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Rome, Italy, October, 2010*

Edwards, M., Baum, N. Isaacs, B., Downie, R. (2010). Family quality of life-The influence of support from others, support from services and family relationships. *Presented at the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities World Congress, Rome, Italy, October, 2010*

Edwards, M. (2009). Creating a nurturing physical and human environment through the integration of research into daily programming: An example of the transition project at Mukibaum Treatment Centres. *Come to your senses. 3rd International Conference. Toronto: MukiBaum Treatment Centres, October, 2009*

Werner, S., & **Edwards, M.** (2007). Sensory-enriched Environments. *Come to your senses - From theory & research to practice: Sensory therapy & disabilities. 2nd International Conference. Toronto: MukiBaum Treatment Centres, October, 2007.*

Zylich, S.A. & **Edwards, M.** (2007). Biochemical Faults of patients at the MukiBaum Treatment Centres as Observed by Chiropractic. *Come to your senses. 3rd International Conference. Toronto: MukiBaum Treatment Centres. October, 2007.*

Isaacs, B.J., Baum, N., Brown, I., Brown, R., Werner, S., Wang, SY., **Edwards, M.**, (2008). (Poster Presentation) The International Family Quality of Life Project-Initial International Results. *Presented at the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities Research Special Interest Group Annual Meeting, Barrie, Ontario, April 2008.*

Book Chapters

Baum, N. & Edwards, M. (2014) The Cascading Transition Model: Easing the Challenges of Transition Experienced by Individuals with Autism and their Support Staff. In R. Brown & R. Faragher. *Quality of Life and Intellectual Disabilities: Knowledge Application to Other Social and Educational Challenges*.

Undergraduate Thesis:

The effect of the Devco mine closure on families St. F.X. University Sociology Department (2000) (Supervisor Dr. David Lynes)