



**University of Connecticut Health Center**  
*A.J. Pappanikou Center for Developmental Disabilities*

April 4, 2013

Robin Wood  
Department of Developmental Services  
460 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Robin:

I am delighted to write a letter of support for the Department of Developmental Services/Council on Developmental Disabilities application to participate in the National Community of Practice: Supporting Families through the Lifespan. We believe that participation in this opportunity will build on the substantial experience of both of these agencies in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families.

The collaboration among the various disability organizations in Connecticut has contributed significantly toward improving the lives of people with disabilities in Connecticut. These efforts have included the development of the newly forming Cross-Disability Alliance. I am heartened by our ability to collaborate, share resources and expertise and by our common passion to achieve the full inclusion for all people with disabilities in their communities.

The A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities is a disability research and training program located at the University of Connecticut Health Center. The Center is one of a national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD) that strives to ensure that individuals with disabilities of all racial, ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds are fully included and valued in society. The mission of the A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities is to work collaboratively to promote advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families. It is our hope that the the Department of Developmental Services/Council participation in the National Community of Practice will be able to further promote this mission.

We feel that the Community of Practice affords an opportunity for the Connecticut Team to learn from other states and from national experts. This is an exciting opportunity, and one that we will support through participation from our organization, and through dissemination of information.

I look forward to working with you on this exciting initiative! I wish you well on this grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Bruder".

Mary Beth Bruder, PhD

*Professor of Pediatrics and Educational Psychology  
Director, University of Connecticut A.J. Pappanikou  
Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
Education, Research and Service  
263 Farmington Avenue- Mail Code 6222  
Farmington, CT 06030-6222  
Phone: (860) 679-1500  
Fax: (860) 679-1571  
E-mail: [bruder@nso1.uhc.edu](mailto:bruder@nso1.uhc.edu)  
Web site: [www.uconnucedd.org](http://www.uconnucedd.org)*

*Editor, Infants & Young Children  
An Interdisciplinary Journal of Early Childhood Intervention  
<http://journals.lww.com/ycjournal>*