

# CHRISTINA MARSACK-TOPOLEWSKI, PH.D., LMSW

Associate Professor  
Eastern Michigan University  
School of Social Work  
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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Wayne State University, Social Work May 2016  
Detroit, Michigan  
Dual title in Gerontology  
Inter-disciplinary focus: Public Health  
Dissertation Title: **An Examination of Quality of Life of Parents of Adult Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder**  
Chair: Faith Hopp, MSW, Ph.D.
- MSW** University of Michigan, Social Work December 2006  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Geriatric Fellow  
Concentration: Interpersonal Practice  
Recipient of School Social Work Certificate,  
Specialist in Aging Certificate
- BS** Wayne State University, Special Education May 2005  
Detroit, Michigan  
GPA in Major- 4.0, Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

## SPECIALTIES

Disability and Aging; Aging Caregivers; Quality of Life and Caregiving; Services for People with Disabilities; Autism Spectrum Disorder; Intellectual Disability and Dementia

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Peer Reviewed Publications*

57. Wilson, K., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Smith, & Knollman. (In Press). Employment experiences of adults with autism as described by caregivers. *Family Relations*.

56. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Samuel, P. S., & Peterson, M. D. (2023). Perceptions of caregiver burden and living arrangements of adult children with autism. *Families in Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/104438942311704>

55. Hong, J.S., Choi, J., Burlaka, V., Churakova, I., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Voisin, D.R. (In Press). Bullying victimization and suicidal thoughts: Emotional distress and neighborhood conditions. *Journal of Counseling & Development*.

54. **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, Milberger, S. M., Janks, E., Anderson, N., Bray, E., & Samuel, P. S. (2023). Evaluation of peer mediated systems navigation for ageing families of individuals with developmental disabilities. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.13024>

53. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2023). Predictors of quality of life for aging caregivers of adults with autism. *Journal of Family Social Work*, 25(2-3), 109-125. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10522158.2023.2165584>

52. Graves, J. M., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Chan, K. T. (2023). The realities of problem solving for emerging adult siblings of individuals with schizophrenia. *Family Relations*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12850>

51. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (In press). Comparison of caregiver burden and quality of life between compound and caregivers and those with one adult child with ASD. *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education*.

50. Milberger, S., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Janks, E., Anderson, N., Bray, M., & Samuel, P. (2022). Evaluating the benefits of a family support program on the health and well-being of aging family caregivers of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2022.2110347>

49. Chan, K. T., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2022). The association of opioid misuse and suicidality among people with disabilities. *Disability and Health Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2022.2125271>

48. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2022). Comparison of perceptions of activities of daily living of adult children with autism among three groups of aging caregivers. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648221111392>

47. Chan, K., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, LaFave, S., Ratnayake, M., Graves, J., & Fenske, D. (2022). Teaching note— Supporting homebound older adults and caregivers through integrative service learning. *Journal of Social Work Education*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2022.2045238>
46. Hershey, L. B., Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2022). Using in-service retirement plan distributions with Roth conversions to fund special needs planning. *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, 76(2), 49-58.
45. McGinley, J. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2021). A comparative case study of hospice and hospital end-of-life care for aging adults with developmental disabilities. *Global Qualitative Nursing Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23333936221087626>
44. Peterson, M. D., Lin, P., Kamdar, N., **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, & Mahmoudi, E. (2022). Physical and mental health comorbidities among adults with multiple sclerosis. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Innovations, Quality & Outcomes*, 6(1), 55-68.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291720001981>
43. Chan, K. T. K., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2022). Ethnic and neighborhood differences in poverty and disability among older Asian Americans in New York City. *Social Work in Public Health*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19371918.2021.2000916>
42. Church, H. L., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, McGinley, J. M., & Knoke, V. (2021). Advance care planning within individualized care plans: A component of emergency preparedness. *Developmental Disabilities Network Journal*, 2(1), 3.
41. Samuel, P. S., Wright, K., DiZazzo-Miller, R., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2021). When more is too much: Compound caregiving, service provision, and barriers to services. *Families in Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10443894211048456>
40. **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, & Wang, F. (2021). Dimensions of caregiver burden between compound and noncompound caregivers of adults with autism. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2021.1969609>
39. Wang, F., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, DiZazzo-Miller, R., & Samuel, P. (In Press). Health of aging families: Comparing compound and noncompound caregivers. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2021.1963024>
38. Graves, J.M., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Chan, K.T., & Shapiro, J. (2020). Emerging adult development of siblings of schizophrenia: Influence of first onset of schizophrenia. *Families in Society*, 41(11), 2002-2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X20905327>
37. Milberger, S., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Janks, E., & Samuel, P. (2021). Family caregiving during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Developmental Disabilities Network Journal*, 1(2), 10. <https://doi.org/10.26077/64db-5d81>

36. Wilson, K., Kaminski, A., Tenbus, J., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2021). Social communication supports and services for adults with ASD: Parental perceptions of use and need. *Journal of Family Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389420913121>
35. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Samuel, P.S., & Tarraf, W. (2021). Empirical evaluation of the association between daily living skills of adults with autism and parental caregiving burden. *Plos One Publications*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244844>
34. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2021). Relationship between caregiver burden and instrumental activities of daily living among compound and noncompound caregivers. *Journal of Family Social Work*, 24(4), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10522158.2020.1861157>
33. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2021). Receipt of social support among aging parental caregivers of adults with autism. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 64(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2020.1834045>
32. McGinley, J., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Church, H. L., & Knoke, V. (2021). Advance care planning for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A state-by-state content analysis of person-centered service plans. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 59(4), 352-364. <https://doi.org/10.1352/1934-9556-59.4.352>
31. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Samuel, P.S. (2021). Caregivers' perceptions of family quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities comorbid with dementia: A pilot study. *Journal for ReAttach Therapy and Developmental Diversities*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.26407/2020jrtd.132>
30. Kelly, A.M., Hershey, L., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2021). A 50-state review of guardianship laws: Specific concerns for special needs planning. *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, 75(1).
29. Chan, K. T. K., Zhou, S., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2020). Race differences in opioid misuse and adolescent suicidality. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-020-00721-0>
28. Chan, K.T., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2020). Examining social determinants in the use of assistive technology for race/ethnic groups of older adults. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17483107.2020.1814430>
27. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2020). Mediating effects of social support on caregiver burden and quality of life for compound and noncompound caregivers. *Families in Society*, 102(2), 240-252. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389420947229>
26. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Perry, T.E., & Chan, K.T. (2020). "“I’m glad she chose me as her parent:” Rewards of caregiving for adults with autism". *Family Relations*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12515>

25. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** & Maragakis, A. (2021). Relationship between symptom severity and caregiver burden experienced by parents of adults with autism. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, 36(1), 57-65.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1088357620956927>
24. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** & Brady, A. (2020). Experiences of family caregivers of individuals with IDD and dementia. *Journal for ReAttach Therapy and Developmental Diversities*, 3(1), 54-64.
23. Peterson, M.D., Lin, P., Kamdar, N., Mahmoudi, E., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Maraszko, K. (2020). Psychological morbidity among adults with cerebral palsy and spina bifida. *Psychological Medicine*, 51(4), 694-701. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291720001981>
22. Chan, K., Moller, M., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Winston, P., Jennings, R., & Prifti, A. (2020). Age differences in non-medical prescription opioid use and psychological distress. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 55(11), 1808-1816.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2020.1765808>
21. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2020). Quality of life among compound caregivers and noncompound caregivers of adults with autism. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 63(5), 379-391. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2020.1765063>
20. Hershey, L., Kelly, A.M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2020). Implementing guardianship policies in special needs planning: Five potential positives. *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, 74(6).
19. Kelly, A.M., Hershey, L., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2020). Implementing guardianship policies in special needs planning: Five possible pitfalls. *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, 74(5).
18. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** & Wilson, K. (2020). Coping strategies used by aging parental caregivers of adults with autism spectrum disorder. *Families in Society*, 102(1), 119-132. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389420913121>
17. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2020). A snapshot of social support networks among parental caregivers of adults with autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 50(4), 1111-1122. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04285-6>
16. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2021). Parental caregivers' use of support networks for adults with autism by educational status. *Journal of Family Social Work*, 24(2), 81-97.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10522158.2020.1777239>

15. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Weisz, A. (2020). Parents' perceptions of service needs and access of adult children with autism spectrum disorder. *Families in Society, 101*(2), 190-204. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389419881273>
14. Lee, J.M., Kim, J., Hong, J.S., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2020). From bully victimization to aggressive behavior: Applying the problem behavior theory, theory of stress and coping, and general strain theory to explore potential pathways. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 37*(4), 397-409. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519884679>
13. Chan, K.T. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (2020). Gender differences in adolescent opioid misuse and major depressive episodes. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 37*(4), 397-409. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-019-00642-7>
12. Whitney, D.G., Caird, M.S., Jepsen, K.J., Ng, S., Kamdar, N.S., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Hurvitz, E.A., Peterson, M.D. (2020). Increased fracture risk for adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities. *Bone, 130*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bone.2019.115080>
11. Graves, J., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Shapiro, J. (2020). Emerging adult siblings of people with schizophrenia: Experiences with family crisis. *Journal of Family Issues, 41*(11), 2002-2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X20905327>
10. Janicki, M., Jokinen, N., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, Keller, S. (2019). Toward a research agenda on the impact of dementia upon caregivers of adults with intellectual disability. *Journal for ReAttach Therapy and Developmental Diversities, 2*(1), 51-60. <https://doi.org/10.26407/2019jrtd.1.18>
9. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Graves, J. (2019). 'I worry about his future!': The delay in future planning for adult children with ASD. *Journal of Family Social Work, 23*(1), 71-85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10522158.2019.1578714>
8. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Church, H.L. (2019). Impact of caregiver burden on quality of life for parents of adult children with ASD. *The American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 124*(2), 145-156. <https://doi.org/10.1352/1944-7558-124.2.145>
7. **Marsack, C.N.**, & Hopp, F. (2018). The moderating effect of health between informal social support and caregiver burden among parents of adult children with ASD. *The Gerontologist, 59*(6), 1112-1121. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gny082>
6. **Marsack, C.N.**, & Perry, T.E. (2018). Aging in place in every community: Social exclusion experiences of parents of adult children with autism spectrum disorder. *Research on Aging, 40*(6), 535-557. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0164027517717044>

5. **Marsack, C.N.**, & Samuel, P.S. (2017). Mediating effects of social support on quality of life for parents of adults with autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 47(8), 2378–2389. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-017-3157-6>
4. Samuel, P.S., Tarraf, W., & **Marsack, C.N.** (2017). Family quality of life survey (FQOLS-2006): Evaluation of internal consistency, construct and criterion validity for socioeconomically disadvantaged families. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 31(1), 46-63. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01942638.2017.1311393>
3. Samuel, P.S., **Marsack, C.N.**, Johnson, L.A., & Lichtenberg, P.A. (2017). Impact of grandchild caregiving on African American grandparents. *Occupational Therapy in Health Care*, 31(1), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07380577.2016.1243821>
2. Brisebois, K., Trzcinski, E. & **Marsack, C.** (2015). The relationship between caseworker assessments of clients' social networks and child welfare placement outcomes. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, 18(2), 90-105. <https://doi.org/10.1606/1044-3894.2015.96.4>
1. Hopp, F.P., **Marsack, C.**, Camp, J.K., and Thomas, S. (2014). Go to the hospital or stay at home? A qualitative study of expected hospital decision making among African Americans with advanced heart failure. *The Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 57(1), 4-23. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gny082>

#### **MANUSCRIPTS - UNDER REVIEW**

##### ***Peer Reviewed Publications***

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, Wright, K., DiZazzo-Miller, R., & Samuel, P. S. (Under Review). Careers and quality of life: Perceptions of compound and noncompound family caregivers.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** & Chan, K. T. (Under Review). The association of opioid misuse and suicidality among people with disabilities.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (Under Review). What influences quality of life? Exploring the role of caregiver burden and social support among compound and noncompound caregivers of adults with autism residing in the family home.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.** (Under Review). Experiences of fathers of adult children with autism spectrum disorder.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C.N.**, & Wang, F. (Under Review). Characteristics of adult child with autism and caregiver burden.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### *Blogs*

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2023, April). The many roles of aging caregivers of adult children with autism. <https://perspectivesblog.sagepub.com/blog/research/the-many-roles-of-aging-caregivers-of-adult-children-with-autism>

### *Newsletter Entries*

Ratnayake, M. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2022, September). Lori's Hands: A Unique Support for Aging in Place. *Urban Aging News*.

LaFave, S. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2021, March). Families & communities fight COVID-19 best with strengths of every age group. *Urban Aging News*.

### *Encyclopedia Entries*

11. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Special Needs Trust (SNT). In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

10. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Special Needs Planning. In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

9. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Social Security Act Amendments of 1965 (also referred to as the "Medicare Act of 1965" and/or the "Medicaid Act of 1965"). In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

8. **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Parental Caregivers of Adults with Autism. In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

7. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support Act (CARES) Act of 2019. In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

6. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Achieving a Better Life Experience Savings Account (ABLE Savings Account, ABLE Account, 529A Savings Plan, and 529A Account). In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

5. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Conservatorship (Full Conservatorship and Limited Conservatorship). In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

4. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Civil Rights Act of 1964. In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

3. Kelly, A. M., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020). Letter of Intent. In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY



2. Kelly, A. M., & Marsack-Topolewski, C.N. (2020). Power of attorney (Financial and Property Management). In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

1. Kelly, A. M., & Marsack-Topolewski, C.N. (2020). Power of attorney for healthcare (durable healthcare power of attorney and medical power of attorney). In: Volkmar F. (eds) Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Springer, New York, NY

#### **GRANT APPLICATIONS AND FUNDING**

##### **National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Administration for Community Living, Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (Under Review)**

Project Title: Supporting Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities with Chronic Conditions and Caregivers through an Integrative Service Learning Partnership  
Role: Project Director, Co-Investigator

**Michigan Health Endowment Fund (Funded) - R-2108-149060** (Award Amount = \$409,332)

Title: Lori's Hands Metro Detroit: The SOCIAL Partnership

Team: Christina Marsack-Topolewski (PI), Keith Chan (Co-I), Jillian Graves (Co-I), Lori's Hands (Co-I)

1/2022 - 12/2023

##### **National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (Not Funded)**

Title: Service Learning-based COmpanionship: ReCiprocal Partnerships to Address Isolation And Loneliness (**SOCIAL**)

Team: Keith Chan (PI), Christina Marsack-Topolewski (Co-I), Lori's Hands of Delaware, University of Delaware, Johns Hopkins

##### **University for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service - CORE Grant (Amount of Subcontract Award = \$30,000)**

Title: CORE Research Coordination

5/2021 - 08/2021

##### **Michigan Health Endowment - Community Health Impact Grant (Amount Awarded = \$100,000)**

Title: Supporting Older Adults and Caregivers through a Collaborative Home-Based Training program.

Team: Christina Marsack-Topolewski (PI), Jillian Graves (Co-I), Keith Chan (Co-I), Lori's Hands of Delaware

07/2020 - 06/2021

**Sandell Grant (Not Funded)**

Title: The Association of Non-Medical Prescription Opioid Use, Disability and Mental Health across the Lifecourse.

Team: Keith Chan (PI), Christina Marsack-Topolewski (Co-I)

**Administration for Community Living - Rehabilitation Research and Training Center Program Grant (Not Funded)**

Title: Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Family Support Grant Competition (RTGE-0342).

Team: UMKC Medical Center, Wayne State University, UCLA

**Health Resources and Services Administration (Not Funded)**

Title: “Natural History of Autism Spectrum Disorder across the Lifespan: Insights from the Medical Expenditures Panel Survey”.

Team: Mark Peterson (PI), Christina Marsack (Co-I), Elham Mahmoudi (Co-I), Daniel Whitney (Co-I)

**Michigan Health Endowment Grant (Amount Awarded = \$500,000)**

1/2019 – 12/2020

Funder: Michigan Health Endowment, Innovative Project Award

For “Michigan Older Caregivers of Emerging Adults with Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (MI-OCEAN)”.

Team: Sharon Milberger (PI), Christina Marsack (Co-I), Elizabeth Janks (Project Manager), Preethy Samuel (Project Evaluator), Julia Hernandez (Research Assistant)

**INTERNAL FUNDING**

**College of Health and Human Services Research Grant**

2023-2024

Office of the Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Eastern Michigan University

For “Investigation of the Employment Experiences of Parental Caregivers of Adult Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder”

**College of Health and Human Services Research Grant**

2022-2023

Office of the Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Eastern Michigan University

For “Adult Children with Autism and their Aging Parental Caregivers: An Examination of Living Arrangements and Caregiver Burden”

**Summer Research/Creative Activity Award**

2022

Office of Research Development and Administration, Eastern Michigan University

For “A Content Analysis of State-Level Policies: Hospital Visitation Policies for People with Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

**Faculty Research Fellowship Award**

2021-2022; continued through 2022-2023 due to medical leave  
Office of the Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Eastern Michigan University  
For Examination of Non-Medical Prescription Opioid Use among Individuals with Disabilities

**College of Health and Human Services Research Grant**

2021-2022  
Office of the Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Eastern Michigan University  
For “Functional Status and Caregiver Burden among Parents of Adults with Autism”

**GameAbove Faculty First Program Award**

2020-2021  
For “Social Media Use among Caregivers of Individuals with IDD and Dementia” project

**Summer Research/Creative Activity Award**

2020  
Office of Research Development and Administration, Eastern Michigan University  
For “Examination of Rewards of Aging Parental Caregivers of Adult Children with Autism”

**College of Health and Human Services Research Grant**

2019-2020  
Office of the Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Eastern Michigan University  
For “Examination of the Experiences of Parents of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the College Supports Program”

**Faculty Research Fellowship Award**

2019 – 2020  
Office of Research Development and Administration, Eastern Michigan University  
For “Caregiver Burden, Social Support, and Quality of Life among Caregivers of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia”

**ORDA Culture of Research Excellence (CoRE) Faculty Fellowship Grant Writing Program**

2019  
Office of Research Development and Administration, Eastern Michigan University

**Summer Research/Creative Activity Award**

2019

Office of Research Development and Administration, Eastern Michigan University  
For “State-by-State Policy Analysis of Advance Care Planning for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

**Interprofessional Education (IPE) Faculty Scholar Award**

2018

Office of Interprofessional Education, Research and Practice, Eastern Michigan University

**Faculty Research Fellowship Award**

2017 – 2018

Office of Research Development and Administration, Eastern Michigan University  
For “Exploration of the Experiences of Caregivers of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia”

**Summer Research/Creative Activity Award**

2017

Office of Research Development and Administration, Eastern Michigan University  
For “Experiences with Formal Support among Older Parents of Adult Children with ASD”

**AWARD**

**Everett L. Marshall Research Excellence Award**

**2021**

**NEWS AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

One year later Lori’s Hands helps students see beauty in helping others. EMU Today. Press Release: June 7th: <https://today.emich.edu/story/story/12420> (June 2023).

The many roles of aging caregivers of adult children with autism. SAGE Perspectives Blog. (April 2023). <https://perspectivesblog.sagepub.com/blog/research/the-many-roles-of-aging-caregivers-of-adult-children-with-autism>

Adults with developmental disabilities at risk for poor end-of-life care. *Medical Ethics Advisor*. (November 2022).

Opioid misuse greatly increases chance of major depressive episode among teen girls. *News Medical*. (November 1, 2019). <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20191101/Opioid-misuse-greatly-increases-chance-of-major-depressive-episode-among-teen-girls.aspx>

Opioid misuse greatly increases chance of major depressive episode among teen girls. *News Medical*. (November 1, 2019). <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20191101/Opioid-misuse-greatly-increases-chance-of-major-depressive-episode-among-teen-girls.aspx>

Researcher Finds Link Between Opioid Misuse and Depression in Teen Girls. *Health News Digest*. (November 1, 2019).

[http://www.healthnewsdigest.com/news/Teen\\_Health\\_290/Researcher-Finds-Link-Between-Opioid-Misuse-and-Depression-in-Teen-Girls.shtml](http://www.healthnewsdigest.com/news/Teen_Health_290/Researcher-Finds-Link-Between-Opioid-Misuse-and-Depression-in-Teen-Girls.shtml)

Wallet Hub (December 2023). Entry written by Marsack-Topolewski, C. N. & Chan, K. <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-elder-abuse-protection/28754>

Channel 7 WXYZ <https://www.wxyz.com/news/upfront/examining-efforts-to-enact-protections-from-online-predators>

Examining efforts to enact protections from online predators

The Eastern Echo (November 15, 2021) <https://www.easternecho.com/article/2021/11/emu-professors-testify-to-adapt-laws-protecting-vulnerable-adults-against-online-predatory-behavior>

WBTW (October 25, 2021) Eastern Michigan University professors testify before Michigan lawmakers to call for modernized laws that protect vulnerable adults against online predators <https://www.wbtv.com/prnewswire/2021/10/25/eastern-michigan-university-professors-testify-before-michigan-lawmakers-call-modernized-laws-that-protect-vulnerable-adults-against-online-predators/?outputType=amp>

Physicians Weekly (December 12, 2022) Opioid misuse linked to increased suicide risk in persons with disabilities <https://www.physiciansweekly.com/opioid-misuse-linked-to-increased-suicide-risk-in-persons-with-disabilities/>

Medical Press (December 8, 2022) <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-12-people-disabilities-misuse-opioid-drugs.html>  
<https://www.drugs.com/news/opioid-misuse-linked-increased-suicide-risk-persons-disabilities-109492.html>

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Research Consultant**

#### **Borchard Center on Law & Aging, Academic Research Grant**

Title: How We Die Alone: A Content Analysis of Healthcare Facility Visitation Policies during the Pandemic

PI: Jackie McGinley, Role: Consultant

#### **Programmatic Specialist, CDC Contact: C. Zometa** 2013-2014

- Worked collaboratively with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NAACHO)
- Analyzed reports regarding local health departments utilization of Stanford's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)
- Reviewed results from the evaluation of the CDSMP's implementation from local health departments
- Compiled key findings and lessons learned

- Presented findings at NAACHO's annual meeting

**Subject Matter Consultant- Aging, CDC Contact: M. Moore** 2013

- Collaborated with the NACCHO and the CDC to examine the preparedness of local health departments to address the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities during National Emergencies
- Investigated participating health communities to improve factors that facilitate emergency preparedness for older adults and individuals with disabilities in various communities around the United States
- Conducted in-depth interview with health communities regarding emergency preparedness and assisting with data analysis
- Participated with the CDC to write key findings
- Disseminated key findings to prepare for National Emergencies in the U.S.

**Hospice of Michigan/Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan** 2011

**Assistant on Research Project, Principal Investigator: F. Hopp**

- Project- Evaluation of @HOME Support Program
- Conducted an extensive literature review
- Reviewed economics, hospice, and end-of-life care material
- Prepared an annotated bibliography

**Wayne State University School of Social Work, Detroit, Michigan** 2011 to 2012

**Research Practicum, Principal Investigator: Dean Cheryl Waites**

- Project- Detroit Healthy Aging Project
- Conducted qualitative analysis- thematic coding
- Utilized Atlas.ti v.6.2 software
- Prepared written material and presented based on the analysis

**Wayne State University School of Social Work, Detroit, Michigan** 2010

**Assistant on Research Project, Principal Investigator: F. Hopp**

- Project- Decisions in Advanced Heart Failure Dyad Project
- Conducted literature review on relevant material
- Engaged in data analysis procedure
- Co-authored manuscript

**Wayne State University School of Social Work, Detroit, Michigan** 2004 to 2005

**Student Researcher, Principal Investigator: D. Moxley**

- Project- Incarcerated Pregnant Women's Program Project
- Center for Evaluation and Organizational Learning research affiliate
- Conducted interviews with The Children's Center staff
- Qualitative data analysis
- Prepared written material and presented at multiple conferences

## COMMUNITY TRAININGS & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N. & Kelly, A.M.** (2023, May). *Intersectional Implicit Bias Training*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2023, May). *Why Self-Care Matters: How to Care for Yourself While Caring for Others*. Presented (virtual) training for Relias, LLC national audience.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N. & Kelly, A.M.** (2023, March). *Evolving Ethical Concerns in Legal Guardianship and Supported Decision-Making: Fraud, Abuse, and Neglect Issues for Adults with Cognitive Impairments and Intellectual Disabilities*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2023, March). *Advance Care Planning for People with Lifelong Disabilities*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2023, February). *Advance Care Planning: Where Do We Go From Here?*. Presented (virtual) training for direct service professionals through InterHab in Kansas.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2022, October). *Advance Care Planning*. Presented (virtual) training for Relias, LLC national audience.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2022, November). *Demystifying IEPs and 504 plans: Legal Requirements, Testing, and Accommodations... Oh My!* Presented DHHS Child Welfare In-Service Training presentation continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2022, October). *Emergency Preparedness and Response for IDD Organizations*. Presented (virtual) training for Relias, LLC national audience.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2022, October). *Understanding the Ins and Outs of Navigating School-Based Support for Students in Special Education and At-Risk Students*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2021, November). *Understanding 504 Plans, Special Education, and School-Based Eligibility*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2021, October). *Supporting Foster Youth with Disabilities*. DHHS Child Welfare In-Service Training presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2021, March). *Foster Care Workers: A Primer on Special Education and 505 Services*. DHHS Child Welfare In-Service Training presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2021, February). *Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder during the Pandemic*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020, February). *High School to Post-Secondary Education for At-Risk Students*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack, C. N.** (2019, March). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Real World Applications*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack, C. N.** (2018, June). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Real World Applications*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University's Extension Center, Livonia, MI.

**Marsack, C. N.** (2018, March). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Real World Applications*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University's Extension Center, Livonia, MI.

**Marsack, C. N.** (2017, February). *Supporting Parents with Traumatic Brain Injury in their Visitation with their Children*. Will be presented at Eisenhower Center's Faculty Professional Development Day, Ypsilanti, MI.

**Marsack, C. N., & Fritz, J.K.** (2016, November). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Real World Applications*. Presented continuing education course at Eastern Michigan University's Extension Center, Livonia, MI.

**Marsack, C. N.** (2016, April). *Implementing Instructional Strategies in the College Setting for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Presented at Lawrence Technological University's Faculty and Staff Lunch & Learn through the Office of Disability Services, Southfield, MI.

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Pandey, A., Graves J., & **Marsack- Topolewski, C.** (upcoming - 2023, August). Caring for Caregivers: How Caregiving stress impacts work outcomes for informal caregiver employees and how flexible work and relational coordination help. Academy of Management Conference. (Boston, MA).

McGinley, J. M. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2023, June 5-7). *Evaluating policies to better the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A*



*five-step approach to content analysis* [Poster presentation]. American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, United States.

Chan, K., **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, & Ratnayake, M. (Under Review). The Impact of an Intergenerational Service Learning Program on Depressive Symptoms for Home-Bound Older Adults with Chronic Illness. Submitted to the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).

Burlaka, V., Hong, J.S., Choi, J., Burlaka, J., **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, & Voisin, D. (Under Review). Bullying Victimization and Suicidal Thoughts Among African American Adolescents in Southside of Chicago: Emotional Distress and Neighborhood Conditions. Submitted to the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).

McGinley, J. M. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2023). Utilizing research to understand the impact of policies on people with IDD. American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. (Pittsburgh, PA).

Gale-Laman, M. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2023, March). Lori's Hands - Intergenerational service learning connecting college students and people living with chronic illness. Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters (MASAL) Annual Conference. (Berrien Springs, MI).

Chan, K. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Ratnayake, M., Graves, J., LaFave, S., & Fenske, D. (2022, November). Impact of intergenerational service learning on psychological distress for homebound adults during COVID. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting. (Indianapolis, IN).

Wilson, K., Thayer, N., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2022, November). Caregivers' Autism-Related Experiences with Professionals and Community Members Across the Lifespan. Presented virtually at the 2022 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention. (New Orleans, LA).

Chan, K. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2022, November). Ethnic and neighborhood differences in poverty and disability among older Asian Americans in New York City. Symposium presentation at the Gerontological Society of America.

Wilson, K., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Knollman, G., & Smith, D. (2022, May). Caregiver perceptions and experiences related to employment of their adult-aged children with autism. Presented at INSAR.

Kelly, A., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2021, October). Defining "revenge pornography" laws while protecting healthy sexual expression and free speech: Critical civil rights

- and public health issues. Submitted to the American Public Health Association Annual Conference.
- Graves, J., Kelly, A., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2021, October). Supporting the siblings of individuals with schizophrenia: Strength-based communications to support emerging adults. Submitted to the American Public Health Association Annual Conference.
- Kelly, A., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2021, October). State standards for defining “vulnerable adult” populations with intellectual impairments: An urgent call for legal reform. Submitted to the American Public Health Association Annual Conference.
- Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Graves, J. M., & Kelly, A. M. (2021, November). Strengths-based approaches to fostering future planning for family caregivers of adult children with autism. Presented at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference.
- Chan, K., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, LaFave, S., Ratnayake, M., Graves, J., & Fenske, D. (2021, November). Validation of a measure of loneliness for homebound older adults. Poster Presentation at the 73rd Gerontological Society of America Conference.
- Wang, F., **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, DiZazzo-Miller, & Samuel, P. S. (2021, November). Health of Aging Families: Comparing Compound and Noncompound Caregivers. Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting (Virtual).
- Hughey, S., Beals, E., Janks, E., Anderson, N., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Bray, M., Milberger, S., Samuel, P.S. (2021, June). Preliminary Results from Michigan Older Caregivers of Emerging Adults with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (MI-OCEAN) Family Support Project. Poster presented virtually at the Annual Occupational Therapy Research Summit, Denver, CO.
- Marsack-Topolewski, C.** & Samuel, P. (2021, May). Connecting the dots: Caregiver perceptions of the onset of dementia in adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Submitted to the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference Satellite Symposium.
- McGinley, J. M., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Church, H. M., & Knocke, V. (2021, April). Integrating Advance Care Planning into the Person-centered Planning Process. Invited Presentation at the AAIDD “Crucial Conversations” session.
- Chan, K. **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, & Zhou, S. (2021, January). Race / ethnic differences in non-medical prescription opioid use and suicide among adolescents. Submitted to the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).

- Kelly, A., Hershey, L., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2020, November 19). *Guardianship Policies in Special Needs Planning: Journal Live Program* [continuing professional education presentation]. Society of Financial Service Professionals. Ardmore, PA, United States.
- Chan, K. LaFave, S., Ratnayake, M., **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Gravees, J., Fenski, D., & Lukas, S. (2020, November). Supporting older adults and caregivers through integrative service learning during COVID. Submitted the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Conference, Virtual Event.
- Beals, E., Samuel, P., Milberger, S., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Janks, E., Hernandez, J., & Bray, M. (2020, October). Impact of peer-navigation services on the quality of life of aging caregivers of adults with disabilities: Preliminary analyses. Presented at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences 17th Annual College Research Day, Virtual Event.
- Kelly, A. & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2020, October). Challenges to legal reforms that will increase protections against online abuse for vulnerable adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Presented at the American Public Health Association's Annual Conference.
- Kelly, A., Hershey, L., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2020, October). Unnecessary guardianships are human rights violations: Analyzing forms of supported decision-making to assist individuals with disabilities. Presented at the American Public Health Association's Annual Conference.
- Kelly, A., Hershey, L., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.** (2020, October). Standards for Legal Guardianships of Adults with Disabilities: A 50-State Review of US Laws. Presented at the American Public Health Association's Annual Conference.
- Jokinen, N., Service, K., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C.**, Janicki, M. (2020, July). Support-staging model for caregivers of adults with intellectual disability affected by dementia. Presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Virtual Event.
- Lee, J.M., Kim, J.W., Hong, J.S., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2020, January). *From Bully Victimization to Bully Perpetration: Applying the Problem Behavior Theory to Explore the Pathways*. Poster presented at the 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington, D.C.

- Wilson, K., **Topolewski-Marsack, C. N.**, Samuel, P., & Shaw, S. (2019, November). *Social Communication Supports for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Parent Perceptions of Use and Need*. Presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Orlando, Florida.
- Graves, J., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2019, November). *A developmental approach to crisis management and caregiving of people with schizophrenia and their families*. Presented at the ISPS-US 18th Annual Meeting, Haven Connecticut.
- Graves, J., & **Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.** (2019, October). *Experiences of emerging adult siblings with schizophrenia during periods of family crisis*. Presented at The Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood's 9th Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- Church, H., McGinley, J.M., **Topolewski-Marsack, C. N.**, & Knoke, V. (2019, August). Symposia- *Advance Care Planning as a Component of Person-Centered Planning*. Presented at the World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Glasgow, Scotland.
- Marsack-Topolewski, C. N.**, & Samuel, P.S. (2019, April). *Aging with Down Syndrome and Dementia*. 2019 National Down Syndrome Society Adult Summit, Detroit, MI.
- Marsack, C. N.**, & Weisz, A. (2019, January). Poster presentation- *Complicated launching: How families of young adults with autism navigate expectations of increased independence*. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Graves, J., **Marsack, C. N.**, & Shapiro, J. (2019, January). Roundtable- *Formulating a developmental approach to crisis management for families of people with ASD and Schizophrenia*. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Knoke, V., McGinley, J.M., **Marsack, C. N.**, & Church, H. (2018, November). Symposia- *Experience of Life Course Transitions for Persons with Lifelong Disability*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- Marsack, C. N.** & Graves, J. (2018, October). *Supporting Caregivers of Individuals with Autism: Understanding Their Fears for the Future*. The Council for Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.
- McGinley, J., **Marsack, C. N.**, Knoke, V., Church, C. (2018, October). *Advance Care Planning for People with Intellectual Disabilities: A State-by-State Content Analysis*. Presented at the Council for Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

**Marsack, C. N., & Church, H.** (2018, July). *Impact of Caregiver Burden on Quality of Life: Parental Caregivers of Adults with Autism*. 5th IASSIDD Europe Congress - Diversity & Belonging: Celebrating Difference, Athens, Greece.

Church, H., & **Marsack, C. N.** (2018, July). *Predictors of Quality of Life among Parental Caregivers of Adults with Autism*. 5th IASSIDD Europe Congress - Diversity & Belonging: Celebrating Difference, Athens, Greece.

Knoke, V., McGinley, J. M., **Marsack, C.**, & Church, H. (2018, June). Advance care planning for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A state-by-state content analysis of person-centered service plans. Poster symposia at the AAIDD Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.

Graves, J., Lee, J., & **Marsack, C. N.** (2018, January). *Re-examining Consent and Vulnerability: Qualitative Work with Adolescents and Emerging Adults*. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Marsack, C. N.** (2018, January). *The Effects of Social Support on Quality of Life among Aging Parents of Adult Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Marsack, C. N.** & Weisz, A.N. (2018, January). *What We Need: Parents' Understandings of Service Needs of Adult Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

Camp, J.K., & **Marsack, C. N.** (2018, January). *Material Hardship Among Working-Aged Americans with Mental Health Disorders and Learning Disabilities*. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Marsack, C. N.** (2017, November). *Fostering Integration and Inclusivity by Supporting the Service Needs of Adult Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Congress, Bangkok, Thailand.

Graves, J., & **Marsack, C. N.** (2017, November). *Developmental Needs of Family Caregivers of People with Disabilities*. International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Congress, Bangkok, Thailand.

**Marsack, C. N., & Weisz, A.** (2017, October). *Supporting Aging Caregivers of Individuals with ASD: Six A's of Service Support*. Council on Social Work Education APM, Dallas, Texas.

- Graves, J., & **Marsack, C. N.** (2017, September). *Mental Health Access and Advocacy Across the Lifespan*. Eastern Michigan University. Presented at Eastern Michigan University's Day of Social Justice, Ypsilanti, MI.
- Marsack, C. N.** (2017, September). *Supporting Students with Disabilities in the Field*. Presented at Eastern Michigan University's Field Instructor Orientation, Ypsilanti, MI.
- Marsack, C. N.**, & Weisz, A. (2017, July). *Planning for Aging in the Midst of Enduring Caregiving for Parents of Adult Children With ASD*. Presented at the IAGG World Congress Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Church, H. & **Marsack, C. N.** (2017, July). *Health Equity Predictors Among Aging Parental Caregivers of Adults Who Have Autism*. Presented at the IAGG World Congress Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Marsack, C. N.**, & Perry, T.E. (2017, July). *Meanings of Homes for Lifelong Caregivers of Adult Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Presented at the IAGG World Congress Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Graves, J., **Marsack, C.**, & Quinn, A. (2017, April). *Warmth, Stigma, and Family Role Changes: Factors Influencing the Future Caregiving among Siblings*. Presented at the Western Social Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Graves, J., **Marsack, C.**, & Quinn, A. (2017, March). *Warmth, Stigma, and Family Role Changes: Factors Influencing the Future Caregiving among Siblings*. Presented at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Marsack, C. N.** (2016, November). *Application of the Stress and Coping Framework to Investigate Quality of Life Among Older Caregivers*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Marsack, C. N.** & Marsack, J.A. (2016, November). *Caring for Ourselves: The Experiences of Older Parental Caregivers in the Provision of Self-Care*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Marsack, C. N.** & Marsack, J.A. (2016, November). *How We Feel: The Physical and Emotional Experiences of Older Caregivers of Adult Children with ASD*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Marsack, C. N.** & Perry, T.E. (2016, November). *Productive Aging Among Caregivers of Adult Children With ASD: The Presence of Rewards and Self-Care*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

- Marsack, C. N.** (2016, November). *What Does the Future Hold?: The Fears of Older Parental Caregivers of Adult Children with ASD*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Marsack, C.N. & Weisz, A.** (2016, October). *Parenting Adult Children with ASD: The Six A's of Service Support*. Presented at the Joint IASSIDD Roundtable- The Comparative Policy and Practice SIRG & Quality of Life SIRG, Zabreb, Croatia.
- Marsack, C.** (2015, October). *An examination of quality of life of parents of adult children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Presented at Wayne State University.
- Marsack, C., Green, T., & Thompson-Reid, P.** (2014, November). *Chronic Disease Self-Management Program: Lessons Learned and Recommendations from Clinical Health Provider*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Marsack, C., Zometa, C., Green, T., Harvey, I., Thompson-Reid, P., & Traveras, S.** (2014, July). *Linking Clinical Health Providers to Recruit Participants into the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program: Lessons Learned and Recommendations*. Presented at the NAACHO Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Marsack, C. N., & Waites, C.** (2013, October). *Exploring the Context and Realities of Aging for African American Elders in an Urban Environment*. Presented through Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology, Dearborn, MI.
- Barragan, C. & Marsack, C. N.** (2012, November). *Nursing Home Policy Analysis: Highlighting the Need for Social Work Title Protection in Long-Term Care Facilities*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Marsack, C. N.** (2012, November). *Determining and Informing Healthy Aging and Health Promotion Among African American Elders*. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Marsack, C. N.** (2012, March). *Determining and Informing Healthy Aging and Health Promotion Among African American Elders*. Presented at the University of Toledo Midwest Graduate Symposium, Toledo, OH.
- Marsack, C. N.** (2005, March). *The Potential of Strength-Based Practices on Deficit Situations: Effects of the Criminal Justice System on Incarcerated Pregnant Women*. Presented at the Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum, Lansing, MI.
- Marsack, C. N.** (2004, November). *The Potential of Strength-Based Practices on Deficit Situations: Effects of the Criminal Justice System on Incarcerated Pregnant Women*. Presented at Wayne State University's Research Conference, Detroit, MI.

## MEMBER POSITIONS

(Selected) National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, Membership Affairs Co-Coordinator (2019 - present)

Board Member, Families in Society journal (2023 – present)

## JOURNAL MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER & CONFERENCE ABSTRACT REVIEWER

Journal Reviewer for:

Autism

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology

Families in Society

Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities

Journal of Family Social Work

Journal of Social Work

Occupation, Participation and Health

Social Work in Health Care

Conference Reviewer:

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, World Conference, abstract reviewer, 2016

Gerontological Society of America, Annual Scientific Meeting, abstract reviewer

Gerontological Society of America, Annual Scientific Meeting, abstract reviewer

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Eastern Michigan University**, Ypsilanti, Michigan 2016 - present

**Associate Professor (tenured)**, School of Social Work (2021-2023)

**Assistant Professor**, School of Social Work (2016-2021)

- Develop curriculum and provide instruction for various classes (IHHS 260, SWKR 488, SWKR 489, IHHS 260/NURS 261)
- Active member in multiple committees (Finance committee (co-chair), Aging Studies Program Committee, Special Olympics co-chair, Field, Critical Disabilities committee)
- Develop and conduct various research studies
- Write and disseminate timely research via peer-reviewed journal articles
- Created *Project Living Free* to benefit survivors of human trafficking

**Oakland University**, Rochester, Michigan Winter 2016

**Part-Time Faculty**, School of Social Work

- Instructor for *Sociology of Aging* (SOC 465), an undergraduate course with approximately 30 students
- Facilitate instruction to orient students interested in a range of aging-related fields



**Wayne State University**, Detroit, Michigan 2014 - 2016  
**Part-Time Faculty**, School of Social Work

- Instructor for *Introduction to Social Work* (SW 1010), an undergraduate course with approximately 25 students per semester
- Facilitate instruction to orient students to the social work profession
- Supervise peer mentors to help facilitate community service learning projects for students

**Wayne State University**, Detroit, Michigan Winter 2014  
**Part-Time Faculty**, School of Social Work

- Instructed *Grief and Loss* (SW 8860), a graduate course with approximately 30 students

**Wayne State University**, Detroit, Michigan Summers 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016  
**Part-Time Faculty**, School of Social Work

- Instructed *Human Behavior Theory for Social Work Assessment* (SW 7500), a graduate course with approximately 30 students, covering the following areas: a broad range of theories that relate to human behavior, theoretical alignment with the NASW Code of Ethics, pragmatic theoretical application with regard to the social work profession, and specific relevance to oppressed and marginalized individuals and groups.
- Facilitated group activities and class discussions related to course material
- Emphasized theoretical connections to the social work profession
- Instruction capitalized on the critical analysis of theoretical modalities

**ITT Technological Institute**, Troy, Michigan 2012  
**Adjunct Instructor**, General Studies

- Instructed *Research Methods*, an undergraduate course averaging 30 students per quarter, covering the following topics: methods of data collection, quantitative and qualitative research methods, proposal writing, and writing research papers.
- Developed power points, assignments, and homework
- Provided verbal, written, and grade feedback to students

## **PROFESSIONAL AND PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

**Troy School District**, Troy, Michigan 2015-present  
**Service to the Special Education Department**

- Recommend and consult regarding service needs and supports for students who have an array of specialized educational needs
- Recommend modifications and accommodations that considers academic, social and emotional strengths and needs
- Serve as the district representative for Individualized Educational Planning Committee meetings

- Leverage connections and collaborations with community organizations to support students with disabilities and their families
- Consult with teachers to integrate students with special needs into the least restrictive environment
- Recommend best practice strategies to professionals
- Assess student needs
- Collaborate with outside agencies, such as Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, foster care, etc.

**Private Practice Counseling, Brighton, Michigan** 2017-2019  
**Counselor (part-time)**

- Provide counseling for adolescents and adults with current life challenges, including those related to school, work, relationships, and physical, emotional, and psychological challenges.
- Referrals from Evolve Behavioral Health

**Transformational Choices, Plymouth, Michigan** 2016-2017  
**Counselor (part-time)**

- Provide counseling for adolescents and adults with current life challenges, including those related to school, work, relationships, and physical, emotional, and psychological challenges.

**Troy School District, Troy, Michigan** 2010-2015  
**Teacher Consultant**

- Managed caseload of students who receive an array of educational services
- Modified curriculum that considers academic, social and emotional strengths and needs
- Served as the district representative for Individualized Educational Planning Committee meetings
- Advised as part of a collaborative committee for new special education referrals, Behavior Intervention Plans, Manifestation Determination Reviews
- Consulted with teachers to integrate students with special needs into the least restrictive environment
- Recommended best practice methods to classroom teachers
- Maintained Individualized Education Program records and documentation
- Assessed student learning needs
- Collaborated with outside agencies, such as Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, foster care, etc.
- Coordinated Teacher Consultant Moodle site development
- Facilitated Health Care Aid trainings
- Supervised Health Care Aid and coordinated staff placements and schedules
- Mentored special education teacher (2013-2014 school year)

**Private Practice Counseling, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan** 2009-2013  
**Grief Counselor**

- Facilitated individual and group counseling for children, adolescents and adult clients at different developmental levels, including children with developmental disabilities and those at gifted levels
- Received clients based on referral from Yatooma's Foundation For the Kids
- Provided emotional support to families after the loss of a parental figure
- Educated families and surviving parent on the grief process and the repercussions on children and adults
- Provided parents with the knowledge base, tools and resources, and strategies to provide the utmost continuity and stability following parental loss that are age and developmentally appropriate
- Developed familiarity with the stages and impact of grieving surrounding various circumstances and ages

**Troy School District, Troy, Michigan**

2007-2010

**Special Education Teacher**

- Developed curriculum that considers academic, social and emotional needs
- Created and implemented IEP goals/objectives, Behavior Intervention Plans, and specialized curriculum
- Instrumental in providing transitional supports and pathways to enhance student independence
- Implemented student accommodations and behavior management strategies
- Collaborated with outside agencies, such as Deaf Blind Central, to support student needs
- Collaborated with a number of specialists, such as Orientation and Mobility specialists, to enhance student growth
- Provided consultation to families regarding emotional and academic concerns
- Developed familiarity regarding medical procedures for medically fragile individuals
- Directed and supervised health care aid staff regarding manner in which to work with students with various needs
- Chaired the North Central Association Reading Committee impacting educational accreditation

**Grand Blanc Community Schools, Grand Blanc, Michigan**

2006 to 2007

**Special Education Teacher**

- Developed curriculum to address individual learning styles and needs
- Worked with students receiving special education services and at-risk students with a number of emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges and needs
- Served as co-teacher/self-contained teacher for various subject levels
- Established positive rapport with a diverse high school student population
- Differentiated instruction and implemented accommodations
- Presented curriculum that was motivating to reticent learners
- Created and implemented behavior plans and individualized education plans
- Served on the Positive Behavioral Support team and the Literacy School Improvement Committee
- Participated in the GenNet Technology Pioneer program

- Collaborated as an interdisciplinary team member to enhance student performance

**Citizens for Better Care, Detroit, Michigan**

2006

**MSW Student Intern**

- Served as an intern from May 2006 – August 2006
- Advocated on behalf of nursing home residents and families to enhance quality of life
- Learned resident rights and nursing home protocol
- Developed familiarity with the Medicaid Waiver Program
- Advocated for resident rights and safety
- Developed familiarity with the Nursing Facility Transition Service
- Conducted assessments for nursing home residents anticipating transition back into the community
- Assisted in planning for residents upcoming discharge from nursing facilities
- Educated residents and families of rights
- Collaborated with the long-term care ombudsman in the Detroit area
- Developed understanding of dispute resolution techniques to follow up on nursing home complaints
- Worked in conjunction with nursing home residents, families, and nursing home staff to resolve complaints
- Performed assessments for nursing home residents for the Nursing Facility Transition Service program following completion of internship (1099 employee)

**University of Michigan's Housing Bureau for Seniors, Ann Arbor, Michigan** 2005-2006

**MSW Student Intern**

- Served as an intern from September 2005 – April 2006
- Worked on behalf of the HomeShare program and the Tax Preparation Program
- Developed an understanding of the HomeShare program and challenges for seniors and others to secure affordable, reliable housing
- Conducted intake assessments and helped with the HomeShare application for potential HomeShare clients
- Collaborated with community partners to promote equity for vulnerable seniors
- Coordinated and organized the Tax Preparation program for one tax season
- Worked in conjunction with AARP tax preparation volunteers to assist seniors seeking tax preparation services
- Organized the schedule to maintain efficiency for this program
- Participated in a Medicare Part D seminar to develop familiarity of this new legislation
- Advocated on behalf of vulnerable seniors to ensure tax preparation and seniors received appropriate drug coverage under Medicare Part D
- Developed an awareness of supports available for low-income seniors
- Provided appropriate community referrals (when appropriate) for seniors

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

**Dissertation Research Support Award**

2015

\$2,000 awarded by Wayne State University's Graduate School and School of Social Work

**School of Social Work Tuition Scholarship** Fall 2014  
Awarded by Wayne State University

**Graduate Professional Scholarship** 2013-2014  
Awarded by Wayne State University

**School of Social Work Tuition Scholarship** 2012-2013  
Awarded by Wayne State University

**Midwest Graduate Research Symposium Award** 2012  
Poster Presentation Award Recipient- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Graduate Student Research Assistant** 2011  
Through Wayne State University, School of Social Work

**Graduate Professional Scholarship** 2011-2012  
Awarded by Wayne State University

**Hartford Geriatric Fellowship** 2005-2006  
Geriatric fellow at the University of Michigan

**Michigan Undergraduate Research Funding** 2004  
Wayne State University

#### **CERTIFICATIONS**

**LMSW License** present  
State of Michigan

**State of Michigan Teacher Consultant Approval** 2010-present

**Provisional / Professional Teaching Certificate** 2005-present  
State of Michigan- K-5 all subjects,  
K-8 in self-contained classroom, K-12 Special Education

**School Social Work Certification** Received 2007

#### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**College Transition Planning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**  
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, January 18, 2013

**START Training: Working with Students with Asperger's Syndrome**

Oakland Schools, Waterford, Michigan, December 12 & 13, 2012

**Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Training**

Troy School District, Troy, Michigan, October 23 & 25, 2012

Received Crisis Prevention Institute Certification

**Working with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Troy School District, Troy, Michigan, September 1 & 2, 2010

**Yearly Professional Development through Troy School District, 2005-present**

Achieved a minimum of 40 hours of professional development yearly

Professional Development includes a wide variety of topics

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute (MI-DDI), Research Affiliate, 2018-present

National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, NIH Pre-Summit Working Group

Sigma Phi Omega, 2005-2006

Vice President, University of Michigan branch

Center for Evaluation and Organizational Learning, 2004-2005

Research Affiliate, Wayne State University

**COMMUNITY SERVICE & AWARDS**

**Recipient- 2013-2014 Outstanding Special Education Staff Award, Troy School District**

Honored for two nominations – Awards ceremony held by the Troy Parent Advisory Council

**Recipient- 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 Performance-Based Compensation, Troy School District**

Based on evaluation as a consultant - highly effective rating

**Volunteer-** sewed and donated over 150 dresses for underprivileged children overseas (Costa Rica, Honduras, Rwanda, and other countries), 2009-2013

**International Volunteer HQ, San Pedro, Costa Rica**

Volunteer work with children in orphanage, August 2011

**University of Detroit Christian Dental Association**

Dental outreach service in Yaruca, Honduras, August 2010

**Yatooma's Foundation for the Kids**

Special Events Volunteer, Birmingham, Michigan, 2007-2009