

Michael W. Morris
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Education

J.D. – *Emory University School of Law (Atlanta, GA)*
B.A., Magna Cum Laude – *Case Western Reserve University (OH)*
With Honors in Political Science

Professional Experience (1977–Present)

**Senior Adviser, Syracuse University Burton Blatt Institute
(Washington, DC)**

2008 – Present

Lead policy expert on asset development, employment, housing, and long-term services and supports. Responsible for project development with public and private sector collaborations and investment of financial and human resources. Coordinates the relationships between the Institute and other schools at SU to promote interdisciplinary studies and leadership development with faculty and students.

Director, National Disability Institute (Washington, DC) (*part-time*)

2003—Present

Lead researcher to MIG projects nationwide on Medicaid Buy-In, PAS expansion, and policy development to promote interagency collaboration to advance employment and economic status for persons with disabilities. Liaison to disability-related organizations and federal agencies to promote interagency collaboration and individual choice and direction of services and public assistance. Lead co-creator of the Real Economic Impact Tour that in 2007 in collaboration with the IRS, FDIC, and Bank of America assisted over 90,000 individuals with disabilities in 63 cities in accessing the Earned Income Tax credit and benefiting from over 70 million dollars in refunds. Lead researcher for national long-term service and support grant on financing and systems reform for the National Council on Disability published in March 2006. Lead researcher for NCD study on direct and indirect financial incentives for persons with disabilities, completed in July 2007. Lead expert to CMS and 30 state Real Choice System Change grantees since 2002 to improve linkages between Medicaid and state and local Public Housing Authorities.

**Acting Co-Director of the Law, Health Policy, and Disability Center at the
University of Iowa (LHPDC, Washington, D.C.).**

2001—2007

Lead policy expert on the Workforce Investment Act and Federal and state policy development and systems to advance self-sufficiency for persons with disabilities. Director of Technical Assistance to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration for Work Incentive Grantees (WIG). Serve as Director of the NIDRR funded Research and Training Center on Workforce Investment and Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities. Coordinated state policy research for the Georgia Institute of Technology Information Technology Technical Assistance and Training Center (ITTATC) on I.T. accessibility initiatives, which ended in December 2005. Provide key policy research and analysis on employment

challenges for individuals with disabilities as part of National Center on Workforce Development (NCWD) funded by Office of Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor. Serve as project director for NIDRR-funded Asset Accumulation and Tax Policy Project in collaboration with the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions.

Senior Vice President, Community Options, Inc. (COI, Washington, DC) 1998–2001

Supervised grant development and management of technology projects, Co-Director of the NIDRR-funded Research and Training Center on Workforce Investment and Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities; Project Director, US Department of Labor funded grant PASS*IT*ON (Plan for Achieving Self-Sufficiency through Information Technology Opportunities Nationwide); Senior Advisor to Project Leadership funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to train parent leaders and self-advocates on the relationship between federal and state policy and support of the principles of self-determination.

Executive Director, United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Inc. (UCPA, Washington, DC)

1995–1998

Lead spokesperson on assistive technology and systems change issues; lead staff to *Infinitec, Inc.*, a project to advance access to technology for persons with disabilities. Project Executive to *Access Americorps*, a national technical assistance effort to increase the recruitment and inclusion of young people with disabilities in community service projects, and for the *Consortium on Assistive Technology Funding and Systems Change*, which provided information, training, and technical assistance to individuals with disabilities in all 50 states.

Deputy Executive Director UCPA

1990–1995

Deputy Executive Director in the areas of program, government relations, affiliate relations, training, volunteer development, and special projects and demonstrations. Developed grant and foundation support for national projects to enhance leadership; co-chaired the *National Coalition on Aging and Disability*. Served on the: Board of Directors of *Winners on Wheels*, a national nonprofit group to build leadership and independence in youth with disabilities through community service and entrepreneurship opportunities; Advisory Board to the *Universal Access Project* to build accessibility to the information superhighway for all users, including those with disabilities.

UCPA – Director of the Community Services Division

1986–1990

Involved in program and policy development for persons with severe disabilities at the local, state, and national levels. Directed: Governmental Activities at the federal level for 185 affiliates; seven federal grants providing program demonstration, policy analysis, training, and technical assistance in the areas of employment, assistive technology, family support, and early intervention. Co-chaired the *Consortium of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Task Force on Housing*; served on other task forces and advisory boards to numerous centers and organizations.

UCPA – Director of the Governmental Activities Office 1984–1986

Served as lead staff on special education, vocational rehabilitation, technology, and housing issues at the federal level; co-founded the *National Coalition on Technology and Disability* to increase visibility of assistive technology issues before federal decision makers; established Governmental Activities Leadership Institute to provide legislative advocacy and policy analysis training opportunities; influenced successful passage of amendments to the Rehabilitation Act on assistive technology and supported employment.

U.S. Senate – Legal Counsel to the Small Business Committee 1983–1984

Provided staff support to the Subcommittee on Entrepreneurship; investigated and developed reports on various small business problems; provided legal advice to the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped in drafting legislation and conducting oversight hearings on the civil rights of persons with disabilities and residential and educational issues.

Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation – Assistant Director 1982 – 1983

Reviewed and analyzed application requests for innovative program development for mentally retarded persons; developed concept papers for new initiatives in community living and public education.

U.S. Senate – Legal Counsel to the Subcommittee on the Handicapped 1981–1982

Reviewed and analyzed pending legislation and administration budget proposals that impact individuals with disabilities; arranged hearings to establish a record for Congress on the national need for a comprehensive community residential system to support mentally retarded persons; arranged oversight hearings on the Developmental Disabilities Act that lead to reauthorization.

Georgia Association for Retarded Citizens (College Park, GA) – Executive Director 1977–1981

Provided support and technical assistance to 90 local chapters concerning unit and leadership development and the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities; directed governmental affairs activities and developed legislation on guardianship, and residential services; served as governor's appointee on the Georgia DD Council and the Governor's Advisory Council on Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Publications

Study on the Financing of Assistive Technology Devices and Services for Individuals with Disabilities. A Report to the President and the Congress of the United States. March 1993. (NCD.GOV)

Real Choices, Real Jobs: Employment for Individuals with the Most Significant Disabilities.

A Report of the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. February 2001.

Review of State Plans for the Workforce Investment Act from a Disability Policy Framework.

Policy analysis and report with trends identification and recommendations for monitoring and oversight. A Report to the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities.

March 2001.

Contributor to "Recommendations for a Social Sciences Agenda" in *Bridging gaps: Refining the disability research agenda for rehabilitation and the social sciences - Conferences proceedings* (2003).

Coauthor of NCD Study of Long-Term Services and Supports Financing and Systems Reform (2005).

Coauthor of NCD Study of Financial Incentives for Persons with Disabilities (2007).

Contributing author to *Educating Democracy: Tax and Financial Service Needs of Working Americans with Disabilities*. October 2006.

Research

“Asset Accumulation and Tax Policy Project,” funded by U.S. Department of Education, grant No. H133A031732, 2003-2008.

“Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Workforce Investment and Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities,” funded by U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation, grant No. H133B980042-99.

“Long-Term Services and Support Financing and Systems Reform,” funded by the National Council on Disability (2005).

“Livable Communities Follow-up,” funded by the National Council on Disability (2005).

“National Disability Technical Assistance Consortium on Employment of Adults with Disabilities,” funded by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) of the U.S. Department of Labor.

“National State-to-State Technical Assistance Program for Community Living,” funded by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Studies.

“I.T. Works: Barriers, Facilitators and Strategies for Promoting Quality and Successful Employment and advancement of Individuals with Disabilities in the Information Technology Industry,” funded by US Department of Education, grant no. H133A011803

“Information Technology Technical Assistance and Training Center (ITTATC),” funded

by National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) of the U.S. Department of Education (cooperative agreement #H133A000405).

“Technology for Independence: Community-Based Resource Center (TI-CBRC),” funded by National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) of the U.S. Department of Education (NIDRR grant H133A021801)

“Technical Assistance to Disability Program Navigators and Work Incentives Grantees,” funded by Employment and Training Administration in the Department of Labor.