

PETER J. DOEHRING, PH.D.

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A detailed description of work associated with each of these areas can be found by clicking on links.

Education: PhD Clinical Psychology (1993)

Licensure: Licensed as a Psychologist in Canada and the USA for 25+ years (currently licensed in Delaware since 2009)

Leadership positions in organizations responsible for

- **Public education** as [Statewide Director of the Delaware Autism Program](#) (Newark, DE)
- **Health care**, as [Director of Autism Services for Foundations Behavioral Health / Universal Health Services](#) (Doylestown, PA), and Interim Director of the Department of Psychology, Child and Adolescent Services and elected representative to the Board of Directors at the [Douglas Mental Health University Institute](#) (Montreal, QC)
- **Higher education**, as [Director of Regional Programs](#) for the Center for Autism Research, and [Autism Training Director, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities \(LEND\)](#), for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia / University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)
- **Government-funded initiatives**, as [Co-Leader, Pennsylvania Act Early Team](#) for the Centers for Disease Control, and Director of the [Autism Services, Education, Research and Training Collaborative](#) funded by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Autism Services
- **Land Conservation** as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and Interim Director of The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (now merged with the [Brandywine Red Clay Alliance](#) in West Chester, PA)

Other positions and appointments

- Consultant / clinician with Elwyn (Media, PA), and the [Douglas Mental Health University Institute](#) (Montreal, QC)
- [Associate Research Professor with the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute](#) (Philadelphia, PA)
- Adjunct Faculty with Schools of Education at [Lehigh University](#) (Allentown, PA), Drexel University (Philadelphia, PA), University of Delaware (Newark, DE), and McGill University (Montreal, QC)
- Invited Consultant to; the [Autism Education Task Force](#) and the Autism/Birth Defects Registry for the State of Delaware; the [Montreal Regional Board of Health and Social Services](#) (Montreal, QC); the [Council on Inclusive Health and Disability of the Land](#)

[Trust Alliance](#) (Washington, DC), and; the Executive Committee of the National Autism Leadership Collaborative (Columbus, OH)

Other Government Experience

- As invited consultant to the [Autism Education Task Force](#) for the State of Delaware, I developed a proposal for a statewide inter-agency committee, a training network, and an advocate-led program of family navigation, and then drafted significant portions of the resulting legislation - [SB93](#) - signed into law in September 2016
- [Political Candidate](#) for Nominee for the Democratic Party for Township Supervisor, Kennett Township, PA.

Grant funding

- More than \$5 million as principal investigator/project leader for projects submitted to the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Autism Services, and public/private donors

Publications and Presentations

- Two books on research-based interventions for autism in [2011](#) and [2013](#), with a third under contract for 2023. Total sales of the 2011 volume and individual chapters has exceeded 70,000.
- More than a dozen peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals and a dozen chapters in scientific volumes since 1981
- More than 30 invited presentations to state, national, and international organizations
- More than 80 papers presented at state, national, and international conferences since 1995

Specific highlights in the field of autism

- Co-authored the first [training guide for the Checklist for Autism in Toddlers \(CHAT\)](#) and became the first site in North America to implement it. The CHAT is the precursor to the most commonly used screening instrument for autism in the world
- Co-authored an early version of the Early Social Communication Scales, one of the most frequently used observation measures of joint attention and social interaction in children with autism
- Invited to [review 40 years of research](#) for the leading autism research journal, and to summarize advances in policy in the [Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders](#), the book most widely cited by researchers in the field of autism for the past 3 decades

Specific highlights in the field of conservation and outdoor recreation

- As a founding member of the Council on Inclusive Health and Disability of the Land Trust Alliance, I co-authored the [Open to All: A disability inclusion resource guide for land trusts](#) in 2021. This is used by land trusts nationwide, and has been the focus of presentations and workshops across the country.
- I developed Progressive Access, a framework that begins to integrate trail design, adaptive outdoor recreation, and new technologies with research-based intervention approaches to build the capacity of people with disabilities to access a greater range of

paths, trails, and routes for both active transportation purposes and recreation. Elements of this framework have now been incorporated into guidelines used by trail designers nationwide, [Universal Access Trails and Shared Use Paths: Guidance for Accessibility and Inclusive Design](#). This framework is the basis for a new program of information, training, and support to promote hiking among people with IDD in Chester County - [Fresh Air Self-Care for All](#).

Advocacy

- Founded [Fix66](#), successfully lobbying Pennsylvania lawmakers for an additional year of public school to mitigate Covid's impact on the education of 21 year-old youths in special education. [Act 55](#) signed by Governor Wolf on July 8, 2022, is projected to have benefitted at least 1200 youths by redirecting up to \$50M dollars of federal pandemic relief funding.
- Founded [OpenKennett](#), a forum to encourage advocates on local issues. We predicted ballooning municipal expenses that led to 20% tax increases, revealed potential conflicts of interests leading to an independent ethics review, and won multiple appeals on Right to Know requests exposing government waste and mismanagement.
- Founded [KennettOutdoors](#), a forum to encourage the use and development of the full range of paths, routes, and trails in our region, with a special focus on infrastructure and practices to support recreation and active transportation for people with disabilities
- Founded the [Kennett Ability Network](#), a coalition seeking to increase opportunities for work, recreation, and community engagement for young adults with disabilities. We have already expanded the [YMCA's adaptive programs](#) in our region to include monthly respite-recreation nights at the Kennett Branch, and have grant applications in development to expand this.