



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

SANDRA MARQUIS

MSc (University of British Columbia, 1982)

BSc (University of Victoria, 1979)

**“The Health of Parents and Siblings of Children
with a Developmental Disability in British Columbia”**

Social Dimensions of Health

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

9:00 A.M.

Clearihue Building

Room B007

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Michael Hayes, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Kimberlyn McGrail, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Nigel Livingston, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic (Member)

Dr. Susan Tasker, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Yona Lunsky, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Anne Marshall, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic

Abstract

This study used population level administrative data from the B. C. Ministry of Health to assess the health of parents and siblings of children who have a developmental disability. The study found strong evidence that parents and siblings of children who have a developmental disability experience higher odds of a depression or other mental health diagnosis compared to parents and siblings of children who do not have a developmental disability. In addition, there was evidence that in families with a child with a developmental disability, parents and siblings who are diagnosed with depression or another mental health problem visit physicians and/or the hospital to a greater extent than parents and siblings who are diagnosed with depression or a mental health problem but do not have a family member with a developmental disability. These findings indicate that parents and siblings of children who have a developmental disability are a vulnerable group in need of programs and services that support their mental health.