Disability-Specific Healthcare Training
Lunch and Learn Topical Working Series

The Arc of PA Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among People with Disabilities

The Arc Pennsylvania

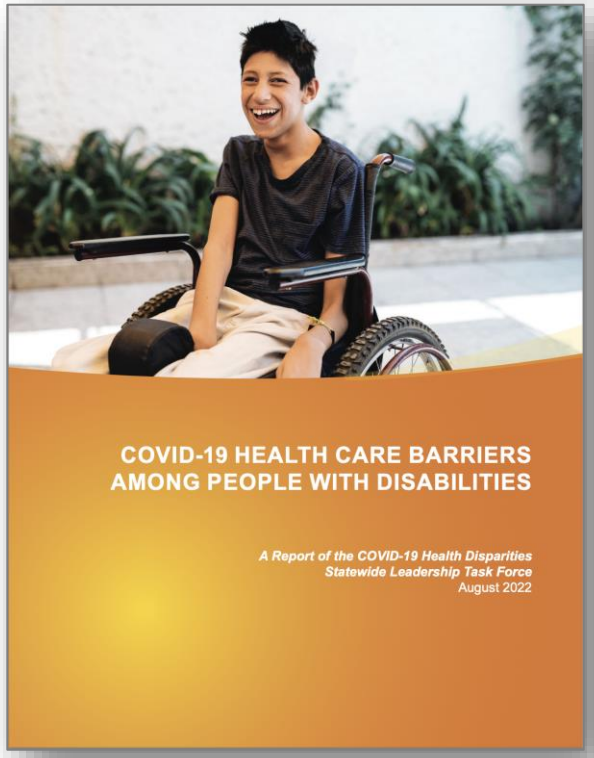
December 7, 2023

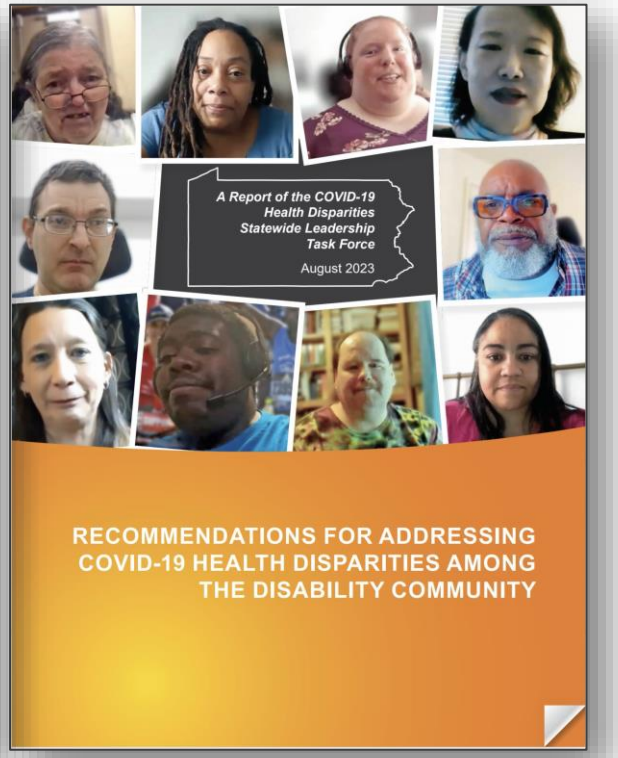
Welcome

The Arc of PA Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among People with Disabilities

Sherri Landis, Executive Director, The Arc of Pennsylvania

Calling for disability-inclusive health care





- COVID-19 Health Disparities Task Force
- Regional Community Work Groups
- Over 400 individuals with disabilities, family members, caretakers, health professionals across diverse ethnic, racial, rural populations
- The Arc of PA and local chapters
- Funded by the PA Department of Health

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Today's focus: Core recommendation #6

Provide disability, person-centered training for health care professionals.

Today's Agenda:

- The Health Disparity and Recommendation
- Practice Panel
- Breakouts: Local/Regional Practices

The Health Disparity and Our Recommendation

Emma Nolan,

Manager of Government Relations and Health Initiatives,

The Arc of Pennsylvania

ARC of PA Barriers Report 8-9-22.pdf

2021-2022 Listening Tour: COVID-19 Health Care Strengths and Barriers

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Diversity by role

- Mostly persons with lived experience of disability, caretakers and family members
- Also, professionals in the fields of disability and health care

Diversity by disability – intentional outreach across physical, intellectual developmental, behavioral, or emotional, sensory impairment, and complex medical disabilities

Diversity by race – intentional outreach to Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)

Diversity by location – rural, urban, suburban; intentional outreach to rural settings

Social Determinants of Health

Education Access and Quality
- Systemic educational barriers
- Technology barriers

Economic Stability
- Financial security barriers
- Social supports

Health Care Access and Quality
- Systemic health care barriers
- Mental and physical health issues
- Vaccination and testing barriers
- Staffing barriers
- Technology barriers

Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Local conditions
- Transportation barriers
- Accessibility

Social and Community Context
- Information barriers
- Cultural, linguistic barriers
- Communication

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"Training, professional development, and awareness for providers would be helpful so that they're able to meet and serve everybody and understand how everybody has unique needs."

- Marjorie Anderson, parent of a beautiful, unique and magnificent daughter with Down Syndrome, an intellectual disability

2021 Survey of 714 Practicing US Physicians Nationwide

Health care provider stereotypes, stigma, prejudice, lack of disability awareness

- 82.4% of physicians reported that people with significant disabilities have worse quality of life than nondisabled people
- Only 56.5% of physicians strongly agreed that they welcome patients with disabilities into their practice

Lack of appropriate provider training

- Only 40.7% of physicians were very confident about their ability to provide the same quality of care to patients with the disabilities

Recommendation: Provide disability, person-centered training for health care professionals.

- Train medical professionals, mental health professionals, support staff, government officials, employers, law enforcement, community organizations, caregivers, and family members.
- Address the intersectionality of disability, culture and ethnicity, and mental health.
- Include persons with lived experience of disability and their families as designers and/or instructors working alongside the academic institution.

Recommendation: Standardized curricula should include but is not limited to:

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- Plain language importance and terminology basics
- Information about the history of medical mistreatment of people with disabilities
- Legal obligations and responsibilities for caring for patients with disabilities
- Whole person-centered health care approach
- Behavior as communication
- Trauma informed care
- Effective communication with the individual with a disability

Resources and Practices

Rhonda Beach Tyree, Facilitator

Examples of practical resources

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services CMS.gov

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Autism Friendly Social Stories

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BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

about app | BMC Autism Program

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Core Competencies on Disability for Health Care Education

June 2019

Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education

Disability-specific healthcare training

HRSA Language and Disability Access Awards

- Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Philadelphia
- Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia
- The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, Scranton

Edith L. Trees Professorship in Special Needs Medicine

- Duquesne University, Pittsburgh Region

Disability-specific healthcare training

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- Pennsylvania Patients with Disabilities as Trainers, PA Academy of Family Physicians
- Medical Home Project, Patients with Disabilities as Teachers, Lehigh Valley Health Network
- Penn Dental Medicines' Personalized Care Suite for Persons with Disabilities
- And others (i.e., CHOP, Geisinger's Comprehensive Care Clinic, Temple)

The challenge is how to be systemic and ensure statewide equity.

Today's Practice Panel

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Health Outreach Project (HOP) Clinic

Shane Janick, Executive Director, The Arc of Philadelphia

Valerie Chadwick, Health Advocacy Director, The Arc of Philadelphia

ADEPT-CARE

Lydia Smeltz, Medical Student, Penn State College of Medicine

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Breakouts

How can we advance disability-specific healthcare training locally or regionally?

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2024 Health Summit

Sheraton Hotel Harrisburg, PA

March 6, 2024

Breakouts

West: Main room

Central: Breakout

East: Breakout

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Thank you!