

# 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



December 7, 2023



# Welcome

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

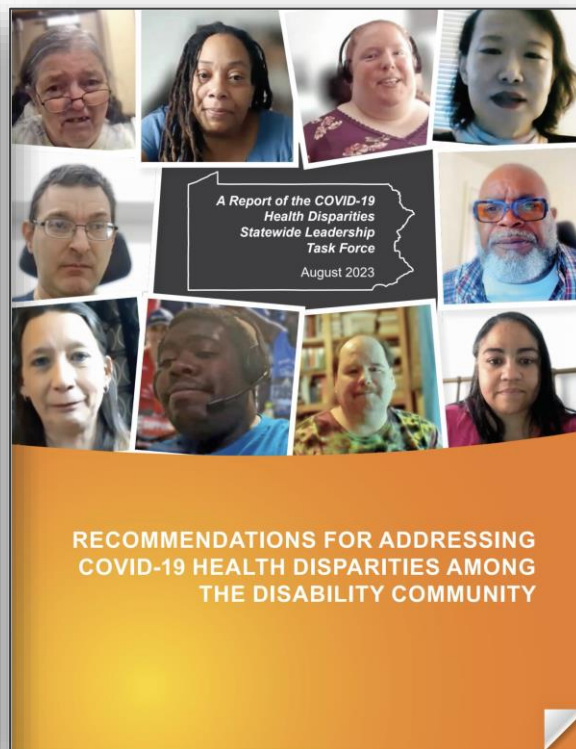
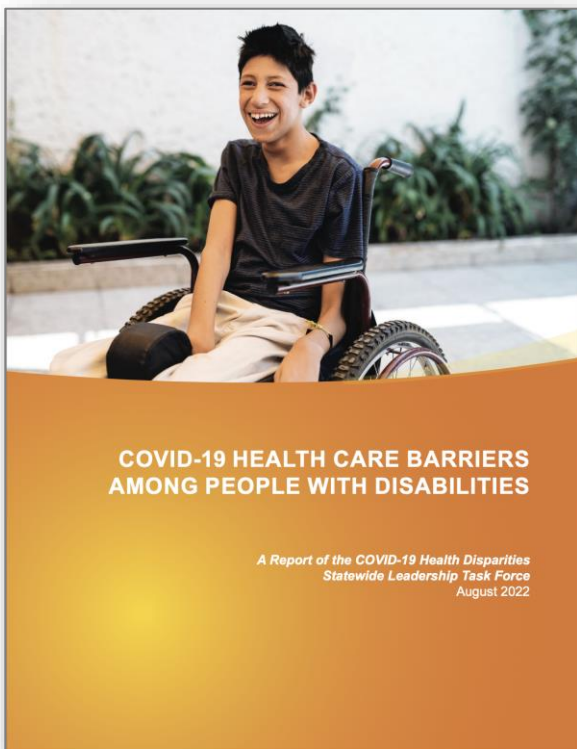
Sherri Landis, Executive Director, The Arc of Pennsylvania





**The Arc**  
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



## **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



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# 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](#)



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



## 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



**MARJORIE  
ANDERSON**

“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





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# 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



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## **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.



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



- 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



**Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care Down Syndrome Webinar**

A collage of four images: a chef in a white uniform, a young man in a blue graduation cap and gown, a young child with Down Syndrome sitting in a chair, and a close-up of a young child with Down Syndrome smiling.

**United Spinal Association**

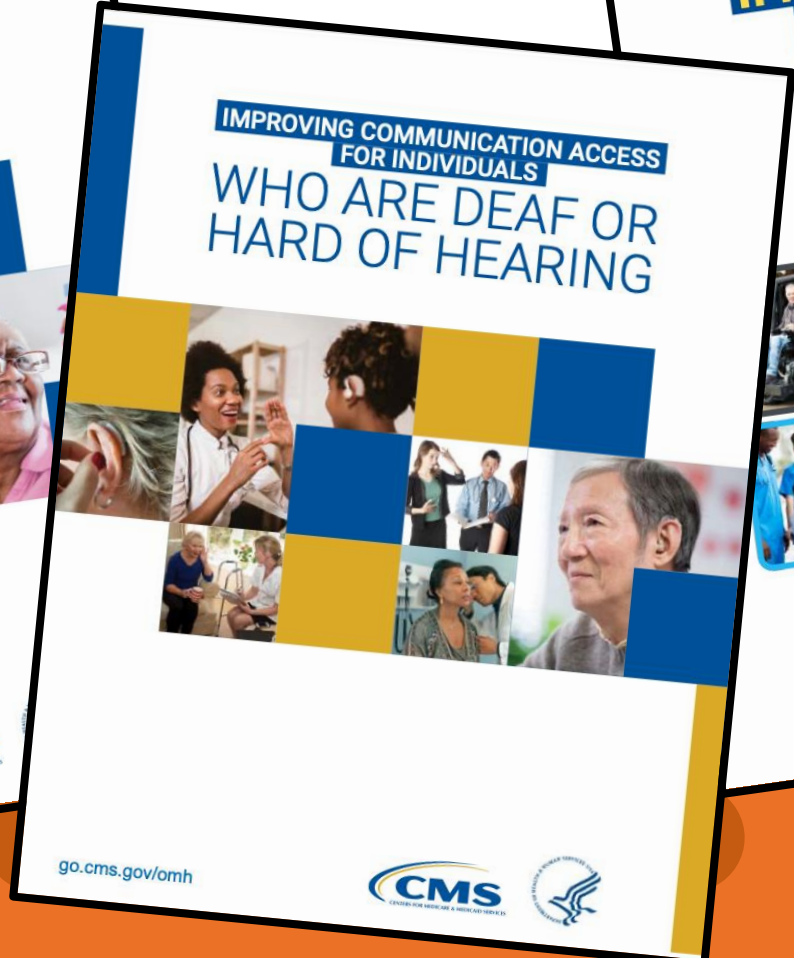
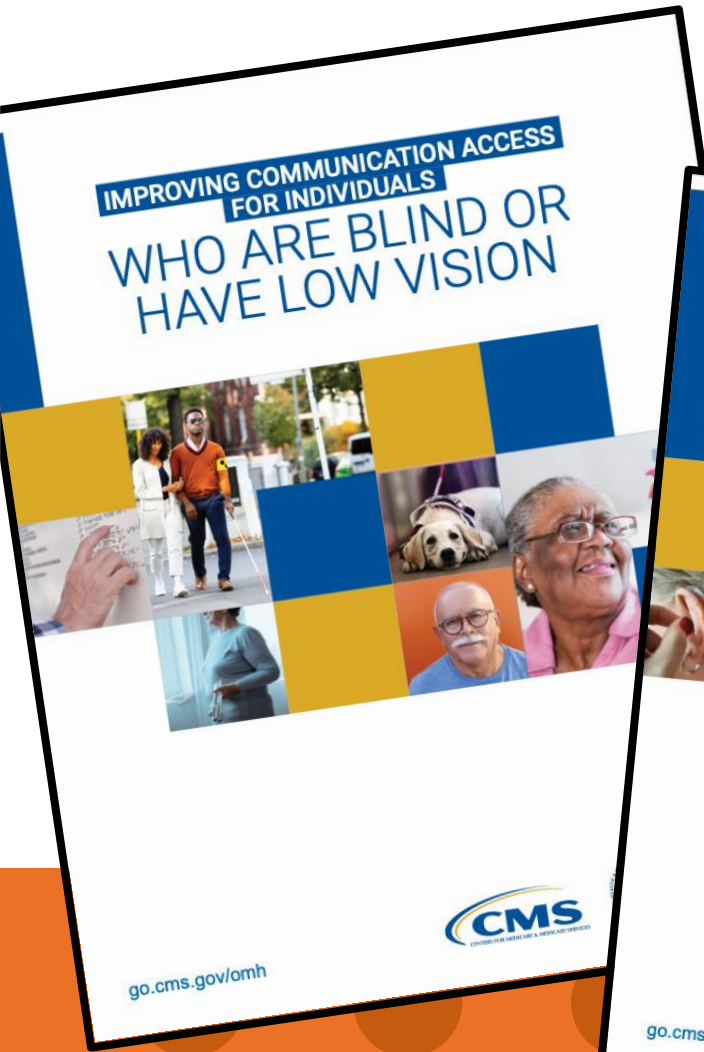
An illustration of a woman in a wheelchair interacting with a man in an office setting. The woman is smiling and looking at the man, who is also smiling and looking at her. They are standing in front of a desk with a computer monitor and a lamp. The background shows a cityscape with buildings and a window with a view of a sunset or sunrise.

**DISABILITY ETIQUETTE**

Tips On Interacting With People With Disabilities

ILLUSTRATED BY ANEIL RODRIGUEZ

# Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services CMS.gov



# Autism Friendly Social Stories

 Getting to the Doctor's Office	 Getting a Shot	 Blood Draw	 Blood Pressure	 Height and Weight
 Physical Exam	 Dentist Appointment	 Ear Exam	 Wearing a Face Mask	 Wearing a Medical Bracelet
 Eye Exam	 Getting a Renal (Belly) Ultrasound	 Getting a COVID Test	 Taking Your Medicine	
 Wearing Glasses	 Getting an MRI	 Getting a Period	 Using an Inhaler	 Getting an Allergy Test

 Getting an X-Ray	 Getting a Cast	 Getting a CAT Scan	 Getting a Dental Filling	 Physical Therapy
 Occupational Therapy	 EKG	 Speech Therapy	 EEG	 Riding in an Ambulance
 Getting Anesthesia	 Going to Therapy	 Preparing for Surgery	 Getting an IV	 Trying New Foods
 Getting a Hearing Aid		 Getting a PET Scan		



# Core Competencies on Disability for Health Care Education

June 2019





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# 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



- 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



## 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*



# Breakouts

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



**LUNCH  
AND LEARN**

December 8, 2023  
12:00-1:30PM

Elevating Voices of People with  
Disabilities in Healthcare



**The Arc**  
Pennsylvania

**LUNCH  
AND LEARN**

December 12, 2023  
12:00-1:30PM

Accessible and  
Alternative Health  
Care Delivery

**LUNCH  
AND LEARN**

December 19, 2023  
12:00-1:30PM

Disability-Inclusive  
Healthcare Systems





**2024**  
**Health Summit**  
**Sheraton Hotel**  
**Harrisburg, PA**  
**March 6, 2024**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**2024**  
**Health Equity**  
**Summit**  
Harrisburg University  
**Harrisburg, PA**  
**April 4 & 5, 2024**





# Breakouts

West: Main room  
Central: Breakout  
East: Breakout





# Thank you!

