



Pennsylvania
Department of Health

3/19/2025

The Intersection of Disability and Health Equity

Office of Health Equity, David Saunders

Agenda

Story Time: Mrs. Joyce and the kids on the 6th

What is Disability Health equity?

Overcoming Barriers

Closing



What Mrs. Joyce Taught Me?



Disability Health Equity

- **Ensuring that people with disabilities have the same opportunities to achieve optimal health as those without disabilities.**
- **Removing barriers that reduce access to care, inclusive health programs, and reducing health disparities.**



Barriers for People with Disabilities

Health Care Access and Quality

- Healthcare system
- Staffing

Neighborhood and Built Environment

- Local conditions
- Transportation
- Accessibility

Social and Community Context

- Implicit Bias
- Discrimination
- Race/ethnicity

Economic Stability

- Jobs>>>Income>>>Food Insecurity

Education and Quality

- Access to devices
- Internet access



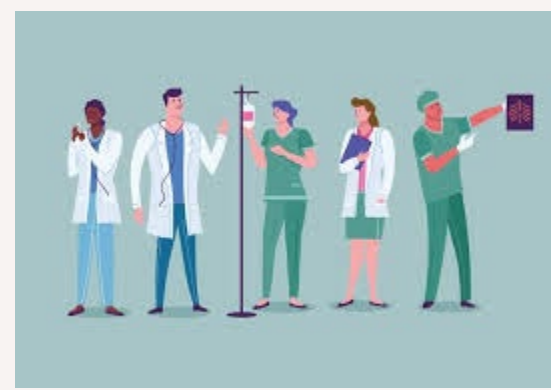
Barriers, let remove them!



“Medical community doesn’t know how to work with people with disabilities.”



Recommendations



Disability Community Engagement

Increase Access to Care

- Telehealth
- Mobile clinics

Workforce Development

- More training for health care professionals

Data equity

- Standardized data

Language Access

- Plain language
- Multiple language

Include the disability community as a medically underserved population

Health Equity Conference



2025 HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE

TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE:
ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 📧 10 AM – 3 PM

📍 ONLINE VIA ZOOM

PLENARY SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- Rural Health Fireside Chat
- Chronic Disease Management & Treatment Panel

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Registration:
[2025 Health Equity Conference
Registration](#)





**Thank You for
having Me!**

