

Disability Justice Across the Life Course

September 19, 2011

San Francisco, CA

CityMatCH Conference



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Objectives

By the end of the presentation, participants will:

- Be familiar with 3 models or frameworks that can assist them to promote disability justice in their work
- Be able to use these models to determine when they need to create different programs for people with disabilities (PWDs) and when they need to make existing programs relevant and accessible to PWDs
- Have concrete examples of practices in public health that promote disability justice, including the Inspiration Playground



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What comes to your mind when you
hear the phrase
“Disability Justice”?



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Disability Justice & Frameworks

How do you make it so that equitable processes for inclusion are supported in your work?

- ▶ From disability rights to disability justice
- ▶ Recognition of intersectionality; centering services around the intersections – not the binaries
- ▶ Recognition of structural barriers and oppression, and working to address dis/ablism



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How do you do this?

- ▶ Understand that issues related to disability (and other forms of differences) are influenced by society
- ▶ Need for a lens – to promote equitable processes that will make equality possible.



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The *BIAS FREE* Framework

- Rights-based
- Integrative
- Intersectional: deals with biases that derive from any social hierarchy
- Applicable to research, legislation, policies, programs, service delivery and practices

Courtesy of Eichler, M.
and Burke, M.A at
www.biasfree.org



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Bias Triangle

Maintaining an existing hierarchy



Courtesy of
Eichler, M. and
Burke, M.A at
www.biasfree.org

Failing to examine differences
(treating people the same
and it is not fair)

Using double standards (treating
people differently
and it is not fair)

Example of bias in data

OHT Questionnaire

- Where is the disability question located on the questionnaire?
- How are the questions about disability asked?
- If you wanted to know, for example, the extent to which deaf or hard of hearing students experienced peer victimization – could you?



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Is this a case of bias?

If so, how would it fit with the Bias Triangle?



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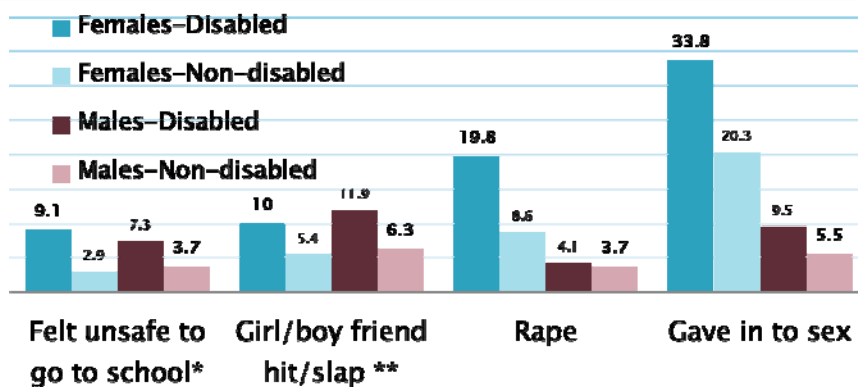
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Another example –
Data and Intersectionality



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Safety and Victimization



* Past 30 days; ** Past 12 months

Source: 2008 Oregon Healthy Teen, 11th Grade (N=7091, weighted percentages; 23.7% disabled & 76.3% non-disabled) Marjorie McGee mcgee@pdx.edu

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Data and Intersectionality

Data tends to focus on the binaries:

- *Bias Triangle*: Failing to examine differences
- *Solution*: Examine differences by both disability and sex, and the combination together

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Disability Justice – are we addressing hierarchy or oppression?

Why is it uncommon to see language addressing disability-related oppression?

Such as: *“Research suggests that individuals with disabilities face health disparities linked to societal stigma, discrimination, and denial of their civil and human rights.”*

HP 202 LGBT Health: *“Research suggests that LGBT individuals face health disparities linked to societal stigma, discrimination, and denial of their civil and human rights.”*



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Disability and Oppression

Instead – from HP 2020 – Disability and Health Page:

- ▶ People with disabilities play an important and valued role in every community. All people, including people with disabilities, must have the opportunity to take part in important daily activities that add to a person's growth, development, fulfillment, and community contribution...
- ▶ The Disability and Health objectives highlight areas for improvement and opportunities for people with disabilities to: Be included in public health activities, Receive well-timed interventions and services, Interact with their environment without barriers, and Participate in everyday life activities.
- ▶ Without these opportunities, people with disabilities will continue to experience health disparities, compared to the general population.



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Disability Justice – What Model?

- ▶ Group Activity - Models of Disability
 - Take a packet and in your group, match up the pictures to the “labels”
 - Share with one another your reflections
- ▶ The third lens/framework – recognizing “disability” as a socially constructed term
- ▶ Question to consider: Who is focused upon defining disability? For what reason? Who benefits from the defining?



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Disability Justice – Summary

Integration and inclusion of people with disabilities requires equitable processes in working with partners.

1. Moving beyond rights model to disability justice
2. Bias Free Framework (www.biasfree.org)
3. Recognizing “disability” as a socially constructed term



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Brainstorm

What policies, practices and mindsets could local health departments enact or adopt to promote disability justice?



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About NACCHO

Members

All 2,800 local health departments (LHDs) in the United States

Vision

Health, equity, and well-being for all people in their communities through public health policies and services

Mission

...to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives



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Health and Disability Project Accomplishments

- Demonstration/Technical Assistance Programs
 - 5 demonstration sites
 - 17 technical assistance participants
- Health and Disability electronic newsletter
- Presentations at NACCHO's and partner annual conferences
- Improvements to NACCHO's website to increase accessibility
- Learning community on emergency planning and preparedness
- Tip sheet from demonstration and technical assistance activities (we have copies!)
- Additional tools on health and disability in NACCHO's Toolbox



Health and Disability Workgroup

- Established in 2006
- Drafted workgroup charter
- Participated in project's demonstration and technical assistance activities
- Authored Health and Disability policy statement
- Engaged in project with APHA's Disability Section to enhance NACCHO's Toolbox
- Provides on-going guidance to NACCHO's Health and Disability project staff and work plan



On The Horizon...

- Health and Disability Workgroup reviewing all NACCHO policy statements to ensure inclusion of people with disabilities where relevant
- Additional Learning Community module on obesity and physical activity
- Mini-grant program
- Additional tools and resources for NACCHO's Toolbox
- Additional practices for NACCHO's Model Practices Program
- Literature review and summary of LHD efforts to integrate health promotion for people with disabilities into their programs, services, and products (e.g. tobacco control, nutrition, physical activity, teen pregnancy prevention, obesity)



And on the Ground . . .

- Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD) funded during first round of demonstration projects in 2006
- Goal was to increase our capacity to promote health in the disability community
- Embraced the idea of the disability community as a culturally-specific community
- Attempted to bring lessons learned in other culturally-specific communities to our work in the disability community, including:
 - ❖ Partnering with disability community leaders and organizations
 - ❖ Addressing the social and structural causes of health inequities among people with disabilities
 - ❖ Building capacity in the disability community



MCHD: Project Activities

- Assembled a community-based steering committee to guide the project
- Identified and surveyed primary care patients with disabilities to identify their health promotion needs and interests
- Convened a summit for leaders in the disability community and the public health community to establish an agenda for health promotion programming

And in addition . . .

- Partnered with the Women with Disabilities Health Equity Coalition (WowDHEC) to train Community Health Workers to address disparate rates of breast cancer screening among women with disabilities



Questions?

For more information about the Health and Disability Project:

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/healthdisa>

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How can you promote disability
justice in your maternal and
child health work?



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