

Bridging Gaps in Care:

The Role of Healthcare Professionals in Disability Advocacy

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Objectives

- 1. To assess the extent of disparities in health outcomes among people living with disabilities in the US healthcare system.
- 2. To evaluate through collaboration culturally responsive resources for providers delivering care to individuals with disabilities.
- understand the various aspects of healthcare accessibility when caring for people living with disabilities.

Background

The Healthcare Advocacy and Policy Interest Group was centered on interdisciplinary advocacy for under voiced issues within the realm of healthcare--including institutional and governmental policy. This year's focus was disability.

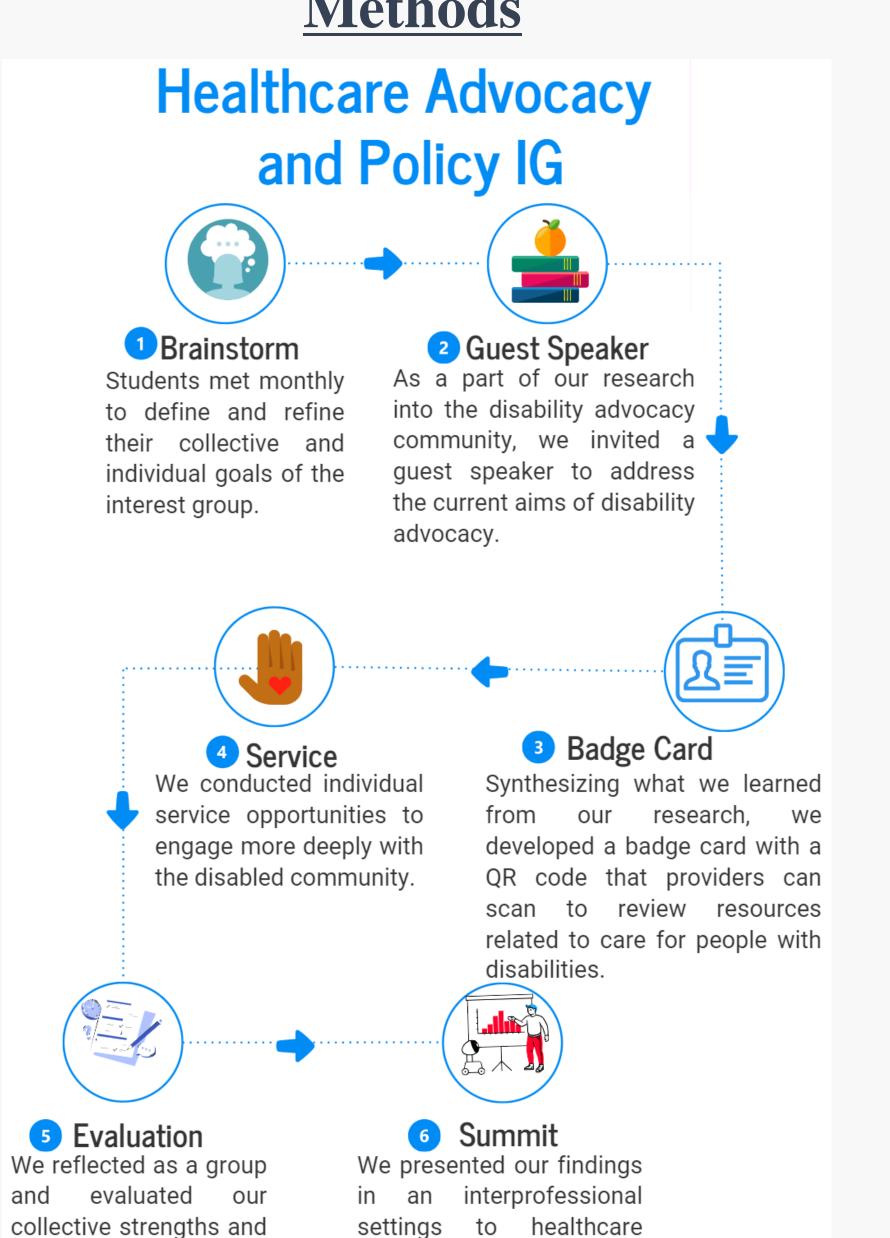
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

• The prevalence of disability is 15% worldwide and 12% in the US, yet health outcome disparities remain.^{1,2}

WHAT ARE THE PRESSING CONCERNS?

• The primary policy concerns of the disabled include health insurance being tied to employment, distrust in policymakers, and a stronger role of government in health policy.³

Methods



professionals.

areas for growth.

Results

What could be improved?

What did you like?

way we collaborated as a group.

Legislative Research

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Members Bhavana Gunda and Antonio Espinoza

drafted a proposal that was included in a bill to

improve our elder care system. This bill was

introduced by Matt Ritter, Speaker of the House,

in Hartford, Connecticut.

CABINET REPORT



5/11 mentioned that they wanted • 7/11 mentioned that they liked the • more speakers.

What did you learn?



5/11 mentioned that they **learned** to think more broadly about accessibility and disability.

Badge Card





This badge card is intended for healthcare providers. This card aims to provide resources about disability, advocacy, and accessibility to help healthcare providers deliver accessible and inclusive care to improve patient care.



Download the badge here!



Discussion

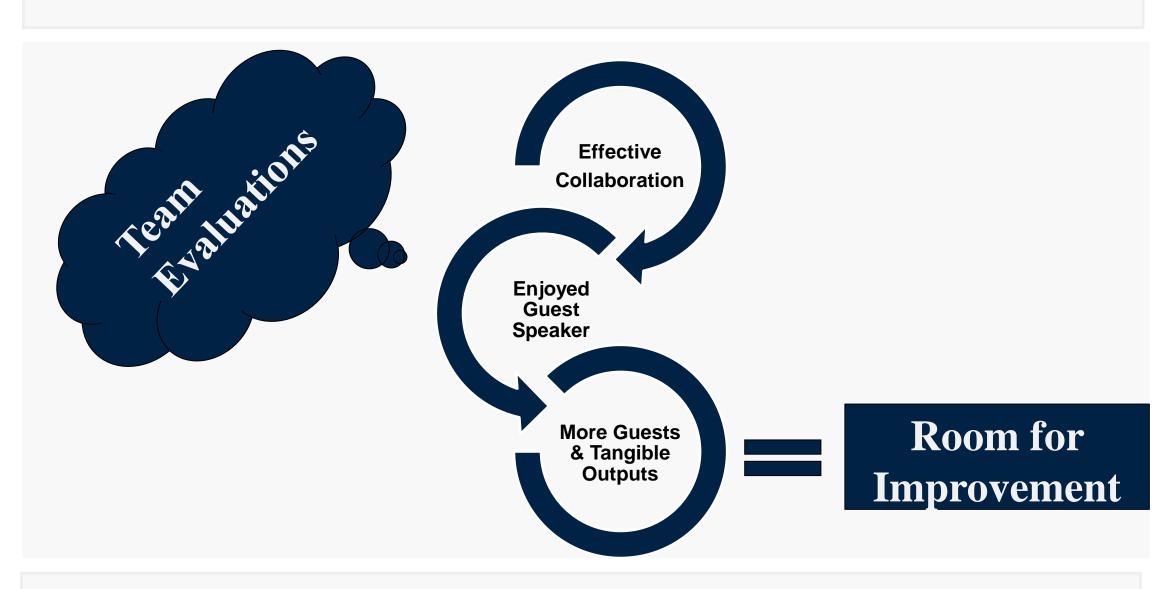
Led by our guest speaker Rich Luby, we engaged in discussion and education of the issues most significantly affecting healthcare disparities in disabled populations:

- ACCESSIBILITY
- INDEPENDENCE
- CULTURAL AWARENESS

This knowledge allowed us to better understand the perspectives of our patients with disabilities as they navigate a healthcare system that could be described as antagonistic towards them. It also equipped us with better tools to communicate with, engage, and support people with disabilities.

The learning process was not without its challenges. Collating all our work and discussion into one composite was a formidable task and one which we can now do better due to our experience in this interest group.

Collectively, after considering our needs assessment and expert consultation, we developed an accessible ID resource badge card that providers can wear. Our initial badge card will help share local and national resources with providers when they see their patients.



Future Directions

Our hope is to further implement our patient facing badge cards with QR code links that will include accessible information regarding the patient's provider. Additionally, we aim to continue engaging with our community partners to best employ our badge cards in different institutions.

References

- 1. World Health Organization & World Bank. (2011). World report on disability 2011. World Health Organization. https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/44575
- 2. Krahn GL, Walker DK, Correa-De-Araujo R. Persons with disabilities as an unrecognized health disparity population. Am J Public Health. 2015 Apr;105 Suppl 2(Suppl 2):S198-206. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2014.302182. Epub 2015 Feb 17.
- 3. Smith, S. D., Hall, J. P., & Kurth, N. K. (2021). Perspectives on Health Policy From People With Disabilities. Journal of Disability Policy Studies, 32(3), 224-232

Acknowledgments

We would like to formally acknowledge our guest speaker, Rich Luby, BS, for his insight and contributions to our group. We'd also like to acknowledge the contributions of our alumni coaches: Jonathan Lis, MD; Rubby Koomson, APRN; Anthony Messina, PA-C; Shanthi Rao, MSW; and Cecil Tengatenga, STM.