

# **BARRIERS TO OPTIMAL HEALTHCARE FOR PATIENTS WITH DISABILITIES- AND SOME SOLUTIONS**

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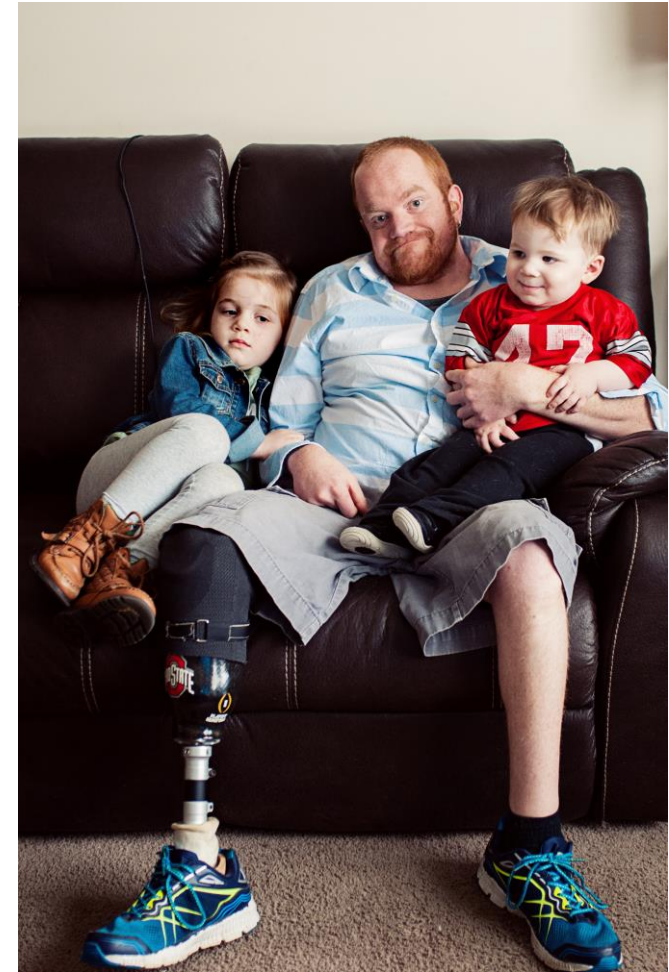
# OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY

- Document health and healthcare disparities for people with IDD
- Establish disability education as key solution
- Introduce Core Disability Competencies



# OBJECTIVES FOR TOMORROW

- Document health and healthcare disparities for people with IDD
- Establish disability education as key solution
- Introduce Core Disability Competencies
- Raise Educational standards
- **Prepare a disability competent health care workforce.**



"It's a simple fact.  
People with disabilities can't get  
basic healthcare.

So they get sick.

And die.

When they shouldn't." <sup>1</sup>



Compared to their peers without disabilities, adults with cognitive disabilities are.<sup>2</sup>

- **Five times** more likely to have diabetes
- **Three times** more likely to have arthritis
- **More than twice** as likely to have cardiovascular disease
- **More than twice** as likely to have asthma



These conditions are not causally related to disability and can be prevented or mitigated with quality health care.<sup>3</sup>

# Barriers to Health Care for People with Disabilities

## HEALTH ENVIRONMENT

- Absence of disability standards in provider training
- Insufficient data on the health of people with disabilities
- Lack of inclusive health promotion programs

## HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

- Scheduling constraints
- Payment/Reimbursement issues
- Lack of age appropriate services and supports

## CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Inaccessible office and equipment
- Lack of staff training
- Communication barriers

## PROVIDER

- Lack of disability training
- Incomplete knowledge of care coordination
- Poor attitude



# PEOPLE WITH IDD FACE HEALTHCARE BARRIERS

- People with disabilities report <sup>4</sup>
  - Difficulty finding able and willing healthcare providers
  - Providers do not take the time to listen or respect

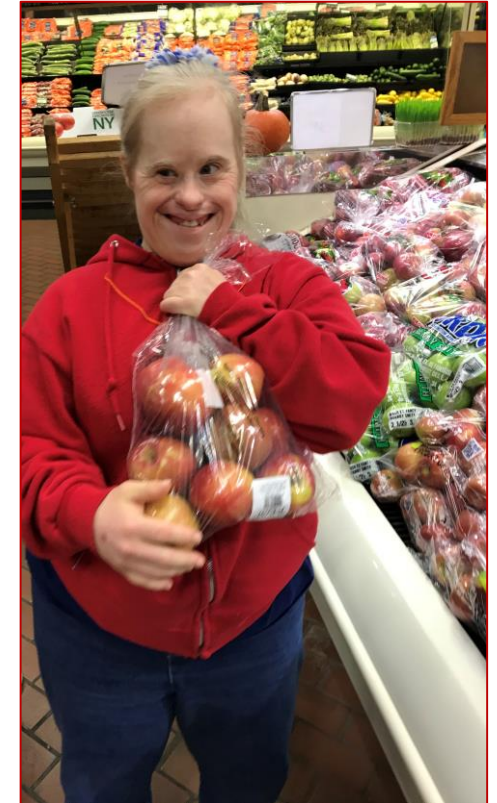
Healthcare providers report they are **unprepared and uncomfortable** caring for patients with disabilities.<sup>5</sup>





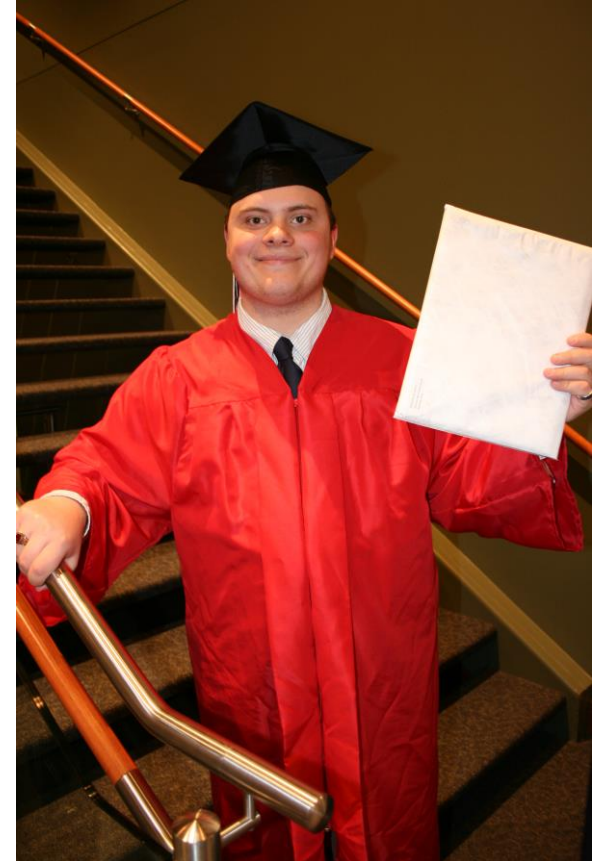
## Healthcare Providers tend to...<sup>4</sup>

- **Underestimate** capabilities, health, quality of life experienced by people of disabilities
- Hold **inaccurate assumptions** about current/future functional status of people with IDD.
- **Overlook cultural**, economic, social backgrounds.
- **Overlook health issues** not having to do with a patient's disability.
- **Speak to caregivers** instead of directly to patient.

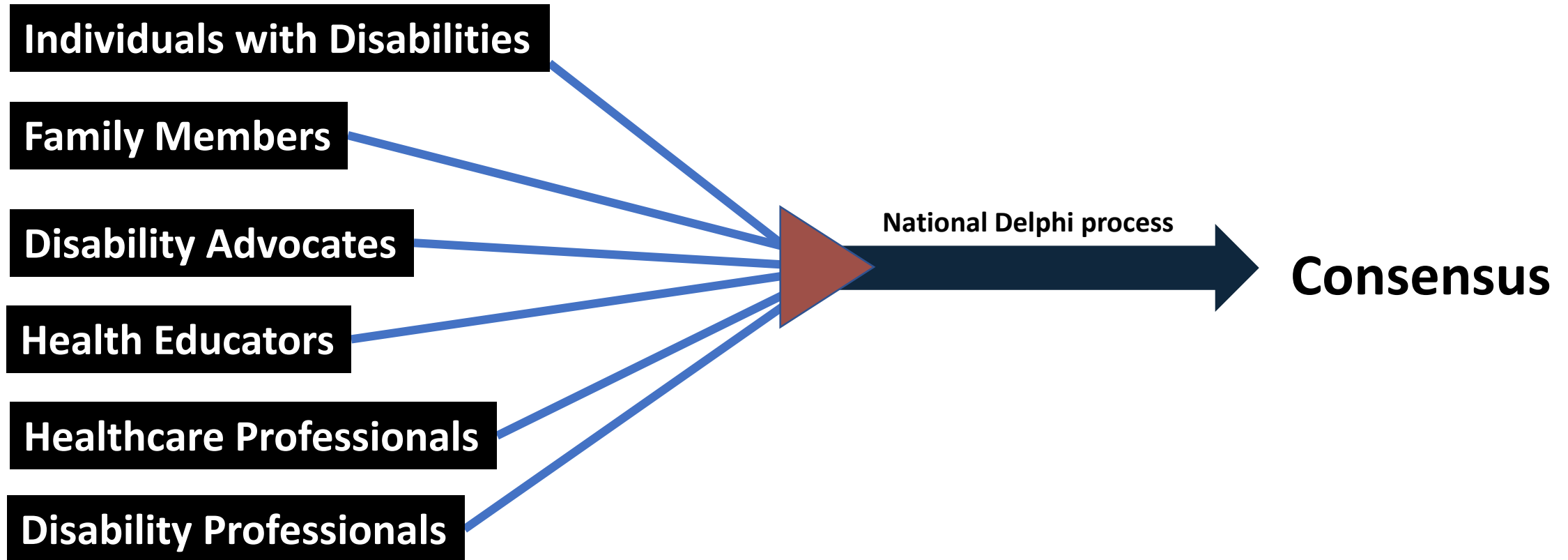


# MILESTONES TO DISABILITY COMPETENCE<sup>6</sup>

1. Collectively decide what health care providers need to understand about disability.
2. Change training and licensure requirements to ensure disability training.
3. Develop evidence-based curricular elements to convey disability competencies.
4. Develop robust protocols to evaluate disability training.
5. Evaluate the impact of disability training on health care delivery and on health outcomes.
6. Explore health care delivery models/incentive structures to promote disability-competent care.



# The Ohio Disability and Health Program Sought Broader Input<sup>7</sup>



# Guiding Principles and Values<sup>8</sup>

## ➤ Rational

- As a demographic group, people with disabilities are very well represented in primary and specialty health care settings
- High quality healthcare for people with disabilities depends, in part, on the values held by healthcare providers.
- Guiding principles and shared values are essential to providing quality care to people with disabilities.

The six core competencies define the standard for disability training to improve healthcare for people with disabilities.<sup>8</sup>



Contextual and  
Conceptual  
Framework on  
Disabilities

Professionalism  
and Patient-  
Centered Care

Legal  
Obligations and  
Responsibilities

Teams and  
Systems Based  
Practice

Clinical  
Assessment

Clinical Care  
over the Lifespan  
and during  
Transitions



***“I am more comfortable and less awkward when seeing patients with disabilities because I learned it doesn't have to be the focus of the encounter.”***

**Disability Training increases  
Comfort caring for patients with disabilities**



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## Disability Training Increases Understanding



***“The best takeaway that I had from the encounter was that people with disabilities want their medical concerns to be addressed in a direct and straightforward way just like any other patient. ”***





***“I think it is easy to make certain assumptions, consciously or subconsciously, about people with disabilities that can only really be dispelled by interacting with individuals with disabilities.”***

**Disability Training allows  
students to recognize and  
mitigate Bias**

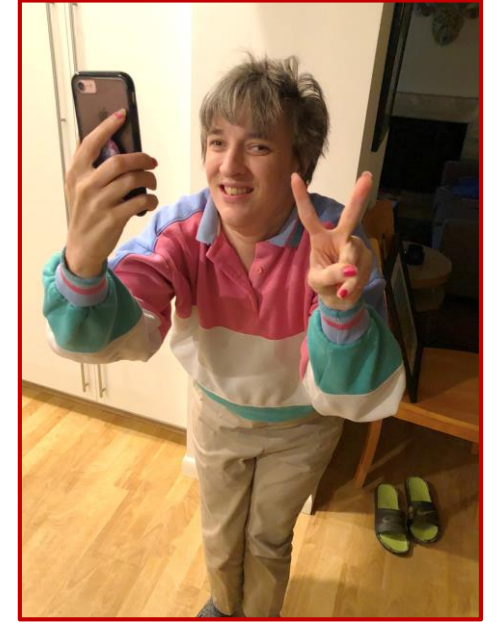


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# We believe that

- ✓ **disability content should be required** for accreditation of all health care training programs.
- ✓ disability competence should be **evaluated** (e.g., on board exams)
- ✓ **licensure** boards should require disability competency
- ✓ innovative **incentive structures and policies** elevate the potential for the delivery of disability-competent care.

**Health equity for people with disabilities depends on these bold changes.**





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