

Healthy communities: A framework to achieve inclusion of persons with disabilities

AUTHORS: Angela Weaver, Joseph Lowe, Mac Gillespie*, West Livaudais*, Andrea Brush, Darrin Umbarger

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Inclusivity of people with disabilities in healthy community efforts

ABSTRACT: Persons with disability experience higher rates of chronic disease and less participation in healthy behaviors that help prevent or manage such conditions. Healthy community initiatives that focus on improvements to the built, programmatic and social environments to support healthy lifestyles, often do not integrate inclusion principals that enable persons with disability to reap the same benefits as other community members. 2015 Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data has shown that people with disabilities are less likely to exercise. For example, only 67% of Oregonians with disabilities reported having exercised during the past month in comparison to 86% of Oregonians without disabilities. This is a significance difference given that the lack of exercise is associated with metabolic disorders and diabetes.

This presentation will describe an assessment and implementation framework that drives public health action called the Community Health Inclusion Index (CHII). It is the first instrument to operationalize community health inclusion into a comprehensive assessment tool that can be used by public health professionals and community coalitions to examine the supports needed to improve active living among persons with disability. Oregon was one of five states to pilot the CHII: successes, lessons learned, and next steps will be discussed.

OBJECTIVE(S): Explain why persons with disabilities are a demographic group that experience health disparities. Define two ways a community health assessment tool can guide community health improvement efforts that integrate inclusive policy, systems and environmental strategies. Describe several successful inclusionary efforts taking place in Benton and Umatilla Counties and their proposed impact on community participation and access to healthy lifestyle opportunities for persons with disability.

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Angela Weaver
Project Coordinator
Oregon Office on Disability and Health
5034941205 | weaverro@ohsu.edu

CO-PRESENTER(S):

Angela Weaver | weaverro@ohsu.edu
Mac Gillespie | mac.gillespie@co.benton.or.us
Joseph Lowe | joseph.lowe@dhsosha@state.or.us