

DAWN CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

“EXPANDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE WITHIN THE
DISABILITY NETWORKS INITIATIVE”

HOSTED BY
CARMELA SLIVINSKI

WITH

LAURA O'REILLY-STANZILIS RN

MAY 10TH, 16TH & 24TH 2023



Centers for Independent Living

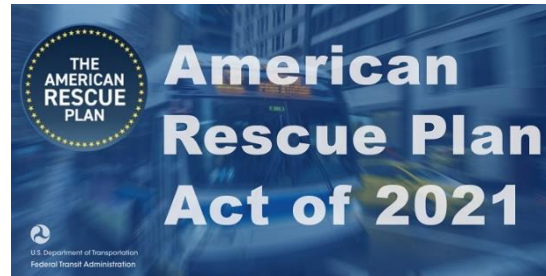
- Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are grassroots, advocacy-driven community-based organizations run by and for people with disabilities.
- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended) included provision for the funding of Centers for Independent Living.
- CIL's promote the Independent Living philosophy which states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, choices and control as do people without disabilities.
- Independent Living is about choice!
- There are 12 CIL's in NJ each serving specific geographic areas.
<https://www.njsilc.org/centers-for-independent-living-by-county.html>
- DAWN Center for Independent Living serves Morris, Sussex and Warren counties.
- All Centers provide individual and systems advocacy, information and referral, peer support, independent living skills training and transition.



MISSION/VISION

Mission: Providing support to persons with disabilities throughout their lifespan so they can achieve their highest level of independence in their community.

Vision: People with disabilities will have equal opportunities to fully participate in all aspects of community life, to live independently and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.



- DAWN Center for Independent Living is one of 12 CIL's in the state of NJ chosen by the Administration on Community Living to participate in the *Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Aging and Disability Networks*.
- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provided funding via the aging and disability networks (networks that play an essential role in public health) to recruit, hire, and train public health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future public health challenges utilizing the existing aging and disability networks.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Centers for Independent Living, as trusted members of their communities and providers of services that support older adults and people with disabilities in every community across the country, play an essential role in public health. Our networks provide a variety of services that directly support public health, such as health and wellness education and information, counseling, case management and assistance with accessing health care services, including COVID-19 vaccinations.

With more than 50 years of experience and unmatched knowledge of the unique needs of older adults and people with disabilities, the aging and disability networks are critical partners with the public health system, providing technical assistance and guidance on meeting the unique needs of older adults and people with disabilities.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DISABILITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH



- People with disabilities comprise a significant portion of the communities that public health professionals serve. People with disabilities are our coworkers, neighbors, family members, friends, and community members.
- Data show that over 56.7 million Americans have a disability, making up about 19% of the American population.
- Anyone can acquire or experience a disabling condition in their lifetime. The risk of acquiring a disability can increase as people age, as does the possibility of severe disability and the need for assistance.

<https://disabilityinpublichealth.org/references/>



OBJECTIVES

- #1 To understand ways to be inclusive of individuals with disabilities, and access and functional limitations in public health services and education
- #2 To learn ways to build partnerships with community disability and human services agencies
- #3 To contribute to the development of a competent workforce and connect the special needs population to needed health and social services



HOW PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE BEST SERVED BY PUBLIC HEALTH

Disability inclusion allows for people with disabilities to take advantage of the benefits of the same health promotion and prevention activities experienced by people who do not have a disability.

Examples of these activities include:

- ❑ Education and outreach programs that promote physical activity, improve nutrition or reduce the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs;
- ❑ Screenings for heart disease, cancer and other diseases
- ❑ Vaccines
- ❑ Preventive care
- ❑ Environmental
- ❑ Emergency preparedness

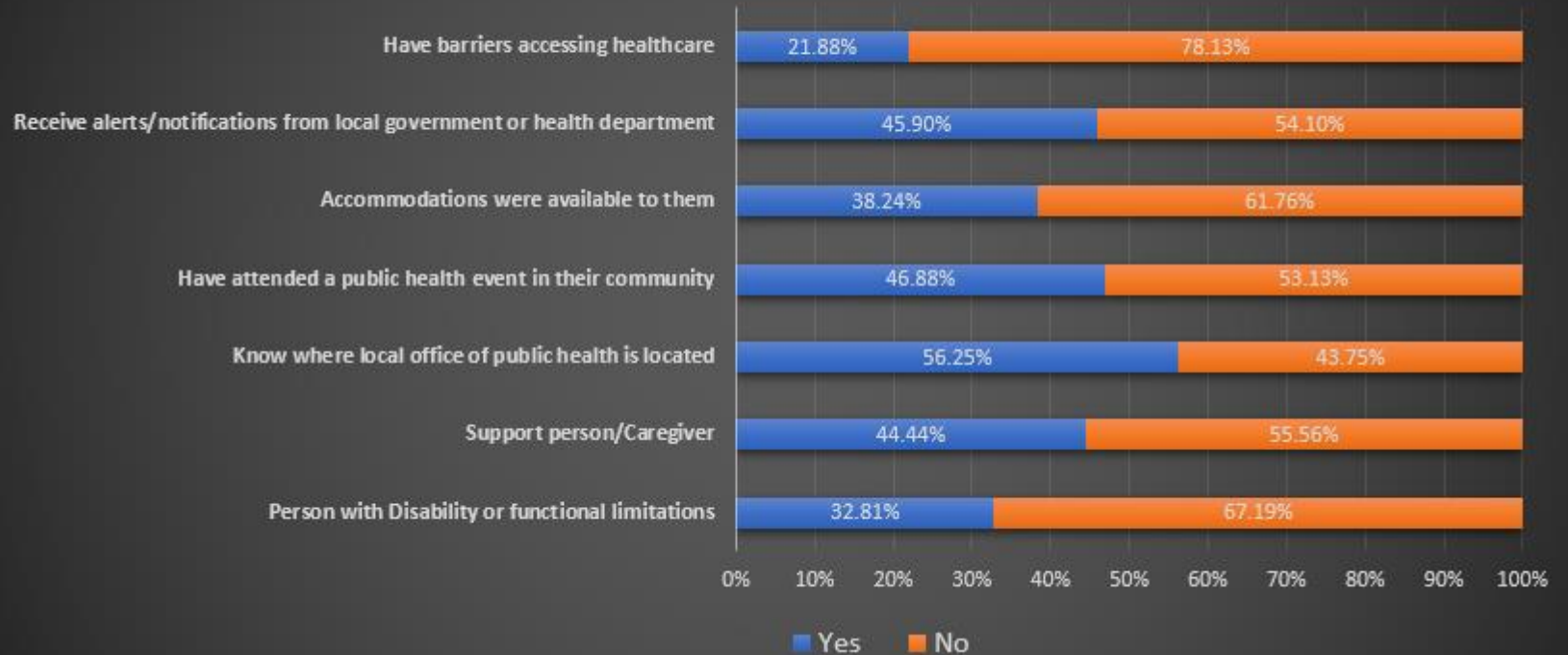


HOW PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE BEST SERVED BY PUBLIC HEALTH – PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Accessible examination room has features that make it possible for patients with mobility disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs, to receive appropriate medical care. These features allow the patient to enter the examination room, move around in the room, and utilize the accessible equipment provided. The features that make this possible are:
 - an accessible route to and through the room;
 - an entry door with adequate clear width, maneuvering clearance, and accessible hardware;
 - appropriate models and placement of accessible examination equipment (See Part 4 for detailed discussion of accessible examination equipment.); and
 - adequate clear floor space inside the room for side transfers and use of lift equipment.
- New and altered examination rooms must meet requirements of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Accessible examination rooms may need additional floor space to accommodate transfers and for certain equipment, such as a floor lift.



Survey Results





CONNECTING PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES WITH TRAUMA INFORMED PRINCIPLES

Public Health Approach	Trauma-Informed Principles	Mutual Intent
Community Engagement	<p>Trustworthiness and transparency (ensure understanding with respect)</p> <p>Collaboration and mutuality (rebalance power differentials)</p> <p>Empowerment, voice, and choice (strengths-focused)</p>	<p>Acknowledging community experiences as expertise</p> <p>Use clear and shared language</p> <p>Recognize diversity in expertise of impacted individuals</p> <p>Raise concerns that would otherwise be overlooked</p>

Source: *Addressing Trauma-Informed Principles in Public Health through Training and Practice*
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9319668/>



Public Health Approach

Trauma-Informed Principles

Mutual Intent

Equitable and Inclusive Processes

Safety (sense of control)
Peer support (relationship)

Ensure decisions yield personal and population level improvements
Incorporate contextual experience as formal information in decision-making
Use shared knowledge to improve sustainable decision-making

Equitable and Inclusive Health Outcomes

Recognizing cultural, historical, and gender issues (avoid stereotypes)

Examine multiple definitions and metrics of improvement



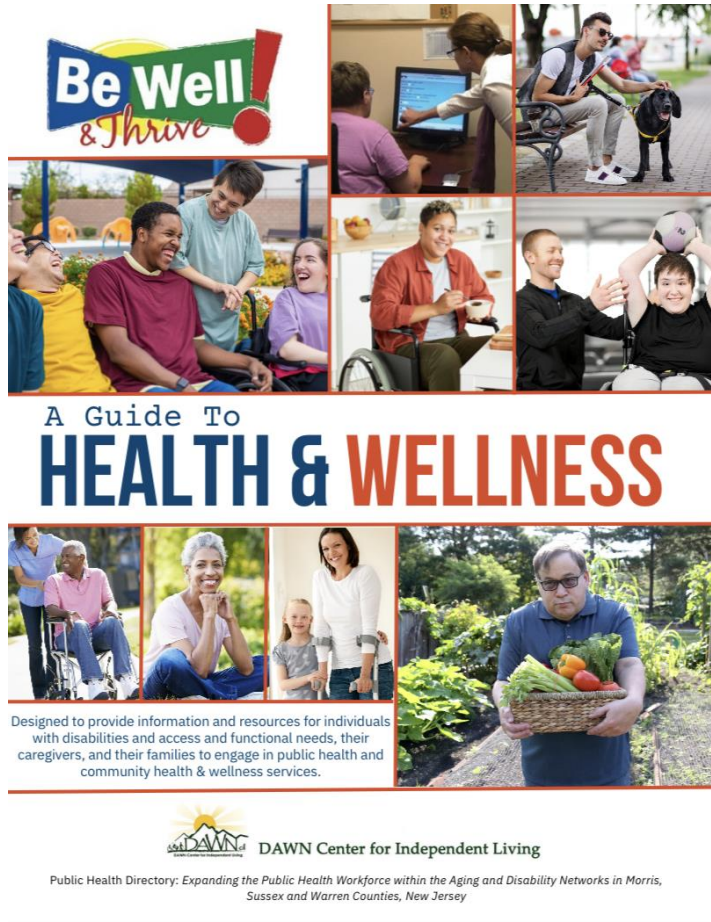
BUILDING BRIDGES TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS



- Building bridges between Public Health and Human Services helps to address disability related issues and the social determinants of health.
- Positive outcomes are possible with cross sector collaboration.

GET CONNECTED

Connecting People with Disabilities and Mobility Limitations to Public Health Resources



A Call to Action

Lifestyle and Health

Primary Care and Screenings

Mental Health Matters

Protect Yourself and Others From Germs

Public Health

Health Departments

Human Services and Social Support

A link to download this Guide is on www.dawncil.org



HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS MORE INCLUSIVE?

A Panel Discussion

Tracy Mazzucco, MS, REHS, CHES, Warren County Health Department

&

Kristine Wilsusen MA, MCHES, Health Education Consultant for at Rockaway Division of Health, Randolph, Township, and Roxbury Township local health departments.

- Emergency Response Notification in communities
- Knock/Lock box
- Register with the FIRE/POLICE/OEM.
- NJ 211
- Community Resources



RESOURCES

- www.dawncil.org
- [Fact Sheets : Resources : The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute \(thearcfamilyinstitute.org\)](http://thearcfamilyinstitute.org)
- [The Division of Disability Services | Division of Disability Services \(nj.gov\)](http://nj.gov)
- [New Jersey Resources \(state.nj.us\)](http://state.nj.us)
- <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/clients/disability/>
- [DHS NJ Resource Guide Spanish-2020-web.pdf](#)
- <https://www.njid.org/adult-programs>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-resources.html>
- <https://www.ada.gov/resources/medical-care-mobility/>

Don't sign off yet.....

- Please complete the survey to receive 1 hour of continuing education credit from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

