NACCHO Health and Disability Fellowship

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MPH Field Placement 2015-2016

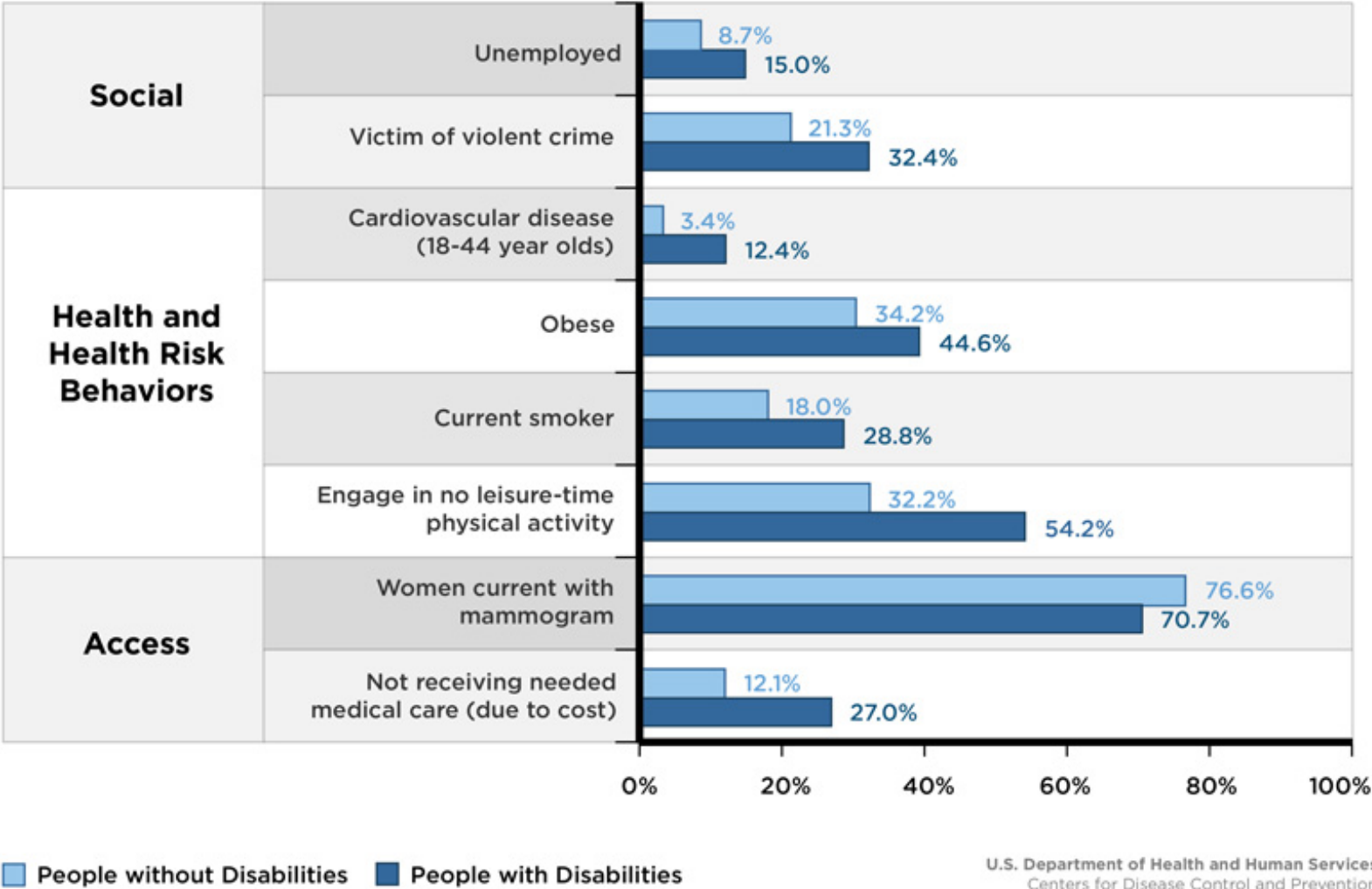# National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Image of NACCHO logo

- National non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C.

- Represents nearly 3,000 local health departments (LHDs) nationwide

- Health and Disability Program works to promote full and successful inclusion of people with disabilities in all LHD programs, services, and activities
  - National Health and Disability Fellowship
  - Sponsored and supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

What is the public health problem?

- People with disabilities make up at least 20% of the U.S. population[1]
  - Expected to rise with advances in medicine, improving survival rates, and an aging population
  - Nearly everyone will experience disability at some point in their lives

- People with disabilities are a health inequity population[2,3]
  - Disproportionately experience adverse health outcomes that are:
    1. Avoidable and preventable
    2. Unjust and unfair
    3. Based in a historical context of exclusion, discrimination, and disadvantage
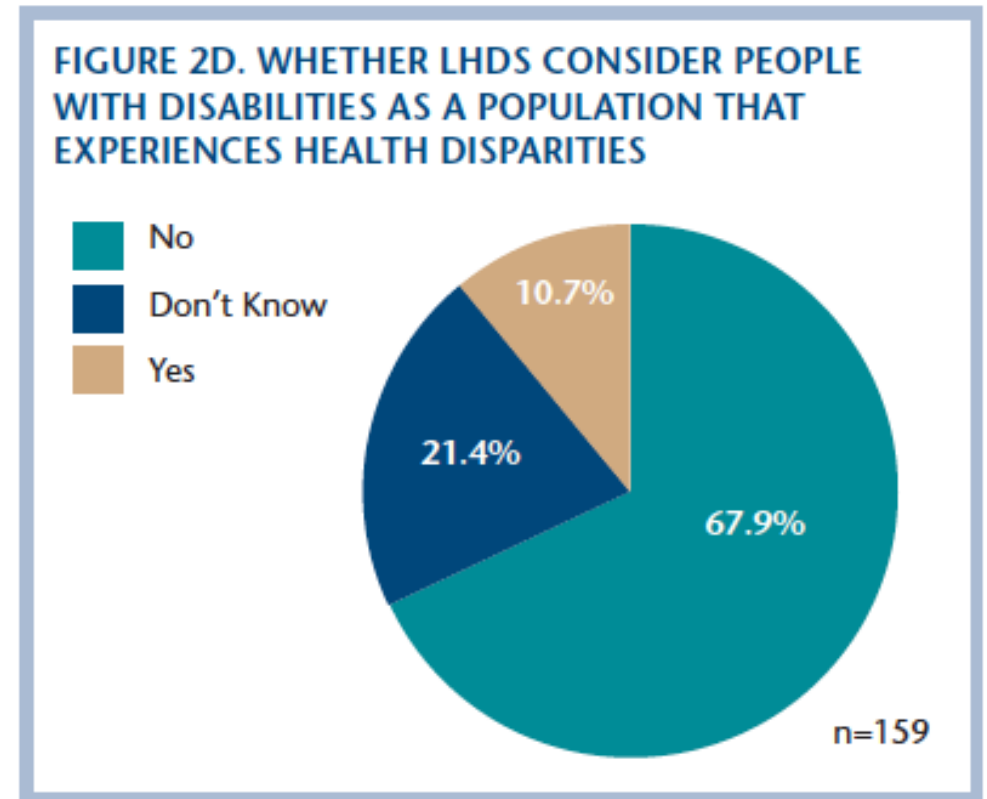
Factors Affecting the Health of People with and without Disabilities[4]

Social

	People without Disabilities	People with Disabilities
Unemployed	8.7%	15.0%
Victim of violent crime	21.3%	32.4%

Health and Health Risk Behaviors

	People without Disabilities	People with Disabilities
Cardiovascular disease (18-44 year olds)	3.4%	12.4%
Obese	34.2%	44.6%
Current smoker	18.0%	28.8%
Engage in no leisure-time physical activity	32.2%	54.2%

Access

	People without Disabilities	People with Disabilities
Women current with mammogram	76.6%	70.7%
Not receiving needed medical care (due to cost)	12.1%	27.0%

People without Disabilities   People with Disabilities

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Bar graph demonstrating that people with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed, become victims of violent crime, develop cardiovascular disease, become obese, smoke, be physically inactive, not receive mammograms, and to refuse medical care due to cost

What is the public health problem?

- To address health inequities, LHDs should include people with disabilities in all public health efforts

- However, LHDs face major barriers to including people with disabilities
  - Low awareness of health inequities and disability inclusion strategies[5]
  - Competing priorities
  - Resource constraints

FIGURE 2D. WHETHER LHDS CONSIDER PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS A POPULATION THAT EXPERIENCES HEALTH DISPARITIES

- No
- Don't Know
- Yes

10.7%

21.4%

67.9%

n=159

Pie chart demonstrating that only 10.7% of LHDs consider people with disabilities to be a health inequity population[5]

Types of Support LHDs Need to Improve Disability Inclusion[5]

FIGURE 4. TYPES OF SUPPORT THAT LHDS NEED TO IMPLEMENT INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

n=159
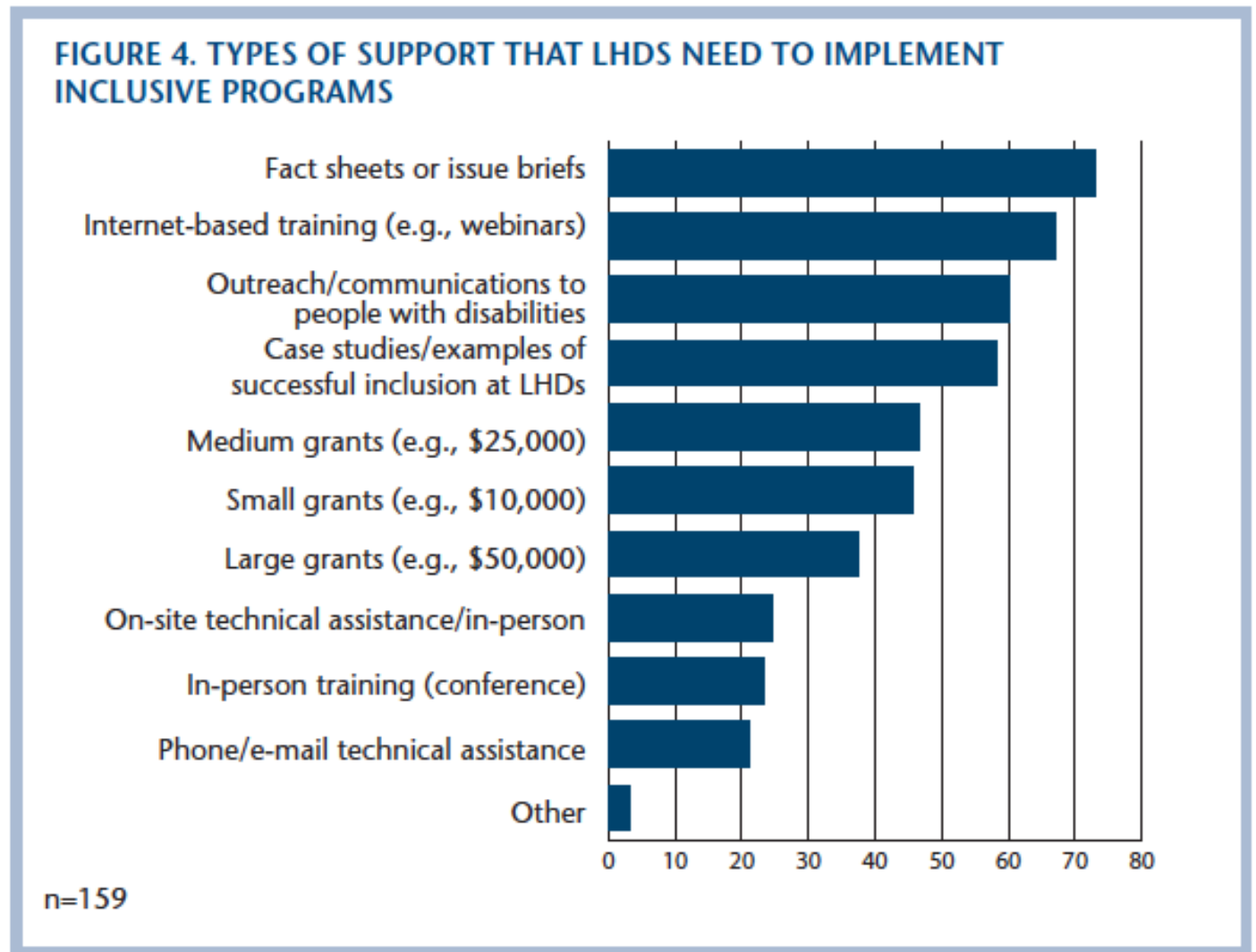
Bar graph displaying types of support LHDs need to implement more inclusive programs—the most requested types of support are (1) fact sheets or issue briefs, (2) internet-based trainings such as webinars, (3) outreach and communications, and (4) case studies and examples of success[5]

Learning Objectives

- Acquire experience working with community partners and stakeholders

- Evaluate public health tools, resources, and strategies of an ongoing program

- Identify diverse determinants related to a public health issue and develop an understanding of the manner in which these determinants affect the issue

- Integrate experiences in the field, literature, and public health classroom training

- Select the most pertinent information for communicating with the audience to effect change

- Produce an online resource and presentations that communicate effectively about diverse aspects of a public health issue

Health and Disability Toolkit

- Part of the free, online NACCHO Toolbox

- Designed to increase the accessibility of existing tools and resources that LHDs can use to improve disability inclusion

- Edited the existing toolkit
  - Removing outdated or irrelevant tools
  - Editing descriptions for professionalism and accuracy
  - Fixing broken links

- Added 95 new tools
  - Health and Disability Toolkit now has a total 177 tools

Health and Disability Toolkit

- The revised toolkit now includes:
  - Resources the Health and Disability Team provides to LHDs during technical assistance
  - Resources developed by National Health and Disability Workgroup partners
  - NACCHO Model Practices
  - Model plans developed by past recipients of technical assistance
- New tools reflect issues often neglected for people with disabilities
  - Violence and abuse prevention
  - Promoting reproductive and maternal health

Health and Disability Toolkit

- New tools address concerns many LHDs share
  - Communicating effectively with people who have disabilities
  - Reaching out to people with disabilities in the community
  - Improving physical accessibility
  - Finding existing data or collecting new data
  - Accessing online trainings for the LHD workforce
  - Using assistive technology (e.g., teletypewriters, CART services)
  - Employing people with disabilities
  - Creating an inclusive organizational culture

NACCHO Health and Disability Toolkit

Image of the current Toolbox interface on NACCHO's website

Technical Assistance

- Provided technical assistance to three LHDs

- Reviewed and commented on strategic plans, community health assessments, educational materials, and feedback surveys

- Provided tools and recommendations for:
  - Improving disability inclusion with limited resources
  - Training staff
  - Communicating effectively
  - Reaching out to people with disabilities
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Improving physical accessibility
  - Collecting data about people with disabilities
  - Partnering with disability organizations
  - Providing more inclusive and accessible healthcare

Presentations

- Site visit with CDC at NACCHO headquarters

- AUCD Conference poster presentation

- Quarterly national workgroup calls

- Monthly Health and Disability team calls

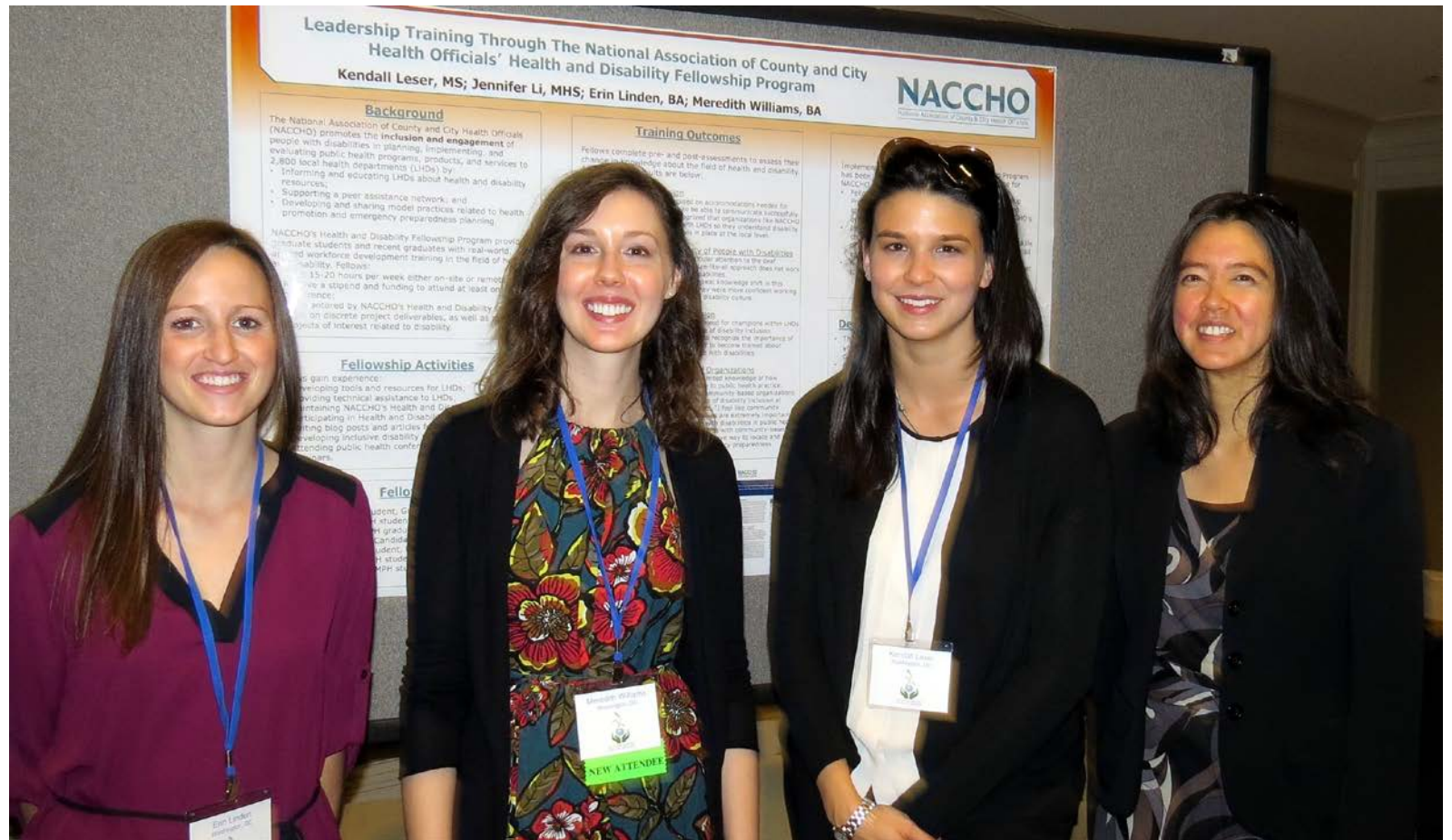# AUCD Conference in Washington, D.C.

Image of the NACCHO Health and Disability Team standing in front of poster entitled "Leadership Training Through the National Association of County and City Health Officials' Health and Disability Fellowship Program"

From left to right: Erin Linden, Meredith Williams, Dr. Kendall Leser, Dr. Jennifer Li

E-Learning Module

- Review of existing disability inclusion trainings
  - Many were helpful for only one specific segment of the public health workforce or only one type of disability
  - Need for trainings developed specifically for LHDs and for meeting the needs of people with diverse disabilities

- Developing an introductory e-learning module on disability inclusion
  - Collaboration calls with our workgroup and other partners
  - Literature review for module content
  - Developed objectives and slide content
  - Reviewed PHAB standards that our module may help LHDs meet

Blogs for NACCHO Websites

NACCHO Voice:
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities: How Local Health Departments Can Promote Inclusion[6]

NACCHO Preparedness Brief:
- Just Say Hi: Communicating Effectively with People Who Have Disabilities[6]
- NACCHO Launches Updated Health and Disability Toolkit[8]

Image of blog posted on the NACCHO Voice website
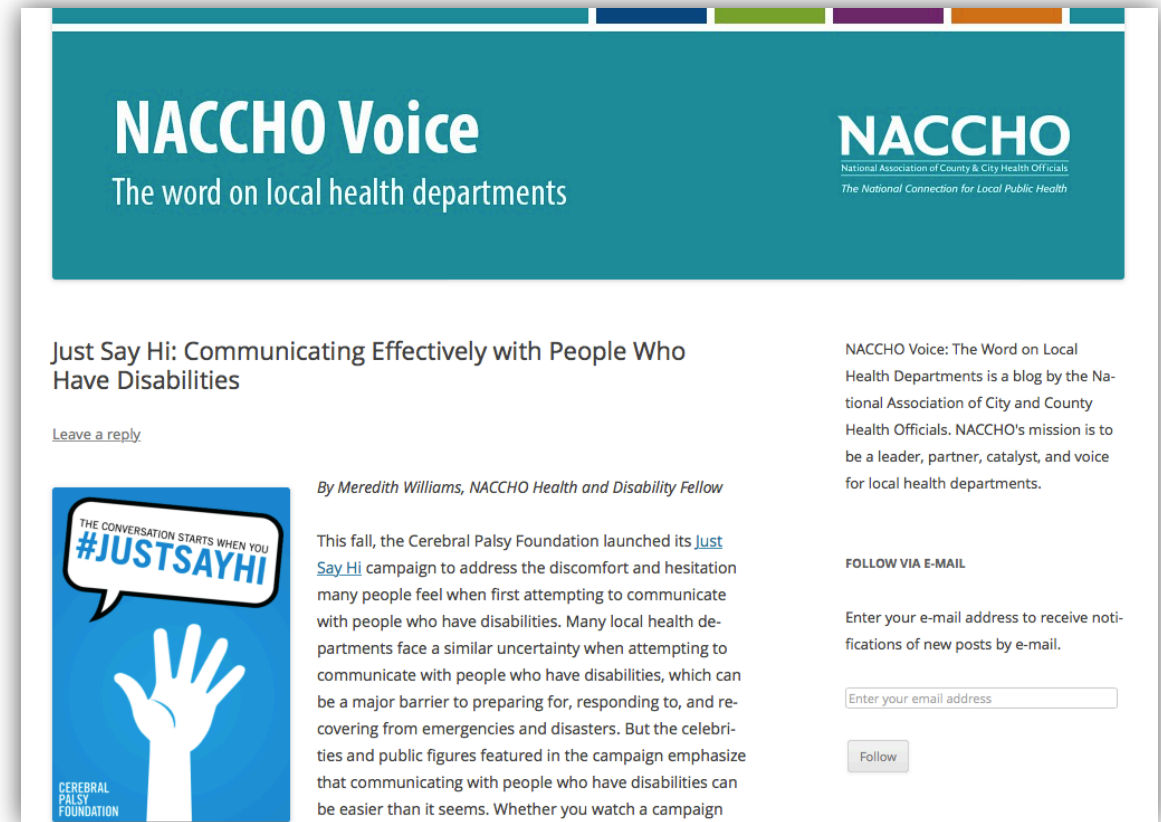
Other Activities

- Literature review on organizational culture change and disability inclusion for use within NACCHO

- Submitted abstract for the 2016 APHA Conference on behalf of the Health and Disability Team

- Stayed up-to-date by attending webinars and conference calls for our partners' projects, reading newsletters, news articles, and the latest research studies

MPH Competencies Addressed

▪ Apply basic theories, concepts, and models from social, scientific and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice.

▪ Apply the basic public health sciences (including, but not limited to biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, public health administration, and social and behavioral sciences) to public health policies and programs.

▪ Assess community linkages and relationships among multiple factors (or determinants) affecting health.

▪ Communicate effectively to diverse professional and lay audiences regarding public health issues.

▪ Demonstrate an understanding of the environmental factors including biological, physical, and chemical factors that affect the health of a community.

▪ Describe how social, behavioral, environmental, and biological factors contribute to specific individual and community outcomes.

▪ Develop public health interventions and strategies responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served.

Impacts

- NACCHO
  - Tools, resources, increased awareness
  - Ability to sustain and grow the Health and Disability Program

- LHDs
  - Improved access to existing disability inclusion tools and resources
  - Increased awareness of disability, health inequities, and inclusion strategies

- Communities
  - As LHDs improve disability inclusion, they will:
    - Affect the health of their communities
    - Serve as models of disability inclusion

Impacts

- Field of public health
  - Improved disability inclusion, increased effectiveness, and broader collaboration

- People with disabilities
  - Empowered to be heard and have needs met
  - Improved health outcomes
  - Increased independence, functioning, and participation

- Personal
  - Gained practical experience, insights, and skills
  - Able to make meaningful contributions to public health efforts that affect my own life
  - Guidance and encouragement for education and career

References

1. National Association of County & City Health Officials. What local health departments should know about the population of people with disabilities. Association of University Centers on Disabilities. http://www.aucd.org/docs/phe/Fact%20Sheet_General%20Overview.pdf. Published April 2015. Accessed September 5, 2015.

2. Krahn GL, Walker DK, Correa-De-Araujo R. Persons with disabilities as an unrecognized health disparity population. *Am J Public Health*. 2015;105 Suppl 2:S198-206.

3. Havercamp SM, Scott HM. National health surveillance of adults with disabilities, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and adults with no disabilities. *Disabil Health J*. 2015;8(2):165-172.

4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Disability inclusion. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-barriers.html. Published March 17, 2016. Accessed April 13, 2016.

5. National Association of County & City Health Officials. National assessment of the knowledge, awareness, and inclusion of people with disabilities in local health departments' public health practices. National Association of County & City Health Officials. http://eweb.naccho.org/prd/?na631pdf. Published December 2014. Accessed September 5, 2015.

6. Williams M. International Day of Persons with Disabilities: How local health departments can promote inclusion. NACCHO Preparedness Brief. http://nacchopreparedness.org/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-how-local-health-departments-can-promote-inclusion/. Published December 15, 2015. Accessed December 16, 2016.

7. Williams M. Just say hi: Communicating effectively with people who have disabilities. NACCHO Voice. http://nacchovoice.naccho.org/2016/02/10/just-say-hi-communicating-effectively-with-people-who-have-disabilities/. Published February 10, 2016. Accessed February 10, 2016.

8. Williams M. NACCHO launches updated Health and Disability Toolkit. NACCHO Preparedness Brief. http://nacchopreparedness.org/naccho-launches-updated-health-and-disability-toolkit/. Published March 23, 2016. Accessed March 25, 2016.

Links

- NACCHO Toolbox
  - Archive: http://archived.naccho.org/toolbox/
  - New site: http://www.naccho.org/resources/toolbox#

- AUCD Poster
  - http://www.aucd.org/meetings/233/17313/AUCD%20Conference%20Poster_Final.pdf

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities: How Local Health Departments Can Promote Inclusion
  - http://nacchopreparedness.org/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-how-local-health-departments-can-promote-inclusion/

- Just Say Hi: Communicating Effectively with People Who Have Disabilities
  - https://nacchovoice.naccho.org/2016/02/10/just-say-hi-communicating-effectively-with-people-who-have-disabilities/

- NACCHO Launches Updated Health and Disability Toolkit
  - http://nacchopreparedness.org/naccho-launches-updated-health-and-disability-toolkit/