

Public Health Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2024

1. Welcome and Introductions

- In attendance: Justice Shorter, Mandy Halloran, Nikki Brown, Adriana Rush, Megan Szalwinski, Eileen Schell, Annie Foster, Katie Waites, Chloe Boroff, 803-920-9504, 843-289-1554, Aimee Bowen, Anni Crook, Beth Franco, DaAsia Hamilton, Ed Glover, Evelyn Fernandez, Jennifer Almeda-Garrett, Jessica Kotik, Joyce Davis, Juli Windsor, Larry, Margaret Alewine, Mary Trunk, Mike Leach, Reba Landry, Rebecca Williams-Agee, Sicilia Randazzo, Stephanie Price, Steven Ferrufino, Terrance Middleton, Valarie Bishop, WrightDD
- Introduction of new attendees: Adriana Rush (SC Lend, medical student), Chloe Boroff (SC Lend), Jessica Kotik (SC Lend, Psychology fellow), Katie Waites (SC Lend, Physical Therapy). Megan Johnson's last name changed, she is now Megan Szalwinski.

2. Presentation by Justice Shorter

- Introduction: Justice Shorter is a skilled organizer/facilitator, Disability Justice amplifier, and senior advisor on issues at the intersection of race, disability, gender, climate, and crises. She is a national expert on disability inclusive disaster protections, emergency management and humanitarian crises/conflicts.
- Presentation and discussion led by Justice Shorter
 1. Justice Shorter emphasized the importance of disability justice and the need to prioritize individuals who are often left out and left behind. They highlighted the distinction between disability rights and disability justice, emphasizing the impact of ableism within the context of racism, imperialism, and other social determinants of health.
 2. Justice Shorter discussed the importance of using respectful language and providing accommodations for people with disabilities in healthcare settings. They also discussed the impact of trauma and stress on people with disabilities, emphasizing the importance of understanding the credibility of their stories of survival. Justice Shorter also discussed the importance of including people with disabilities in health

equity conversations, emphasizing the need for accessible and affordable healthcare and cross-movement organizing.

3. A study in 2022 published in Health Affairs found that improving healthcare access for people with disabilities will require improving the education of clinicians about the care of people with disabilities. It will require increasing the accessibility of space and the availability of proper equipment and removing structural barriers within the healthcare delivery system. When Mandy asked the group for feedback in a survey about what they wanted to learn more about, some of the group acknowledged that they would like to hear more about what these inequities look like. In the presentation, Justice provided detailed examples of areas where medical ableism occurs, including the following:
 - Physical accommodations
 - Communication accommodations
 - Structural barriers
 - Attitudes toward people with disabilities
 - Denying or discharging patients
 - Knowledge of the ADA
4. Justice discussed the Department of Justice's consideration of a new rule mandating accessibility equipment in healthcare facilities. They also provided examples of ways to engage and address existing barriers, including advocating for sustainable masking protocols, annual access audits, recruitment of doctors with disabilities, removal of biased medical personnel, and coordination of durable medical equipment donations. Justice emphasized the need for public health funds for accessibility measures and universal healthcare.
5. Justice concluded the presentation by urging action to address the needs of people with disabilities and advocating for a holistic approach to health that challenges oppressive social structures.

3. Closing Remarks

- Mandy concluded the meeting early to allow attendees to reflect on the discussion.