

Centering Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities During Crises & Emergencies



Justice Shorter

Welcome

- **Zoom Controls**
 - Chat Box
 - Q&A
 - Hand Raising
 - Mute
 - Captioning
- **Place questions in Zoom Q & A or on YouTube**



Thank You!

ASL Interpreting Services provided by the
Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation



Looking for more information?

Visit us at www.mhddcenter.org

- Webinar Archive
 - <https://www.mhddcenter.org/webinars/>
- Online Learning Modules
 - <https://www.mhddcenter.org/learn-now/>
- Digital Storytelling
 - <https://www.mhddcenter.org/stories/>
- Crossroads Podcast
 - <https://www.mhddcenter.org/podcast/>



○ Grounding

- Acknowledgement of WHY we are here
- Express a commitment to centering those WHO are most impacted
- Examine WHERE You Enter
- Explore WHAT You Would Like To do
- Content Warnings
- This presentation is NOT set in stone
- All content and frameworks are ever-evolving



The Legal Lens

- ADA Title II
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - IDEA
 - State laws where applicable



What Is Disability Justice -Sins Invalid

- Disability justice is a framework coined by a group of queer, disabled women of color that were connected through Sins Invalid, a US-based performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and queer and gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized.
- Disability justice recognizes the complexities of multiply marginalized disabled people and aims to be holistic in by recognizing these complexities.
- Sins Invalid has created 10 Principles of Disability Justice that, when applied to your work, can help to create a more inclusive, and aware, justice-based response.



The 10 Principles of Disability Justice

1. Intersectionality
2. Leadership by the most impacted
3. Anti-Capitalist Politic
4. Commitment to Cross-Movement Organizing
5. Recognizing Wholeness
6. Sustainability
7. Commitment to Cross-Disability Solidarity
8. Interdependence
9. Collective Access
10. Collective Liberation

Why do we need DJ in EM?

- Disability Justice is not the same as Disability Rights
- There is collective trauma and harm to marginalized communities in current emergency practices that must be addressed at systemic levels
- Justice isn't always achieved via the legal system and not everyone has equal access to legal supports.
- Multiple tools and tactics are needed to help communities survive and thrive.

Types Of Trauma

- Acute trauma
- Repetitive trauma
- Complex trauma
- Vicarious trauma
- Developmental Trauma
- Historical trauma
- Intergenerational trauma

Additional Causes Of Trauma

- Racial Profiling/Police Brutality/Vigilante Violence
- Gaslighting/Discrimination from Government Representatives, Case Managers & Voluntary Organizations
- Displacement/Disruptions of Support Systems
- Sex/Labor Trafficking After Disasters
- Domestic Violence/Gender-based violence After Disasters
- Economic Exploitation During Disasters
- Exclusion/Erasure in Emergency Management
- Intentional Divestment In Mitigation/Sustainable Infrastructure Within Communities Of Color
- Medical Ableism/Racism

Concentrating On Connections

- “The difference between a problem and a crisis is time”
- The difference between slow and sudden emergencies is time
- Structural violence exposes the harms caused by differences between people’s potential reality and their actual circumstances.
- Structural violence is often viewed as “natural” and creates optimal conditions for slow onset crises to emerge
- Much of the damage and destruction caused by disasters is directly related to structural issues/decision-making processes
- These decisions impact the ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster
- People with intellectual disabilities & developmental disabilities are habitually excluded from decision-making positions/spaces. Or, discouraged from utilizing their experiences to inform/impact systemic change

Structural Violence

Structural violence refers to any scenario in which a social structure perpetuates inequity and causes preventable harm, injury and/or death. It examines how economic, political, medical, and legal systems can have a disproportionately negative impact on marginalized groups and communities. *These systems are misleadingly thought of as normal/natural rather than harmful processes and forces that actively constrain individual agency. Lastly, It reveals the barriers that create differences between a group/person's potential reality and their actual conditions.*



Structural Violence & Environmental Racism

- Cause and Contributor to Intellectual Disabilities & Developmental Disabilities/Significant Strain on Mental Health
- Lead Tainted Homes/Water Sources
 - Flint Water Crisis
- Toxic Chemical Dump Sites in Communities Of Color
- Food Swamps/Deserts
- Air Pollution/Factory Emissions
- Mold, Vermin & Poor Ventilation
- Slum Lords/Hazardous Properties in Disrepair
- Absence of community clinics, hospitals or maternity wards in low-income neighborhoods/rural areas



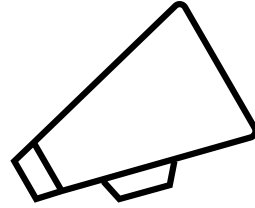
Slow Onset Emergencies

- Structural Violence is directly related to slow onset emergencies.
- Slow onset emergencies are gradual and emerge over time.
- Traditional examples include: Drought, Food Insecurity, Migration, Climate Change, etc.
- More expansive examples could include: Poverty, Health Inequities, Carceral Systems, Educational Inequities, Racism/Ableism/Sexism/Ageism, etc.
- The repeated and cyclical exposure to such events leave little room for recovery and impede individual/community capacity to prepare for sudden onset events such as flash floods, earthquakes, wildfires, home/facility fires, hurricanes, etc.

Continued Connections

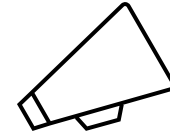
- The Coronavirus Pandemic Reminds Us
 - People with IDD are frequently deemed as disposable or less worthy of care/consideration
- Lived Experiences Teach Us
 - People with IDD are highly impacted by structural violence embedded in our medical, legal, political and economic systems. Such barriers create conditions for slow onset emergencies to develop which makes it increasingly difficult to deal with sudden onset emergencies
- Disability Rights Equips Us With
 - Legal frameworks to help remedy disability discrimination during disasters/emergencies
- Disability Justice Urges Us To Ensure
 - People with IDD are centered/Engaged/Empowered/In Power throughout disasters and emergencies
- History compels Us to:
 - Reflect, learn and document the impact of previous disasters/emergencies on people with IDD

Calls To Action



- Histories of harm and survival strategies/coping methods should inform EM planning
- Disaster Prep should include conversations around Power, Privilege & Possibilities
- Engagement around Emergency Management should include intentional outreach to self-advocates, organizers within MAD Pride Movement/Psychiatric Survivors Movement, undocumented IDD folks, residents of group homes and institutions. etc.
- Advocate for Justice: Disability Justice, Racial Justice, Educational Justice, Health/Healing Justice, Inclusive Food Justice, etc.
- Help prevent erasure and evasion by documenting and amplifying lived experiences

Calls to Action Continued



- Remember that Resilience is Rooted in Representation
- Go beyond “Go Bags” and call for systemic change
- Monitor commercial investments that cause/contribute to environmental degradation and architectural barriers
- Advocate against Climate Gentrification. Disaster survivors have the right to return to their communities.
- Mobilize to direct funding towards community driven mitigation measures related to accessible shelters, green infrastructure/sustainable drainage systems, etc.
- Insist that people with disabilities are fully integrated into Community Risk Reduction Assessments/Plans
- Urge government officials to support EM funding for mutual aid programs and community response efforts

Questions?

Please see the follow up email from

info@mhddcenter.org

**regarding Continuing Education and the link to the
webinar evaluation survey**

Thank you for being here today!

