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Book Review

Expanding the Scope of Disability in Public Health: Review of *Public Health Perspectives on Disability (2nd Edition)*.

Emerging recently into the public health arena, the field of disability in public health continues to define its place and scope. Contemporary disability in public health is premised on regarding disability as a demographic characteristic that identifies a heterogeneous population whose functional limitations need to be addressed if public health is to support their health and full participation in society. The new volume of *Public Health Perspectives on Disability: Science, Social Justice, Ethics, and Beyond (2nd Edition)*¹ aptly documents the substantial advances that have been made in scope and depth of knowledge. The book stands out as a uniquely valuable resource on recent research that expands boundaries in exploring the impacts of systems and environments on the health and participation of persons with disabilities.

A dozen years or so ago, the first edition of this sourcebook *PHPD*² and the first textbook, *Public Health and Disability*³ ventured into the space of describing disability through a public health lens. As an editor and author of the textbook, I recall struggling to determine what content to include, what issues to articulate, and what future directions to propose. The field was nascent and guideposts were largely absent. Rehabilitation medicine anchored a medical view, disability studies presented a social justice view, but how to define space for a public health view of disability? Since then, the field has witnessed incredible progress in developing frameworks, articulating values, and improving scientific studies. The publication of this second edition of *Public Health Perspectives on Disability* is truly cause for celebration! It aptly depicts the maturation of thought and study that now characterizes the field of disability in public health. Furthermore, publication of this review in the *Disability and Health Journal* (DHJO) is highly appropriate, given the pivotal role that DHJO has played as a scholarly outlet for much of this research.

The editors of *PHPD* (2nd edition) and chapter authors are all accomplished scholars in the field, with Lollar bringing many years of invaluable experience to shaping a vision for this field. The editors strike a fine balance between speaking to the larger public health audience in familiarizing them with a contemporary view of disabilities, and to scholars and students in disability and public health to update them on the latest research and issues. Klein Walker's excellent foreword succinctly summarizes eleven key themes to guide the reader through the subsequent chapters' content.

This second edition shows its roots in the earlier edition with similar topical content again framed in the Institute of Medicine

report *The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century*.⁴ Though slightly dated, this frame provides continuity from the first edition and squarely addresses the general public health audience. References and content are all updated throughout the book, providing a valuable summary of the most recent research across topical areas.

As a sourcebook, each chapter stands alone without the reader needing familiarity with other chapters. This is an asset for using the chapters as source material. However, it does result in some topics being covered multiple times (e.g., International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, social determinants of health), with slightly different nuances of interpretation. Each chapter reflects the voice of its authors, varying in theoretical bases, scientific meticulousness, or persuasive argument. The chapters vary slightly in format—some include cross-reference to content in other chapters, suggested resources for further reading, or questions for discussion; others do not.

The book comprises two sections—core topics in public health followed by applications in public health. Core topics include epidemiology and biostatistics, social determinants of health and disability, intersectionality of disability and other identities (e.g., race/ethnicity), environmental contexts, ethics and disability justice, and international and global approaches to disability. Application chapters describe the history of the disability and health programs in the U.S., findings and programs related to children with special health care needs, reproductive health and women with disabilities, aging with and into disability, disasters and people with disabilities, analysis of U.S. laws relating to disability, health insurance and employment, employment and disability, and workforce competencies for the future.

Each of the chapters make solid contributions to the field of disability in public health. I call attention to several chapters that especially reflect the maturing nature of the disability in public health field. The overview chapter on social determinants of health (SDoH) and disability by Froelich-Grobe, Douglas, Ochoa and Betts provides grounding information on viewing health through an SDoH lens and exemplifies its relationship to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework. This chapter serves as a good reference point for other chapters that consider SDoH for their topics. Horner-Johnson's relatively brief but highly informative chapter on the relatively new topic of intersectionality discusses the disparities evident when disability is compounded with other marginalized identities of race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and rurality. It discusses key findings in each of these intersectionalities of identity and suggests direction for addressing compounded disparities. Environment is a core element of a public health approach, and the chapter on

environmental contexts by Eisenberg and Maisel illustrates the goals of Universal Design (UD) through public health examples. It exemplifies UD with the ten essential services of public health using recent research examples. Sexual and reproductive health of women with disabilities is addressed in the chapter by Long-Bellil, Valentine and Mitra. They consider research about the experience of women with disabilities from preconception, contraception, pregnancy care and outcomes, and postpartum health. Their call for disability inclusion as a vehicle for achieving equity echoes the United Nations disability inclusion strategy.⁵ While the sourcebook is primarily U.S.-centric, the chapter on international public health and global disabilities by Lollar and Chami provides positions of the United Nations and the World Health Organization and updates on international research on public health and disabilities. An important source of information to add to this chapter is the United Nations flagship report on Disability and Development Report that summarizes the latest global data on persons with disabilities pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals.^{6,7} Finally, the chapter by Griffen and Havercamp outlines the need and strategies for a disability competent workforce. Its charts summarize two of the most prominent efforts of the past decade in developing workforce competencies for the public health workforce⁸ and health care professionals.⁹

This sourcebook is highly recommended reading for students and scholars in disability and public health. Propelled in part by experiences during the COVID pandemic, the agenda for the next decade for disability in public health will likely include at least the following: disability inclusion as a human rights movement globally, efficacy of interventions with persons with disabilities, expanded availability of disability data, and greater understanding of the heterogeneity among persons with disabilities. This current sourcebook launches us into the coming decade for further expansion of the field of disability in public health.

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