

Sibling Multicultural Roundtable Discussion Featuring a Panel of Siblings of People with Disabilities



DISABILITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES



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Background

- Founded in 2007, the Sibling Leadership Network (SLN) is a national nonprofit organization with over 5000 members and sibling chapters in 25 states.
- SLN's mission is to provide siblings of individuals with disabilities the information, support and tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters to promote the issues important to them and their entire families.
- SLN created the Diversity and Social Justice Committee as an effort to support a more diverse membership, with a commitment to making connections between the sibling movement and other social justice movements.

Aims

- Trainees worked on a Sibling Multicultural Roundtable Discussion to:
- Bring together siblings of people with disabilities from diverse backgrounds to provide a space for sharing, understanding, and to have an open discussion about issues related to multicultural, diversity and social justice
 - Serve as a guide and resource model for other chapters to create their own roundtable discussions on diversity



Process and Results

- The Diversity and Social Justice Committee, in collaboration with partners IL LEND, FSRTC, and UIC DHD, hosted its first-ever Sibling Multicultural Roundtable on March 12, 2018.
- This event brought together a panel of 6 siblings (including a sib-in-law) who discussed various parts of their identities and how their backgrounds have impacted their sibling experience and world view. An audience was invited to listen, learn, and ask questions.
- The discussion was recorded and archived for the SLN to share with other chapters.
- The audience was also asked to fill out an evaluation after the discussion.
- 90% of audience agreed that the discussion increased their knowledge about siblings of people with disability, learned about a perspective that was different than their own, considered sibling issues in a new way, and will share something about this experience with their coworkers, friends, family.

From left to right: Moderator Katie Keiling Arnold, Anabelen Diaz (LEND Trainee), Sumithra Murphy, Abla Gharib (LEND Trainee), Benji Rubin, Natalie Morgan, Hailee Yoshizaki-Gibbons



SIBLING MULTICULTURAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION FEATURING A PANEL OF SIBLINGS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Please join us to listen and learn from a panel of people from diverse backgrounds who will discuss various parts of their identity as siblings of people with disabilities. Panelists will talk about how their backgrounds have impacted their sibling experience.

WHEN
March 12th, 2018
12:00-1:00 PM

WHERE
UIC Disability and Human Development (1st Floor Auditorium)
1640 W Roosevelt Rd Chicago, IL 60608

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
This event is geared toward adult siblings of people with disabilities. Anyone interested in learning about the sibling experience is welcome to attend.

Please provide any accessibility accommodation requests by Feb 28th to amy.halm@siblingleadership.org.

Feel free to bring a bag lunch.



The Multicultural Roundtable Discussion was marketed through distributing a flyer (left) on social media and posting on listservs. The questions for the panelists were:

1. Introduce yourself -What is your name? Can you share a little bit about your family and sibling?
2. In addition to being sibling, what are other parts of your identity that are important to you (e.g., racial, ethnic, sexuality, religious, gender, class, etc.)?
3. Do you feel any parts of your identity or background have influenced your experiences with your sibling in a unique way? How about your experiences with people with disabilities in general?
4. How have you advocated with your sibling with a sibling?
5. Are you involved in any other social justice movements?
6. Is there anything else you would like to share with the group?

Conclusion

- Based on the evaluation answers, the audience were overwhelming satisfied with the discussion and pleased with diversity of the panelists cultural backgrounds as well as listening to different perspectives and influence on siblings' experiences.
- One of the suggestions of the audience was that it would be great if this discussion would be in a webinar format or have a discussion with a video conferencing option for those who were unable to attend.
- The audience also expressed great interest in having more discussions with other personal relevant topics such as family dynamics between parents and siblings, how does having a sibling with disability impact a sibling's personal life and career, as well as the issue of disability and family life.
- This was the first time that SLN has hosted a discussion and it proved to be a great idea. This will pave the way for similar discussions and webinars that would increase dialogue and bring awareness to issues that face siblings of people with disabilities and bring more members from diverse backgrounds as members of SLN.
- The SLN has shared a summary of the discussion through its newsletter and website. The videotaped discussion can also be shared by contacting the SLN directly.

References

Sibling and Leadership Network (2017). Diversity and Social Justice. Retrieved from <http://siblingleadership.org/diversity/>

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