Health Policy Through a Disability Rights Perspective
Utah Health Policy Project is a non-profit, non-partisan organization advancing sustainable health care solutions for underserved Utahns, through better access, education, and public policy.
Direct Service: Where can Utahns find help?

http://www.healthpolicyproject.org/remote-enrollment-options/

www.TakeCareUtah.org or 2-1-1
COVID-19 as a Disability Rights Issue

- Troubling conversations about “underlying conditions” and “vulnerable” populations
- Disabled communities facing highest risk, with no voice at the table in vital conversations
- Nursing home death rates and the link to the historic struggle for deinstitutionalization
- Concerns about vaccine prioritization

https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/covid-19/
http://disabilitylawcenter.org/covid-19/
2021 Session and COVID-Response Priorities

Watching dozens of bills this session, including:

• Efforts to expand outreach and health care coverage options for all kids
• Potential merger of health and human services departments
• Mental health crisis response, expanded telehealth
• Medicaid options for homeless respite care

Federal COVID-Response Priorities:
• Expanding ACA subsidies, reopening enrollment period
• More Medicaid funding, state and local government $$
• Housing, hunger, unemployment, and direct financial assistance
• Funding and strategy for vaccine distribution, public health
Medicaid Expansion as a Disability Rights Issue

BEFORE EXPANSION:
- Eligibility based income and CATEGORIES
- Disability? (only if you have the paperwork to prove it)

AFTER EXPANSION:
- Eligibility based only on income, family size, residency, citizenship
- Fewer barriers to care
- During COVID-19, continuous coverage until end of PHE

https://www.communitycatalyst.org/blog/utahs-waiver-comments-expose-barriers-to-coverage-for-people-with-disabilities#.Xrx8GWhKiUn
Who Is covered By Medicaid?

21,128 Parents
50,559 Adults w/out Dependent Children
7,085 Targeted Adult
4,514 Uninsured Testing
201,659 kids covered

78,772 Total Expansion (so far...)
398,092 TOTAL Medicaid

“We have three top priorities: advocacy. advocacy. advocacy.”

— Ed Roberts

- Personal stories
- Compelling data
- Public energy
- Creativity
- Persistence
- Timing
- Luck

Learn about Ed Roberts HERE
Follow us on social media and visit our website to sign up to join our work! You can also see our bill tracker, policy updates, COVID-19 community resources, and more.

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http://www.healthpolicyproject.org/