Teaching a Health Plan to Fish

A partnership between members of Hmong clans in rural Northern California, the Disability Action Center, and California Health & Wellness to increase health access and equity.

10/19/2015

“Give someone a fish and you feed them for a day; teach someone to fish and you feed them for a lifetime.”
Disability Action Center (DAC)

Disability Action Center is a nonprofit organization helping community members with disabilities to achieve and/or maintain their optimal level of self-reliance and independence since 1980.

DAC serves northern California including: Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Plumas, Shasta, Lassen, Siskiyou, and Modoc counties.

Hmong Disability Rights Council

An organization of Hmong community leaders, activists and people with and without disabilities united to advocate for disability rights and social justice for people with disabilities no matter the circumstance of age, sex or race.
California Health & Wellness

A Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan

- Established in 2013
- Serves 183,000+ Members; 19 counties
- Headquartered in Sacramento
  Satellite offices in:
  - Chico (Butte County)
  - El Centro (Imperial County)
  - Placerville (El Dorado County)
  - San Diego (San Diego County)
- Subsidiary of Centene Corporation

Our Purpose and Beliefs

**Our Purpose**

Transform the health of the community, one person at a time

**Our Beliefs**

- We believe in treating the whole person, not just the physical body.
- We believe local partnerships enable meaningful, accessible healthcare.
Our Story Begins....

Importance of Cultural Intermediaries
Listening Session #1

- April 9, 2015
- Disability Action Center in Chico
- Approximately 10 Hmong elders with disabilities attended
- Biggest barrier to health and health care identified:

  **A Broken Water Pump**

Importance of Visionaries
Listening Session #2

- July 9, 2015
- Disability Action Center in Chico
- Approximately 30 Hmong elders with disabilities and their families attended
- Biggest barrier to health and health care identified:

  **Fishing License**

2 Models of Disability

**Medical Model**

Disability is a deficiency or abnormality.

Disability is a negative.

Disability resides in the individual.

The remedy for disability-related problems is cure or normalization of the individual.

The agent of remedy is professional.

**Interactional Model**

Disability is a difference.

Being disabled, in itself, is neutral.

Disability derives from the interaction between the individual and society.

The remedy for disability-related problems is change in the interaction between individual and society.

The agent of change can be the individual, an advocate, or anyone who affects the arrangements between the individual and society.

Used with permission by the author, Carol J. Gill, PhD, with the Chicago Center for Disability Research at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
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Questions