

EDUCATION AND CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital

UPMC | WESTERN PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL

Improving Accessibility in Disability Health Care: Inspiring Advocacy, Awareness and Action within all Communities

(EC35)

Friday, October 17, 2025

8:15 to 8:30 AM – Sign on to Zoom

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM – Virtual Program

Course Director:

Kimberly Mathos, DO, MPH

Recovery and Wellness: The Journey Starts Here

A Joint Effort Sponsored by Community Care Behavioral Health Organization and UPMC
Western Psychiatric Hospital

Improving Accessibility in Disability Health Care: Inspiring Advocacy, Awareness and Action within all communities

October 17, 2025 - Live virtual conference

Introduction

This event is free for students, interns, residents, patients, and family members. American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available on Zoom during the conference.

This conference aims to highlight the critical importance of developing and strengthening cross-disciplinary partnerships in the care of our most vulnerable patient populations. Researchers and advocates will share insights into the barriers to care and the distinct challenges individuals with disabilities face related to social determinants of health. Presentations will also explore the necessity of expanding interdisciplinary training opportunities, promoting awareness of universal design principles, and recognizing the essential role that individuals with lived experience play in shaping effective and inclusive treatment plans.

We are pleased to offer this educational activity with the support of UPMC, community, and university.

Program Overall Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this conference, participants should be able to:

1. Identify systemic issues that impact health care for people with disabilities and explore thoughtful approaches to begin addressing these challenges.
2. Describe the concept of universal design and its importance in creating healthy, inclusive communities.
3. Explain the valuable role of peer support in developing self-advocacy skills and fostering hope for recovery and rehabilitation.
4. Describe models of care that incorporate assessments and interventions to address the social determinants of health for people with disabilities.

Who Should Attend:

Students, advocates, mental health and physical health providers, payors, case managers and stakeholders who are passionate about the care of people with disabilities.

Supporting Organizations:
Community Care Behavioral Health Organization

Healthbridges
LEND

Course Director

Kimberly Mathos, DO, MPH

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Comprehensive Recovery Services
Services for Treatment of Early Psychosis (STEP Clinic)
UPP Psychiatric Services for People who are Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing
Pittsburgh, PA

Planning Committee

Rebecca Kronk, PhD, MSN, CRNP, FAAN, CNE, ANEF

Professor
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Duquesne University School of Nursing

Ashli Molinero, D.Sc.

Director, Disabilities Resource Center
UPMC Health System
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Michelle L. Schein, PhD, LPC, CRC

Associate Professor
Associate Program Director for Education
Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
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Joseph Shivers, MD

Assistant Professor
Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
University of Pittsburgh and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Christopher Standaert, MD

Associate Professor
Vice Chair for Outpatient Services
Dept PM&R

Keynote Speaker

Megan Morris, PhD, MPH, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Department of Population Health
NYU Grossman School of Medicine
Founder and Director of the Disability Equity Collaborative

Speakers

Leigh Braden, MSW

Director - Training, Institute @MHP
Mental Health Partnerships
Philadelphia, PA

Jodie Bryk, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Medical Director, UPMC Enhanced Care Program

Amanda Cascio MS, CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist
Achieve Rehab Services, LLC

Eric Hess, MA

Emergency Behavioral Health Coordinator
Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Office of Behavioral Health

Max Hurwitz, DO

Assistant Professor
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology,
University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Brittany Kluegel

Outreach and Disaster Response Specialist
Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Office of Behavioral Health

Rebekah Nesbitt, M.A., CCC-SLP, ATP

Assistive Technology Coordinator
Community Living and Support Services (CLASS)

Nicole White, RA

Architectural Research and Design Associate
Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access
State University of New York at Buffalo

Conference Agenda – October 17, 2025

8:30 – 8:45 am	Welcome, Introduction and Background
8:45 – 9:45 am	Keynote: Building a Healthcare System Accessible to People with Disabilities: Current Realities and Steps for Progress <i>Megan Morris, PhD</i>
9:45 - 10:45 am	This is Universal Design <i>Nicole White, RA</i>
10:45 - 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Disaster Preparedness Tips for Access and Functional Needs <i>Eric Hess, MA and Brittany Kluegel</i>
12:00 - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Caring for Individuals with a Disability: The Impact of Homelessness on Health, Housing and Access to Healthcare <i>Max Hurwitz, DO</i>
1:30 - 2:30 pm	The Principles, Practice and Advantage of Peer work in Communities of People with Disabilities <i>Leigh Braden, MSW</i>
2:30 - 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 - 3:45 pm	Diverse Communication Basics: Helping Patients Achieve Accessibility <i>Rebekah Nesbit, M.A., CCC-SLP, ATP and Amanda Cascio MS, CCC-SLP</i>
3:45 - 4:30 pm	My Journey <i>Jodie Bryk, MD</i>
4:30 - 4:45 pm	Wrap up

All presentations are introductory to intermediate instructional levels.

For additional information regarding the speakers and/or presentations, contact Nancy Mundy at mundnl@upmc.edu.

Continuing Education and Continuing Medical Education Credits

Continuing Education Credit Information

In support of improving patient care, the University of Pittsburgh is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physician (CME)

The University of Pittsburgh designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Other Healthcare Professionals: Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

Psychologists



As a Jointly Accredited Organization, University of Pittsburgh is approved to offer psychology continuing education by the American Psychological Association. University of Pittsburgh maintains responsibility for this course. Psychologists completing this course receive 6.75 continuing education credits.

Counselors



Education and Consultative Services of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 5059. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Education and Consultative Services of UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs. This conference is approved for 6.75 hours.



Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (Pending):
Conference has been approved for 6.75 hours in CE by CRCC

Licensed/Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists LSW/LCSW/LPC/LMFT:

As a Jointly Accredited Organization, University of Pittsburgh is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. University of Pittsburgh maintains responsibility for this course. Social workers completing this course receive 6.0 continuing education credits.

Other Healthcare Professionals

Nurses and other health care professionals are awarded .675 Continuing Education Units (CEU's). One CEU is equal to 10 contact hours. Nurses: For attending this program you will receive a Certificate of Attendance confirming .675 hours of continuing education. These hours may be considered eligible for completing the 30 hours of continuing education required for biannual nursing re-licensure in Pennsylvania. Peer Specialists: This program fulfills requirements for Certified Peer Specialist continuing education.

- Please retain your certificates in a safe place. Replacements cost \$30 for those that come from our office (CRCC; Gen. CEU; NCC).
- Participants requesting continuing education credits must attend the entire day. Variable credits are not provided. Your attendance is recorded on the Zoom attendance list.
- Although the evaluation is not mandatory, we appreciate your participation. Please expect the certificates from our office in four to six weeks post-conference. Those obtained from the registration site can be accessed immediately after the event.

Registration Information

Please register *by noon on October 16, 2025* at: [Improving Accessibility in Disability Health Care: Inspiring Advocacy, Awareness and Action within all Communities | UPMC - Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences](#)

Fee Schedule

*Physicians and Professionals (not affiliated as noted below)	\$40
*UPMC, Pitt, WPH, WBH Network, VA, State (PA), Community Mental Health Professionals	\$30
-Students/Interns/Residents (No continuing education/no continuing medical education credits)	No fee
-Patients/Family Members (No continuing education/no continuing medical education credits)	No fee

Tuition includes:

- All registration and online conference materials
- Continuing education credits at the professional tuition (*)

Please claim your CE/CME certificate by **November 30, 2025**

UPMC employees who would like to be sponsored by their department can request this from their manager. Please have your manager complete the form found [here](#). Participants paying with a Departmental Transfer will still need to register online with the code found on the form at the link above, which will bring your conference fee to \$0. Your department will be charged. Your work e-mail address will need to be used when registering. All registrations with this code will be matched against the department transfers that are sent to us from your supervisor or manager.

Full tuition must accompany registration. A \$10 administrative fee will be deducted from all refunds for cancellations. No refunds can be issued once the program has begun.



We encourage participation by all individuals. If you have a disability, advance notification of any special needs will help us better serve you. Please notify us of your needs at least two weeks in advance of the program by contacting Nancy Mundy at mundnl@upmc.edu.

Close Captioning and American Sign Language Interpreters will be available on Zoom.