Advancing Sexual Self-Advocacy for People with Disabilities

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Overview

- Sexual Citizenship
- Sexuality & Disability Consortium
- Collaborating with self-advocates
- Community Service
- Research - Sexual Self-Advocacy
- Dissemination - Resources
An interdisciplinary construct that emphasizes economic, political, and cultural aspects of the inclusion and exclusion of sexual identities, existing across four societal domains:

1) sexual expression;
2) embodiment;
3) institutional inclusion; and
4) spatial themes
MISSION:

To provide research, advocacy, training and education to support people with disabilities to enhance healthy sexuality and relationships.

Our goal is to promote best practice approaches for people with disabilities, families, professionals and policymakers, with a focus on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

http://ahs.uic.edu/dhd/sdc/
Sexuality and Disability Consortium

- History - formally established in 2008
- Our philosophy emphasizes
  - pleasure and healthy sexuality
  - collaboration with people with disabilities, with a particular focus on I/DD
- Barriers we’ve faced
The SDC and UCEDD core functions
Collaborating with Self-Advocates

Partnering with Self-Advocates infuses all our work

• Community Service
• Training
• Research
• Dissemination
Community Service and Training

- Sexuality Educator Training with Katherine McLaughlin
- Community Forums
- Speak Up and Speak Out Summit
- Illinois Imagines collaboration
- Dating Skills group in Family Clinics
On March 21, 2014 at the Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC

30 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) gathered to talk about what sexual self-advocacy means to them.

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Planning Process

• Planning team
• Community Partners:
  • Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance
  • Illinois Imagines
• Recruitment
Research Process
Sexual Self-Advocacy

Findings
• Expanding access to information and sexual health services
• Removing systemic barriers
• Educating others
• Increasing access to counseling/support
• Developing opportunities for sexual expression
Dissemination

- Videos
- Accessible booklet
- Fact Sheets
- Research articles
- Conferences
- Webinar

http://ahs.uic.edu/dhd/sdc/resources/
Resources

- UIC Sexuality and Disability Consortium  
  http://ahs.uic.edu/dhd/sdc/

- Illinois Imagines  

- Article: Friedman, C., et al. (2014)  
  “Remember Our Voices are Our Tools:” Sexual Self-Advocacy as Defined by People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.  

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