



Making Policy Transparent

One LEND Program's Approach to Legislative/Policy Training

Dorigen Keeney, MS RD
Nutrition and Policy Faculty, VT LEND
dkeeney@uvm.edu

Outline

- Why it is policy training so important
- How Vermont LEND teaches policy
- Evolution of our policy curriculum
- What is the impact of this training

"POLICY"



*What comes immediately to
mind when you hear the word
"policy"?*

Definition of “Policy”

A high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures especially of a governmental body

Public Policy

- Federal laws
- State laws
- Rules on how to implement those laws
- Regulations
- Funding priorities
- Local ordinances

Advocacy

Definition: attempting to influence public policy through education, lobbying, or political pressure



Advocates??



Story of a Young Man



- 18 year old with cerebral palsy
- Almost no educational program
- No augmentative communication
- Family with few financial resources
- Barriers to any improvement in the systems that provide services



***Have you run into
policy barriers when
you are working to
serve a child with
disabilities?***



The University of Vermont

COLLEGE OF **MEDICINE**



VERMONT INTERDISCIPLINARY LEADERSHIP EDUCATION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS;
VERMONT'S LEND PROGRAM



VT LEND Didactic Learning

- Two seminars focused on policy
- Legislative training
- Advocacy training
- Research a policy issue
- Create a policy brief to present to leaders

Policy Brief – 2014-15

Seclusion and Restraint in VT

- What are the policies in place – federal and state
- What are students experiencing today
- Should the policies/practices be changed? If so – how?

VT LEND Experiential Learning

- Research state and federal bills
- Visit the State House
- Meet personally with legislators
- Visit the Congressional delegation

Quotes from Trainees/Fellows

“I think being "forced" to contact my representative was wonderful, as I now feel comfortable in doing this.”

Quotes from Trainees/Fellows

“Wow, I loved the advocacy training~ I felt like it was the first time I ever learned about the process for getting a bill passed.”

Quotes from Trainees/Fellows

“Having had this introduction, I will feel comfortable doing this in the future.”

Quotes from Trainees/Fellows

“I can make a difference!
I can talk to my reps!
They want to hear from
us!”

“Thank-you for helping to
plant this seed in me.”

Health Providers Can Make Powerful Advocates





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WALK TO DIABETES
2005

WALK TO DIABETES
2005

WALK TO DIABETES
2005

THE WALK TO COMBAT DIABETES

WALK TO DIABETES
2005

WALK TO DIABETES
2005

JUNE 2005
WALK TO DIABETES

Always Run
We're on Track For a Cure

Activity: 10 minutes

- Find a partner near you
- Discuss what policies/procedures have been barriers that you have experienced
- Write down 1 policy each that you would like to change

Activity

After the next presentation, you will return to this partner and these policies