

Health Equity Learning Series

*Beyond Service Provision and Disparate Outcomes:
Disability Justice Informing Communities of Practice*

Dedicated to Achieving Health Equity for All Coloradans

HEALTH EQUITY LEARNING SERIES

2016-17 GRANTEES

- Aurora Mental Health Center
- Bright Futures
- Central Colorado Area Health Education Center
- Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
- Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy and Research Organization
- Cultivando
- Eagle County Health and Human Services
- El Centro AMISTAD
- El Paso County Public Health
- Hispanic Affairs Project
- Northwest Colorado Health
- Poudre Valley Health System Foundation (Vida Sana)
- Pueblo Triple Aim Corporation
- Rural Communities Resource Center
- Southeast Mental Health Services
- The Civic Canopy
- The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Colorado
- Tri-County Health Network
- Warm Cookies of the Revolution
- Western Colorado Area Health Education Center



Dedicated to Achieving Health Equity for All Coloradans

HEALTH EQUITY LEARNING SERIES



Lydia X. Z. Brown
(they/them)

- Activist, writer and speaker
- Past President, TASH New England
- Chairperson, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
- Board member, Autism Women's Network

ACCESS NOTE

Please use this space as you need or prefer.

Sit in chairs or on the floor, pace, lie on the floor, rock, flap, spin, move around, step in and out of the room.

CONTENT/TW

I will talk about trauma, abuse, violence, and murder of disabled people, as well as forced treatment and institutions, and other acts of violence, including sexual violence.

Please feel free to step out of the room at any time if you need to.



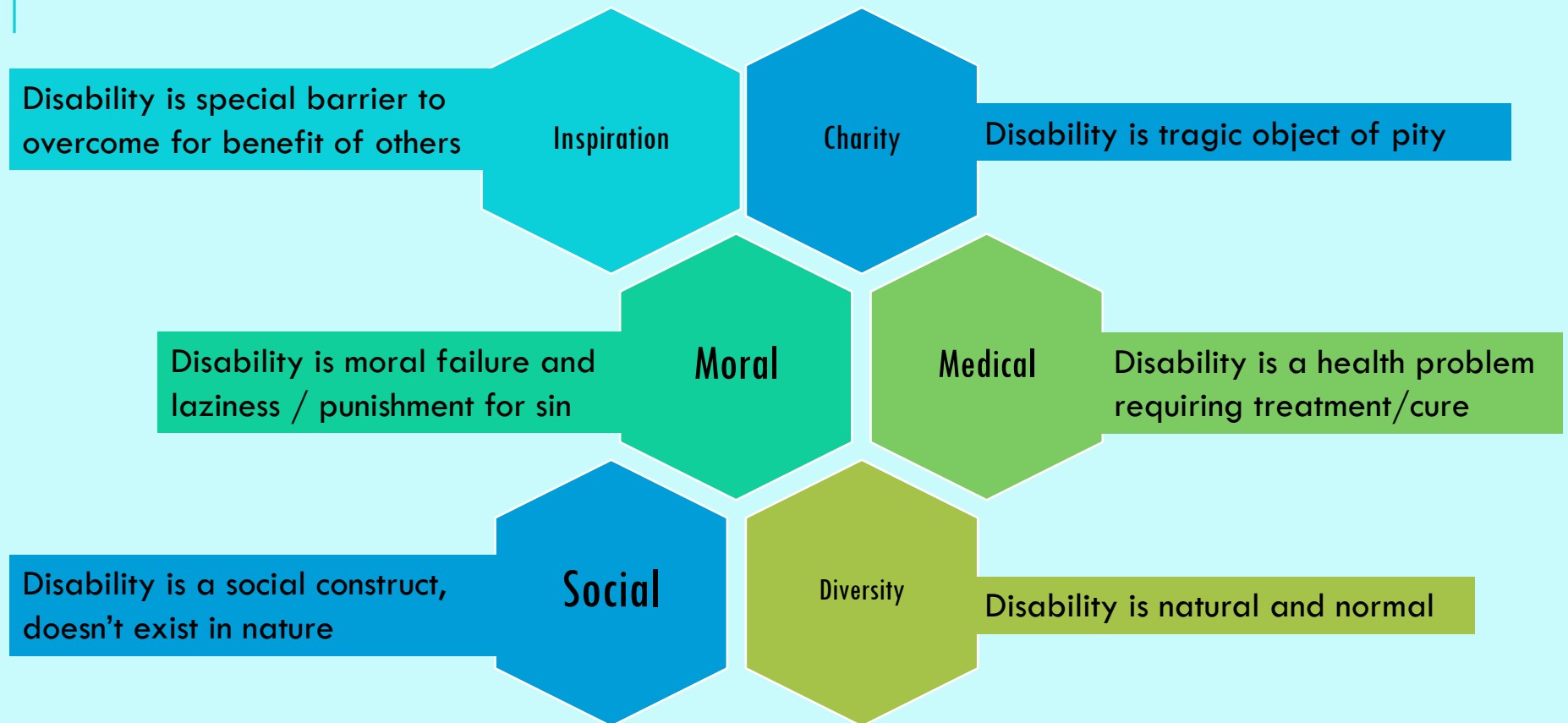
BEYOND SERVICE PROVISION & DISPARATE OUTCOMES

DISABILITY JUSTICE INFORMING COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

LYDIA X. Z. BROWN
@AutisticHoya

Health Equity Learning Series
The Colorado Trust
28 February 2017

WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT DISABILITY



PATHOLOGY PARADIGM

The One Normal

Disability is Defect



DIVERSITY PARADIGM

Many Ways of Being

Disability is Natural



DISABLEMENT (PRODUCT & PROCESS)

Society & Culture

Biology & Neurology

ALL BODIES ARE UNIQUE AND ESSENTIAL.

**ALL BODIES ARE WHOLE. ALL BODIES HAVE
STRENGTHS AND NEEDS THAT MUST BE MET.**

**WE ARE POWERFUL NOT DESPITE THE COMPLEXITIES
OF OUR BODIES, BUT BECAUSE OF THEM.**

WE MOVE TOGETHER, WITH NO BODY LEFT BEHIND.

THIS IS DISABILITY JUSTICE.



Written by Aurora Levins Morales, Patty
Berne and Micah Bazant for Sins Invalid.

**ALL BODIES ARE CAUGHT IN THE BINDINGS OF ABILITY,
RACE, CLASS, GENDER, SEXUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP.
WE ARE POWERFUL NOT DESPITE THE COMPLEXITIES
OF OUR IDENTITIES, BUT BECAUSE OF THEM.**

**ONLY UNIVERSAL, COLLECTIVE ACCESS CAN
LEAD TO UNIVERSAL, COLLECTIVE LIBERATION.**

THIS IS DISABILITY JUSTICE.



Written by Aurora Levins Morales, Patty
Berne and Micah Bazant for Sins Invalid.

DEFINING ABLEISM

An entire system of thinking and doing that hurts disabled people.

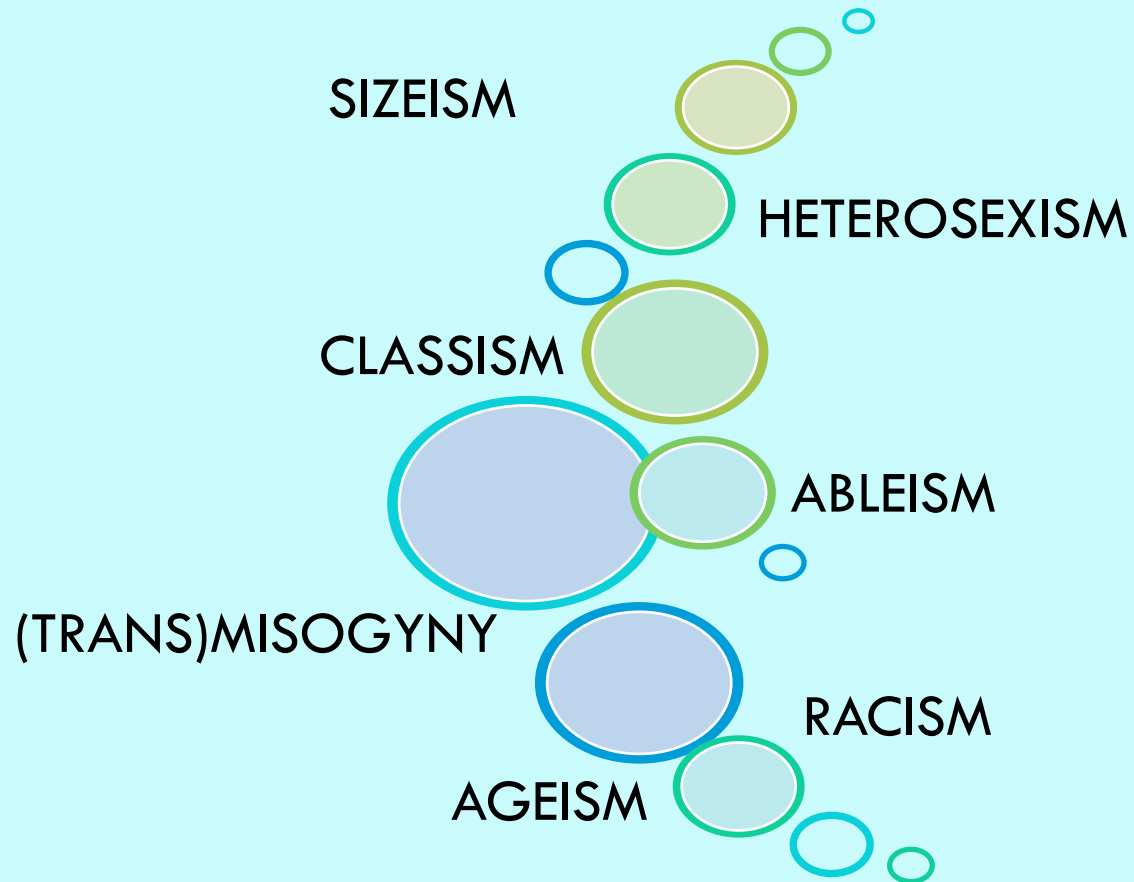
Ableism is a form of structural oppression.

UNDERSTANDING OPPRESSION

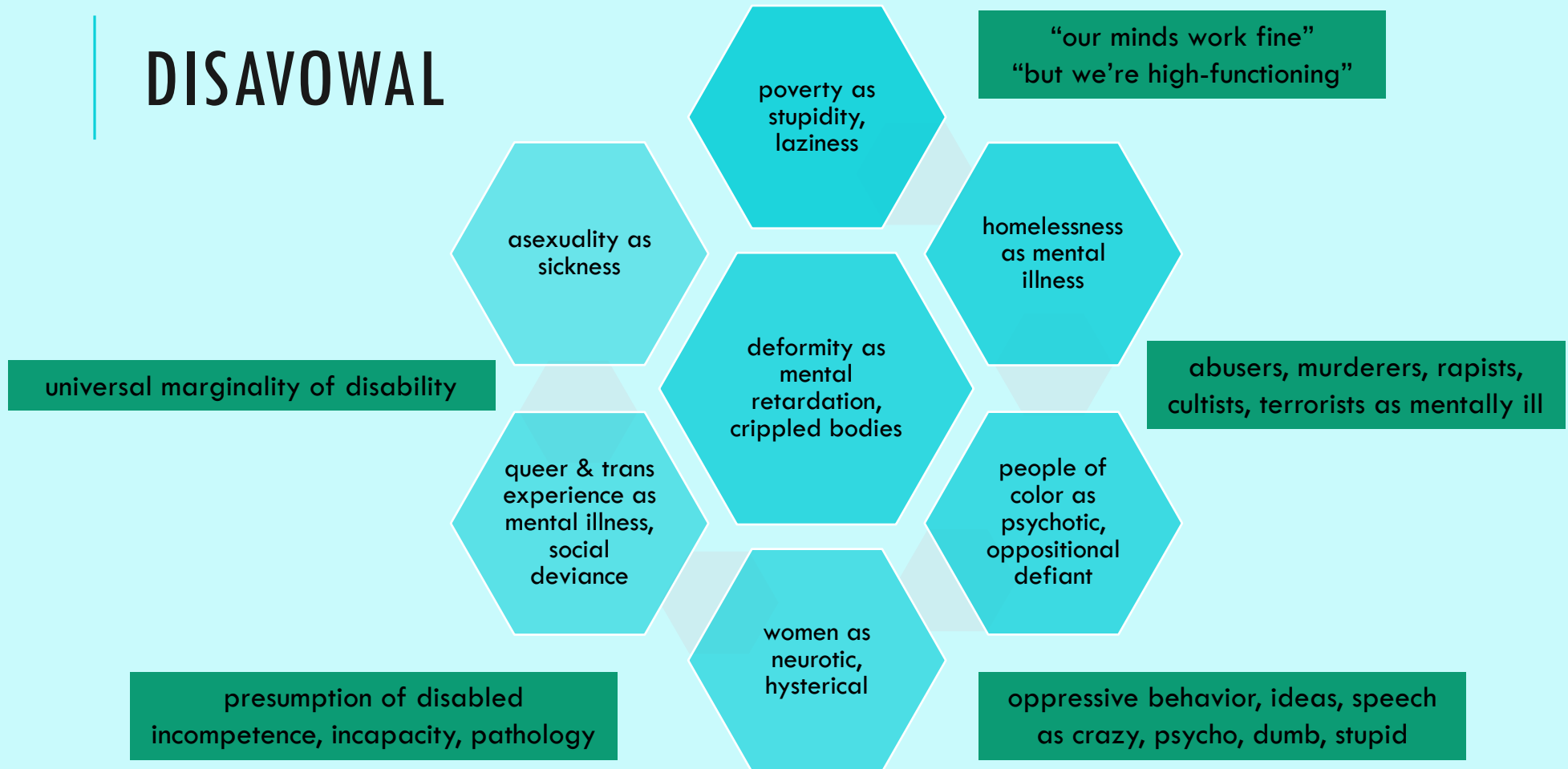
Systematic disenfranchisement of a particular group as a result of the power belonging to a privileged group.

Oppression = prejudice + systems of power

ABLEISM WORKS ACROSS SYSTEMS



DISAVOWAL





Seclusion

Restraint

Aversives

Medical
Neglect &
Abuse

Financial
Exploitation

Police
Brutality &
Mass
Incarceration

Hate Crimes

Compliance

Indistinguishability
Philosophy

Rape &
Sexual
Violence

Family Abuse and Filicide

Institutions

ENDEMIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

ABLEISM IN CRIMINAL (IN)JUSTICE

Zero tolerance
policies

Restraint &
seclusion

Health neglect in
jails and prisons

School-to-prison
pipeline

Retraumatization in
jails and prisons

Police brutality

Mass
incarceration

Hate crimes &
abuse

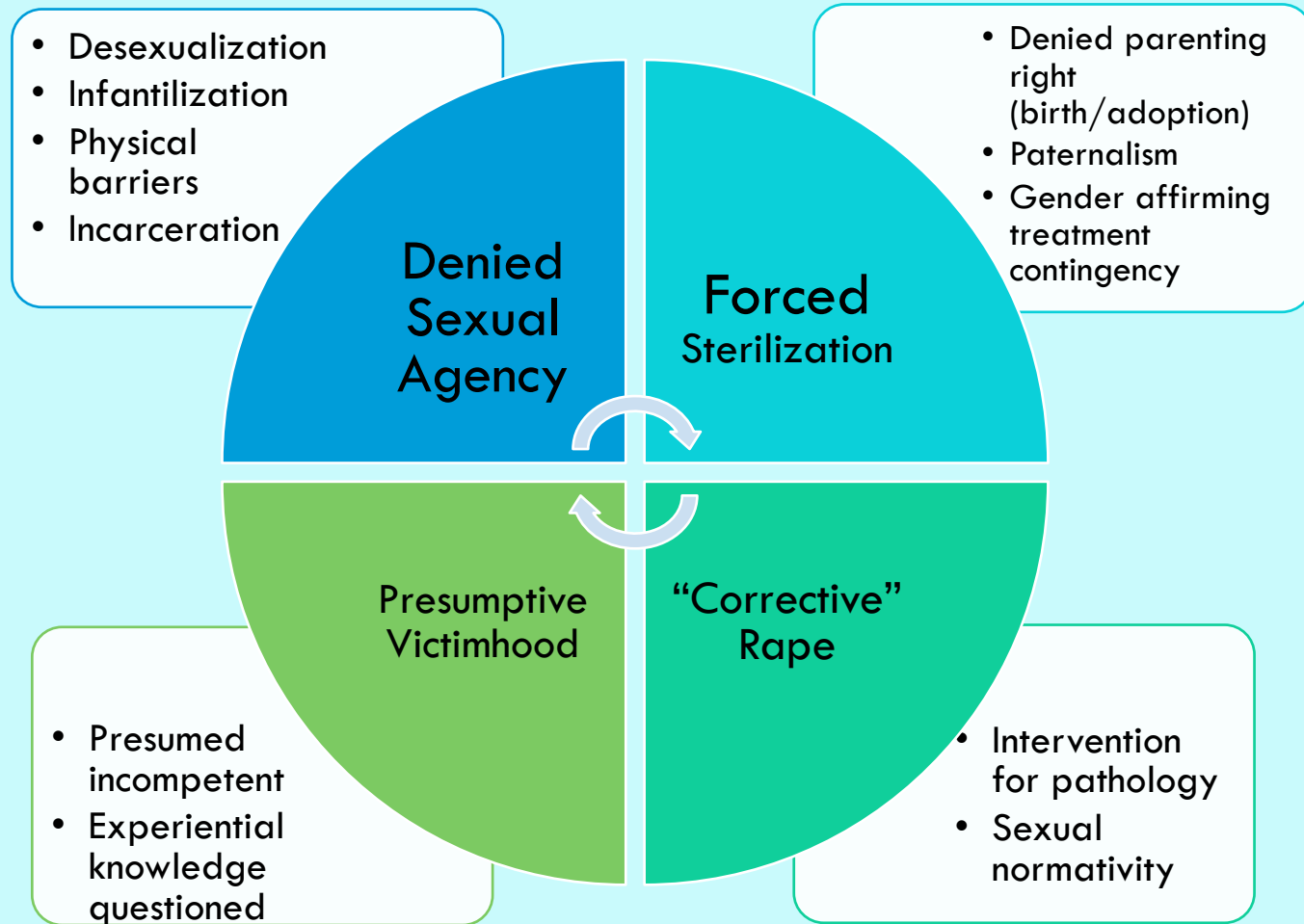
Ableism and
racism in society

Fear and hate in
media and policy

Protective custody
/ Solitary
confinement

Psychiatric
institutions and
quasi-incarceration

FEARS OF PERVERSE REPRODUCTION



JUSTICE FOR MARIO WOODS

OVER
50%
of People
KILLED by
POLICE are
DISABLED.*

DISABILITY
JUSTICE
NOW

*No comprehensive federal data is collected, but available reports show at least half of those killed by police have psych disabilities. These statistics do not include people with mobility, sensory, or developmental impairments or people who are otherwise neurodivergent or sick/chronically ill.

#BLACK
DISABLED
LIVES
MATTER

SINS INVALID + MICAH BAZANT

Chattel slavery

UNRULY BODIES

Compliance
training

Rehabilitation
discourse

California
prisoner
sterilizations

Convict
leasing

The
asylum

Productivity
as worth

Tuskegee
syphilis

Buck v.
Bell

Henrietta
Lacks

Fernald
radiation
experiments

Judge
Rotenberg
Center

War
on
drugs

Black
Lives
Matter

NONCOMPLIANCE?



Photo by Rebecca Taplin. Lydia Brown, around 2004, fifth grade, reading an *Animorphs* novel instead of doing math homework, and rubbing shirt sleeve against face.



Photo by Disability Pride Philadelphia. Lydia Brown marching in 2012 disability pride parade, holding colorful hand-drawn sign that says Autistic & Proud.



Photo by Kory Otto Jacobs. A few dozen people of various genders, ages, disabilities, and races gathered in a circle in Farragut Square, Washington, D.C. for the 2013 Day of Mourning vigil for disabled people killed by family members or caregivers, organized by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network's national office and chapter networks.

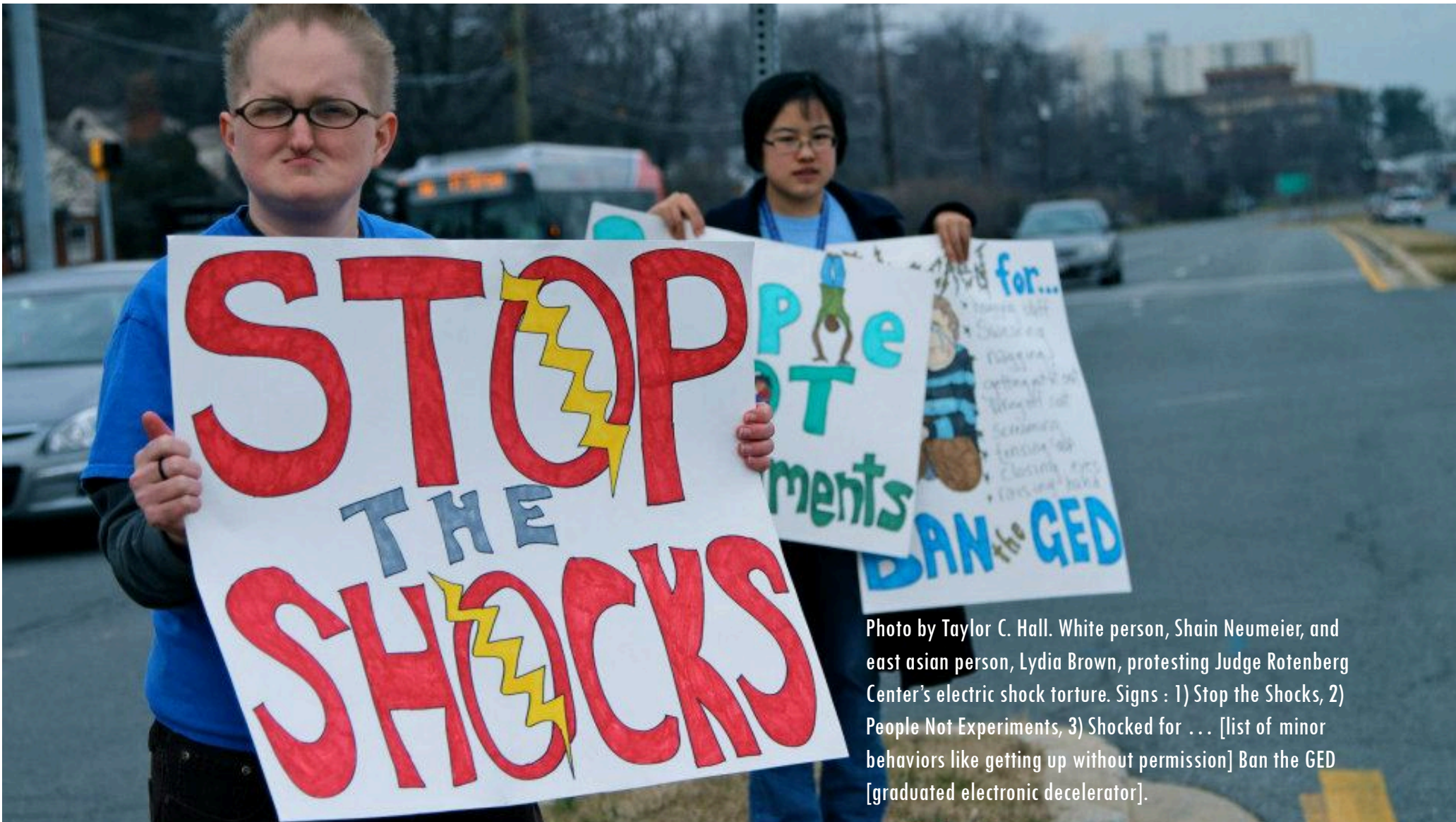


Photo by Taylor C. Hall. White person, Shain Neumeier, and east asian person, Lydia Brown, protesting Judge Rotenberg Center's electric shock torture. Signs : 1) Stop the Shocks, 2) People Not Experiments, 3) Shocked for ... [list of minor behaviors like getting up without permission] Ban the GED [graduated electronic decelerator].



Photo: A group of many people with various disabilities, of various races, genders, and ages, though most are 20's and 30's. Lydia is wearing a shirt with the power fist that says, The Whole Damn System Is Guilty As Hell. July 2016.



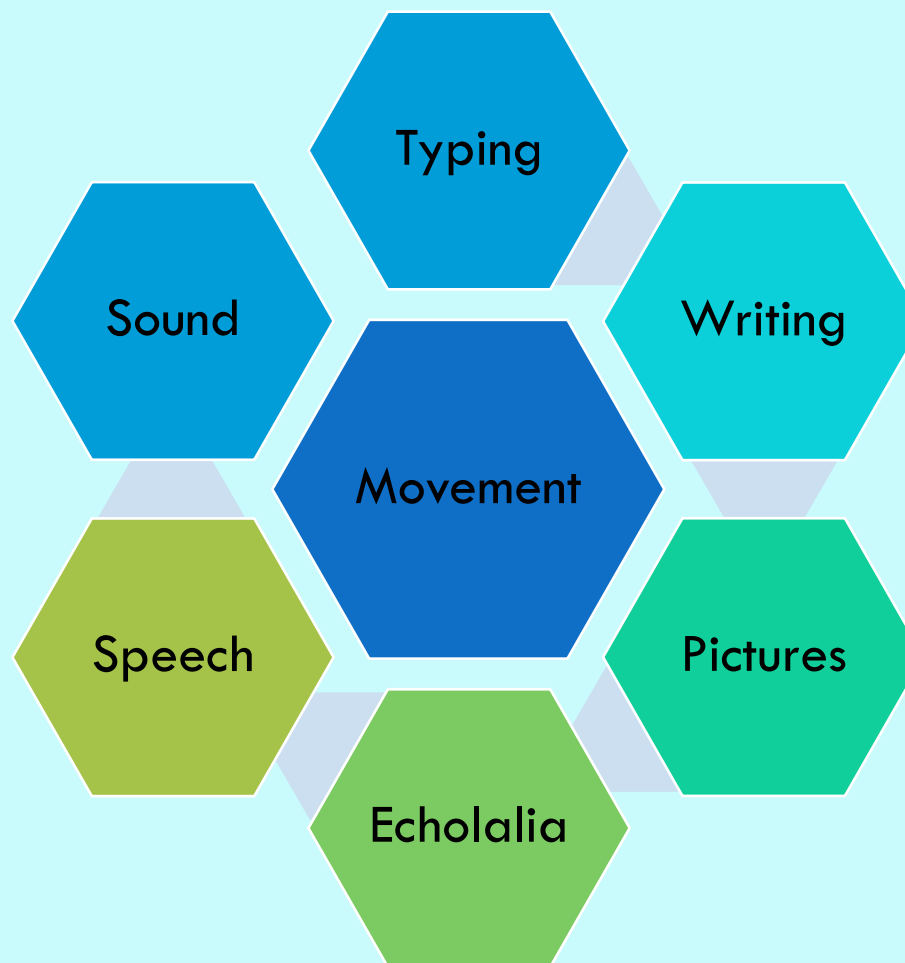
A conceptual diagram on a light blue background. It features two large, overlapping, light blue arrows pointing in opposite directions. The left arrow points left and contains the word 'INDEPENDENCE'. The right arrow points right and contains the word 'AUTONOMY'. Above the intersection of these two arrows is a solid blue oval containing the word 'INTERDEPENDENCE'. A thin vertical teal line is positioned on the far left side of the image.

INDEPENDENCE

INTERDEPENDENCE

AUTONOMY

**COMMUNICATION
HAPPENS IN
MANY WAYS.
ALL ARE
EQUALLY
VALID AND
DESERVE
RESPECT
AND
PATIENCE.**



**MULTIMODAL
ACCESS
NOW**

THE RIGHT TO BE DISABLED



Photo by Lexington Christian Academy
(Massachusetts). Lydia flapplauding during public
ceremony.

FROM RIGHTS TO JUSTICE

Rights

- laws / enforcement
- public policy
- nonprofit orgs
- state action
- academia
- institutional research
- individual-focused

Justice

- society / culture
- community alternatives
- harm reduction
- healing
- intersectional
- macro-change
- collective power

DISABILITY AS CULTURE

- Autistic Community: Social communication badges
- People First self-advocacy groups
- Deaf identity and community
- Ragged Edge Magazine
- FWD: Feminists with Disabilities
- Sins Invalid
- Krip Hop Nation
- Neuroqueer!
- Disability Cultural Centers
- Sick and disabled queers (and QTPOC)



Photo from Autistic Self Advocacy Network. Collection of social communication badges with green, yellow, and red cards to indicate different levels of comfort with social interaction.

THE DISABILITY RAG / RAGGED EDGE (1980-2005)

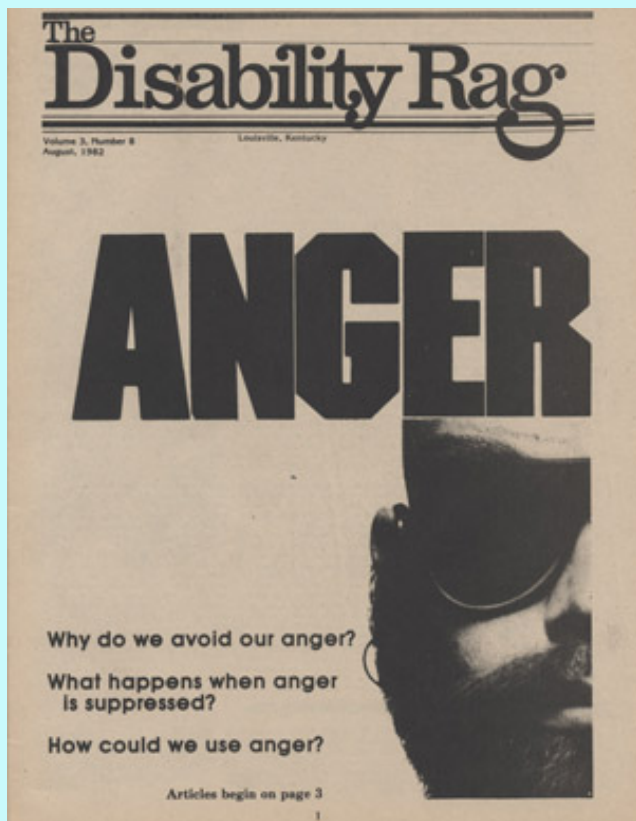


Photo: Front page of the Disability Rag from August 1982, published in Louisville, Kentucky. Feature: ANGER: Why do we avoid our anger? What happens when anger is suppressed? How could we use anger?

TOOLS FOR CHANGE

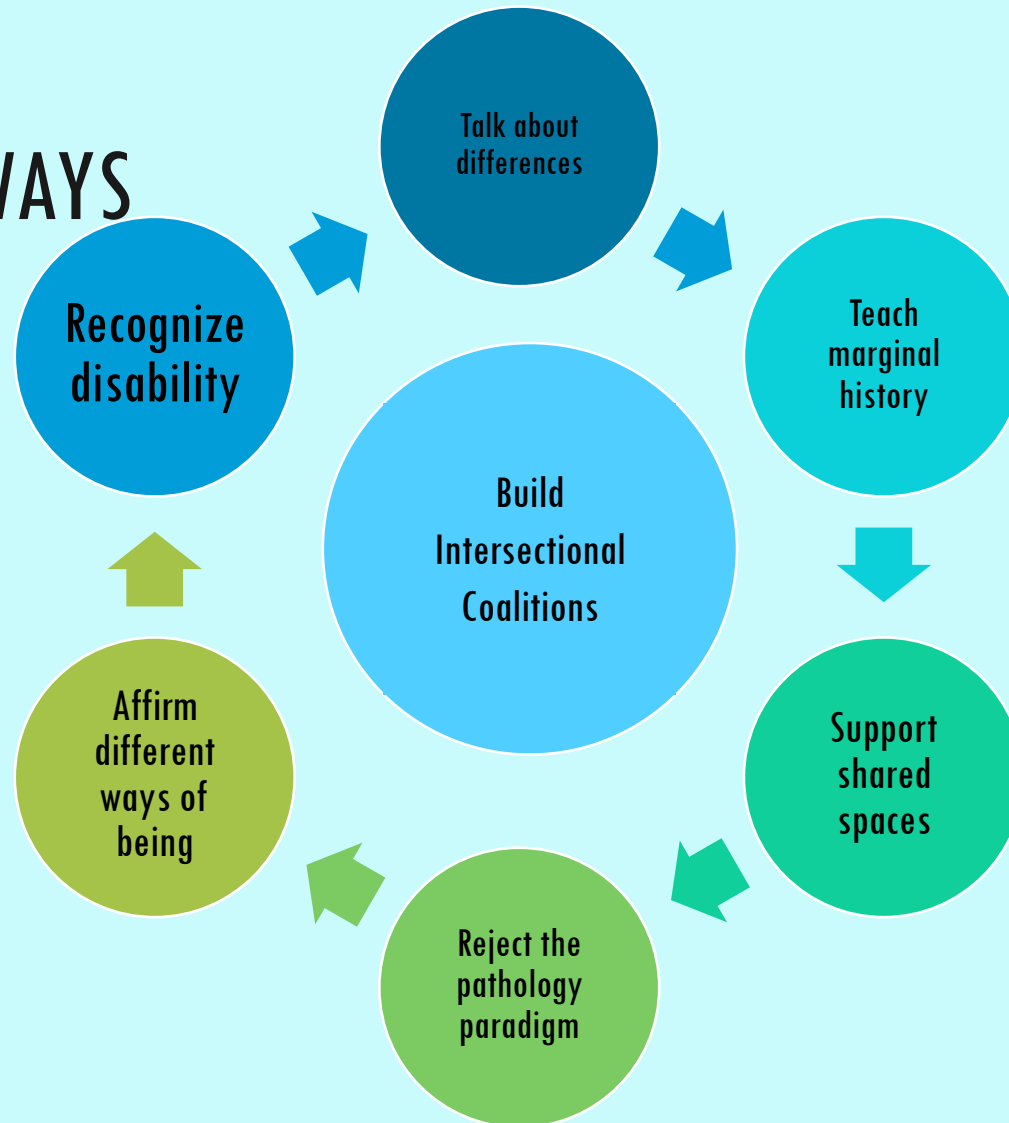
Policy Advocacy

- Strengthening regulations on punitive interventions, abuse, and accessibility
- Developing policies for holistic & nonviolent educational spaces
- Training teachers, support staff, police, prosecutors, & community members
- Educating disabled students on self-advocacy and coalition-building
- Funding community-based participatory research projects

Community Empowerment

- Training for community members by other disabled people and people of color (esp. disabled people of color!)
- Collecting and sharing independent data and stories
- Creating safe spaces for disabled queer and trans and PoC community
- Leaving evidence in subversive culture
- Develop community-based alternatives for crises and ongoing support, grounded in harm reduction and interdependence

THE TAKEAWAYS



STIMMING TOGETHER



Six autistic people, including Shain and Lydia, mutually stimming with each other's hair during a November 14, 2012 Autistic Self Advocacy Network annual gala at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. Photo Lydia Brown.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Abla Abdelhadi, A.J. Withers, Alexis Toliver, Alice Wong, Alison Kafer , Alok Vaid-Menon, Amy Sequenzia, Angela Carter, Angela Y. Davis, Ari Ne'eman, Arthur Shapiro, Arundhati Roy, Assata Shakur, Ashleigh Shackelford, Aurora Levins Morales, bell hooks, Cara Page, Chanda Hsu Prescod-Weinstein, Che Gossett, Chris Bell, Christine Miserandino, Cyrée Jarelle Johnson, Douglas Biklen, Edward Ndopu, Eli Clare, Finn Gardiner, Giselle Dias, Janani Bala, Jay Dolmage, Jim Sinclair, Jina B. Kim, Joan Ruzsa, Joe Kadi, Johanna Hedva, Julia Sanders, Kaijii Gomez Wick, Karen Nakamura, Kassiane A. Sibley, Kat Yang Stevens, Kathleen Nicole O'Neal, Kay Ulanday Barrett, Kerima Çevik, kiran foster, Ki'tay D. Davidson, Kiese Laymon, Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, Kylie Marie Brooks, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Lee Lyubov, Leroy F. Moore, Jr., Liat Ben-Moshe, Margaret Price, Mariama Lockington, Mel Baggs, Melanie Yergeau, Mia Mingus, Mimi Khúc, Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, Nai Damato, Najma (Stephanie D. Johnson), Natalia M. Rivera Morales, Nechama Sammet-Moring, Ngọc Loan Trần, Nick Walker, Nirmala Erevelles, Nora Baladerian, Omoróse Añyá, Pat A. Bidal-Padva, Patricia Berne, Paula C. Durbin-Westby, Porpentine Charity Heartscape, Ragen Chastain, Robert McRuer, Rosemarie Garland-Thompson, s.e. smith, Sami Schalk, Shain Mahaffey Neumeier, Shak'ar Mujukian, Simi Linton, Sparrow Rose Jones, Stacey Patton, Stephanie Kerschbaum, Susan Baglieri , Susan M. Schweik, Stella Young, Syrus Ware, Talila "TL" A. Lewis, Tom Shakespeare, Victoria M. Rodríguez-Roldán, Vilissa K. Thompson, Vu Le

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Thank you for joining us!

**For more information, please visit
www.coloradotrust.org**



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