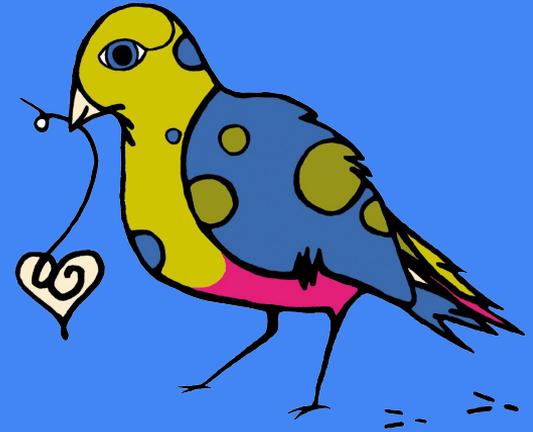


Exploring the intersectionality
between rurality and disability



Utah's Multicultural Disability Network

Presented by Rhiana Medina, Moab Valley Multicultural Center



Rhiana Medina,
Executive Director



Zaida Agreda, Language
Program Manager



Bradia Holmes,
Education Coordinator



Katie Gallagher, Homeless
Grant Coordinator, CHW



Sarah Moon, Admin
Assistant



Sally Satterfield, CHW, Public
Health Grants Coordinator



Diane Norton,
Bilingual CHW



Malcolm
Campbell-Taylor,
Food Pantry Manager

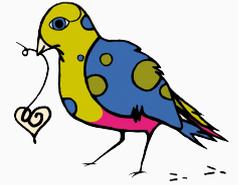
MVMC'S Five Main Program Areas

Mission: Strengthening our diverse community through social support, communication, and cultural celebration.

Organizational Values:
Respect, Collaboration,
Compassion, Celebration

Crisis Resource & Advocacy

- Food Pantry
- Homelessness
- Legal navigation
- Immigration legal services
- Case management & referrals for family, health, legal, employment, & housing crisis needs



Interpretation & Translation

- Professional language services on-site, by phone or virtual
- Certified medical interpretation - all areas
- 7th District Justice Court
- Parent-teacher communication

Life Skills Support

- Applications & forms
- Services & referrals for navigating medical, employment, banking, housing, education, & other systems

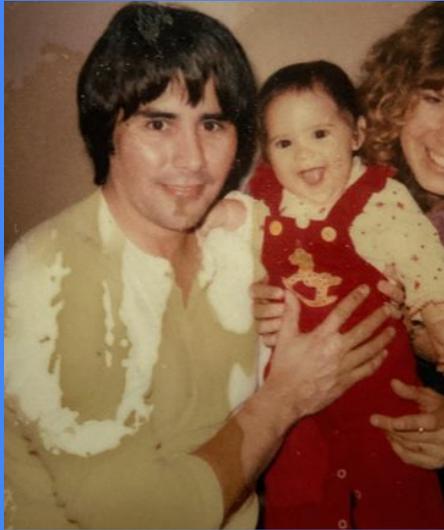
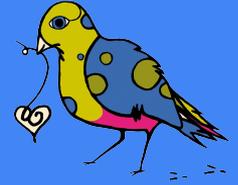
Youth Education & Outreach

- Afterschool & summer youth programming
- Class visits & field trips

Cultural Education & Outreach

- Events, Training, Partnership Activities

About Me

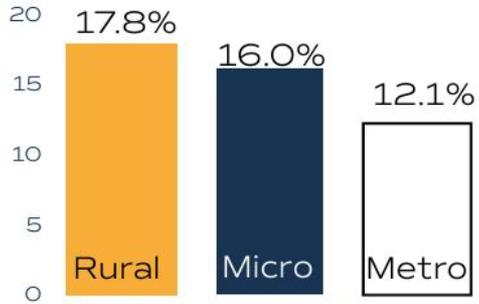
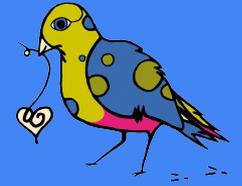


Me and my dad.

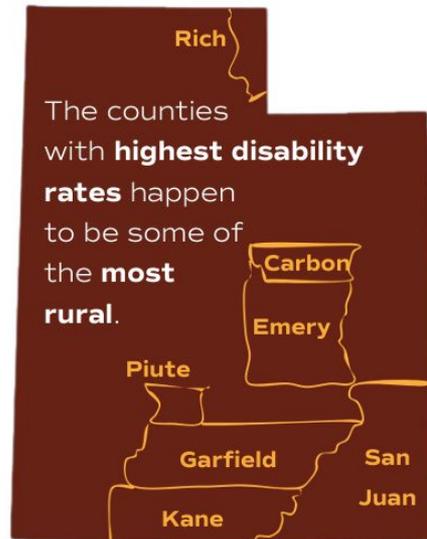
*What I learned about disability
from a young age*

Rurality and Disability

Source: Utah's Disability Diversity: Rural Communities Utah's Multicultural Disability Network 1.5.24



How many people report they have disabilities?

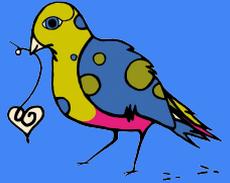


(Rural Institute, 2020)

3.1 million
people with disabilities
live in rural areas nationwide

Rurality and Disability

What does this look like for Moab?



“In small towns people know each other and this can be a positive thing for people with disabilities. The downside is that we our resources are extremely limited, especially outside of school. We need more people with medical and psychological expertise.” - Andie Roth, Special Education Grand County School District

Healthcare systems are **not designed for rural** areas.

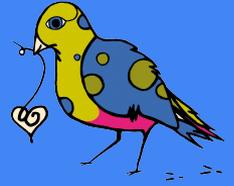
-  Lack of healthcare providers in rural areas
 -  Lack of services for intellectual and developmental disabilities
 -  Increased travel time to access services
 -  Longer response times by emergency medical teams
 -  Increased reliance on social support network to access services
-  Healthcare providers often do not understand rural life constraints

(Sage, Mashinchi, & Ravesloot, 2023)

From MVMC staff: “We need resources for the deaf and blind as well as and children with autism spectrum disorders. Our economy, which is almost solely focused on the tourism industry does not have very many vocational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We could use a local office that can help people apply for disability.”

Rurality and Disability:

What are we doing about it?



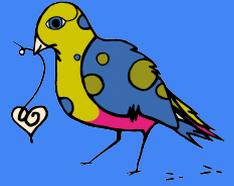
- Legal advocacy
- Application assistance
- Referrals/warm hand-offs
- Care coordination with other professionals serving individuals with disabilities
- Accommodate and include as much as possible for staff, clients, and volunteers
- Limited financial assistance or help applying for grants/scholarships
- Continue gathering and distributing information to our network.



(Fleming et. al, 2018)

Rurality and Disability:

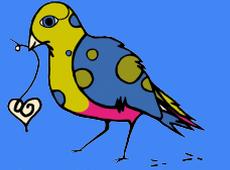
What are we doing about it?



- Language Access
 - Medical interpretation
 - Parent-teacher conferences
 - Foreign language oral skills evaluation matrix (FLOSEM)
 - Legal interpretation
- Immigration Legal Services
 - Self-represented or Support services for those with private attorneys
 - Alternative medical support for undocumented persons



The Single Story



Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.

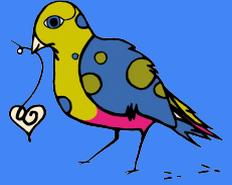


Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Nigerian author

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en&subtitle=en

Your Single Story



**Your single
story**

VS.

**Your more
complex story**

It's tempting to create single stories about other people based on their clothing, disability, friends, name, or job.

