



Medical School

# **CORE COMPETENCIES FOR INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION**

## INTRODUCTION

A 2015 survey of accredited public health (PH) schools and programs found that more than half of the curricula lacked disability content. When present, content about people with developmental disabilities (DD) was limited to electives and single-course lectures.<sup>1</sup>

Individuals with DD often receive expensive medical interventions across the lifespan.<sup>2</sup> Yet, they rarely receive preventative services, and their chronic conditions are often poorly managed<sup>2</sup> as a result of significant gaps in PH education and training.

## OBJECTIVE

To identify core competencies to inform training for PH students and professionals on how to support and care for individuals with DD.

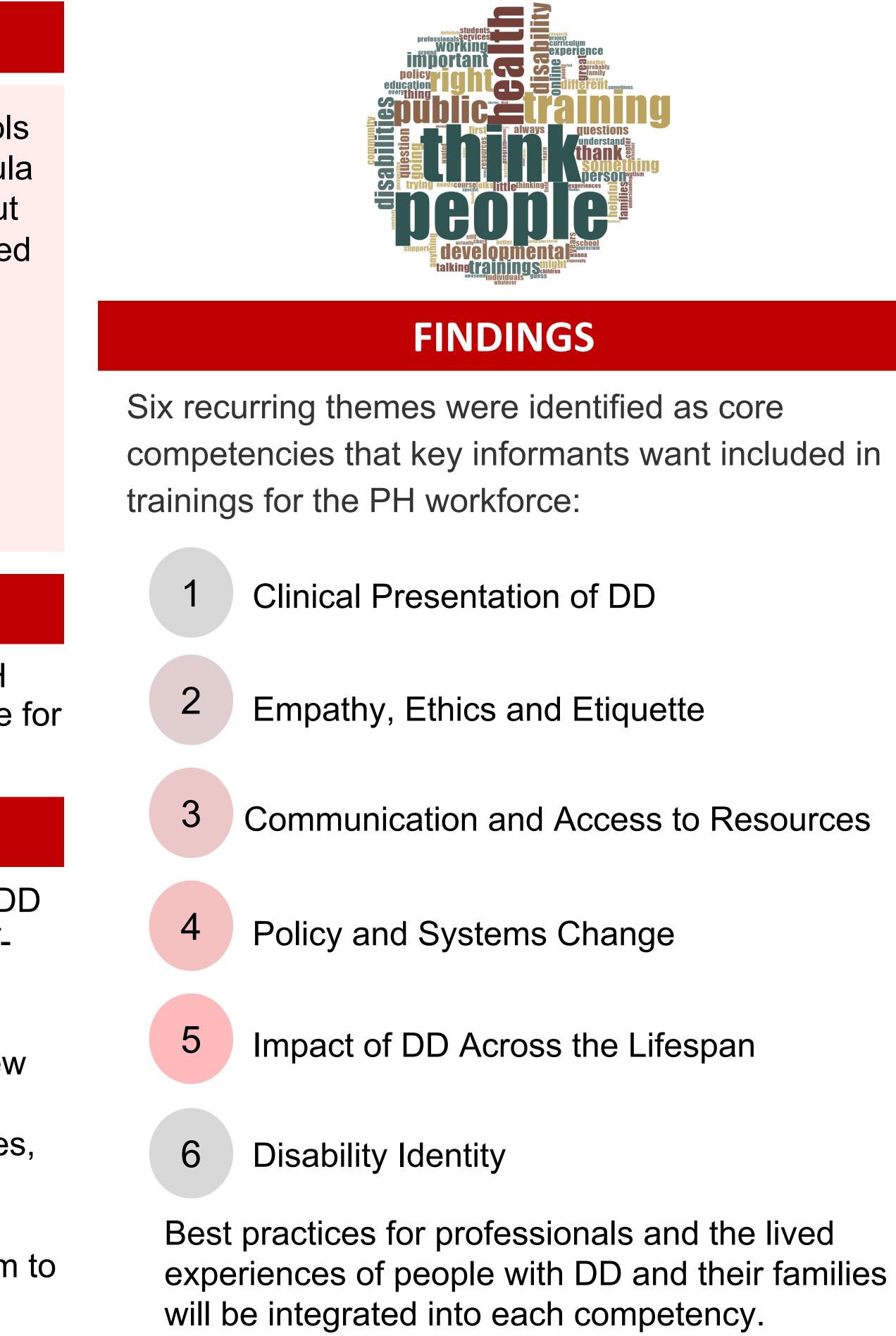
# **METHODS**

- Conducted literature review on PH education and DD
- Identified 11 key informants including disabled selfadvocates, family members, policy experts, PH students, educators and workers
- Developed a needs assessment script and interview questions
- Interviewed informants about their lived experiences, academic and career training, professional development and continuing education
- Transcribed interviews verbatim and reviewed them to identify recurring themes

# The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program

Nila Uthirasamy, B.S., Colleen Roche, B.S., John Palatucci, MPA Caroline Coffield, Ph.D., Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School



#### **FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS** To address service gaps for people with DD and build resiliency in PH infrastructure: Use recurring themes from key-informant interviews to inform the development of an asynchronous multi-modular online training designed to teach the PH workforce how to competently interact with and effectively care for people with DD and their families. Develop training evaluation tools. Identify existing and potential community partners and professional and academic programs to pilot the training. This project is funded by the Expanding the Health Workforce initiative of the Administration for Community Living. REFERENCES 1. Loller Donadl J., et al. *Public Health Perspectives on* Disability 2. Drum, Charles E., et al. *Disability and Health*. 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 10 Essential Public Health Services. https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/publichealthservi ces/essentialhealthservices.html 4. Chaikind, L. and Belin, M.H. *Public Health Perspectives on* Developmental Disabilities.

5. Wehmeyer, Michael L., et al. A Comprehensive Guide to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

