Understanding Challenges in the USVI to Accessing Appropriate Wheelchairs
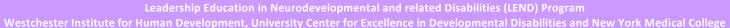
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Background

- ❖ Accessing appropriate wheelchairs is a problem worldwide.
- ❖ WHO estimates 1% of all people worldwide need wheelchairs.
- ❖ WHO estimates only 5-15% of people who need a wheelchair have access to them in the world.
- ❖ The USVI lacks a reliable wheelchair service delivery process.
- ❖ USVI residents who find that they need specialized wheelchairs either leave island permanently, or travel off island.
- ❖ Research on the topic of wheelchair service in the USVI has not been performed or published to our knowledge.

Community Partner

Julien Henley
Territorial Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator

Objective

This research design will serve as a foundation for investigating the challenges faced among service providers in delivering wheelchairs and wheelchair related services to clients throughout the United States Virgin Islands.

Methods

- ❖ Survey Research Design based on Literature Review.
- ❖ Survey Design: Mixed
- ❖ Survey will be Likert scale.
- ❖ Surveys/interviews: can be done over email and phone.
- ❖ Survey will be administered to Healthcare Providers and Wheelchair services providers.
- ❖ IRB approval is required. Federal regulations require that research projects involving human subjects be reviewed by an IRB. The IRB must approve or determine the project to be exempt prior to the start of any research activities.

People Worldwide Who Need Wheelchairs

- with wheelchair access
- without wheelchair access

Results / Progress to Date

- ❖ Literature review .
- ❖ Identified the study type (mixed study of surveys and interviews)
- ❖ Outlined survey questions
- ❖ Outlined the general categories of participants.
- ❖ Reviewed the IRB criteria.
- ❖ Create a list of task items for the next phase of the research project.

Discussion / Next Steps

Submission to IRB for approval → Implement the study → Analyze the results → Publish and present