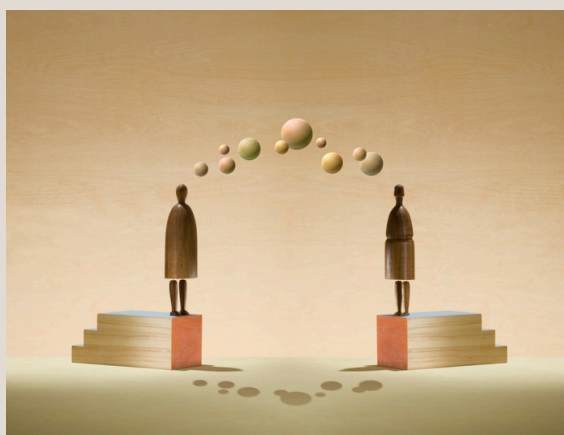


Coalition Connect

The latest news from the
Utah Health Literacy Coalition

Ethics and health literacy

Health Literacy Out Loud
(podcast episode #150)



Ethics to consider when communicating about health.

Dr. Michael Siegel, a Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at Boston University School of Public Health, is a seasoned tobacco control researcher.

In this podcast, Dr. Siegel joins Helen Osborne to discuss:

- Navigating tough decisions when communicating with the public, such as whether to prioritize informing or persuading and how to convey risk effectively.
- Strategies for being honest, transparent, and clear when sharing health information.
- Building and maintaining trust and credibility with an audience over time.

[listen HERE](#)

In this newsletter you will find:



Upcoming events, Coalition Updates, Helpful Tools, Health literacy tips, Recent research & Member spotlight. Keep Reading!



[Follow us on LinkedIn](#)

UHLC website coming soon!
UtahHealthLiteracy.org

Upcoming Events

Utah Health Literacy Coalition Learning session



Advocacy 101

Date: **Feb 18** Time: **3:00 pm**

Linnea Fletcher the Health Promotion and Prevention Director at the Utah County Health Department, will offer valuable insights into public health advocacy. Calendar invitation emailed.

Community Health Worker Day on the Hill

[REGISTER NOW](#)



UCHWA
UTAH COMMUNITY HEALTH
WORKERS ASSOCIATION

Date: Feb 14 Time: 3:00 -6:00 PM

Location: Utah State Capital, 350 State St, SLC

Join and support CHWs at the Capital to engage with policymakers, discuss the impact CHWs have on the community and support sustainable funding for CHWs.

Delivering health information across languages and cultures

[REGISTER NOW](#)



National Library of Medicine
Network of the National Library of Medicine

Date: Feb 24 Location: Virtual webinar

This 4 hour webinar provides culturally relevant health information of refugees and immigrants in the U.S., along with background on their unique health challenges

Empowering communities through digital health literacy: The role of medical and community libraries

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Date: March 4 Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm Location: Virtual conference

This session demonstrates how medical and community librarians can empower individuals to navigate digital health tools, addressing barriers like low literacy, limited technology access, and privacy concerns



National Library of Medicine
Network of the National Library of Medicine

5 steps to an accessible document

[REGISTER NOW](#)



National Library of Medicine
Network of the National Library of Medicine

Date: March 11 Time: 12:00-1:30pm Location: Webinar

This hands-on class teaches how to make Word and PowerPoint documents accessible for screen reader users, with sample files provided in advance for practice.

International Public Health Conference

[REGISTER NOW](#)



IPHC
2025
MARCH
24-26, 2025

Date: March 24-26 Location: Virtual or Singapore

The conference will address a wide range of public health challenges and opportunities, showcasing cutting-edge research, best practices, and innovative approaches across topics like infectious diseases, health policy, and environmental health

Utah Health Literacy Coalition Updates



A message from the Utah Health Literacy Coalition co-chairs



Amber Lee Hall and Luisa Hansen

Staying informed and involved in public health advocacy is essential to ensure policies serve the needs and well-being of our communities. Health-related decisions touch every aspect of life, from healthcare access to safety measures and disease prevention. By staying updated on legislation and actively engaging in

advocacy, we can influence the creation of policies that foster healthier, safer environments for all. Your voice matters—whether through voting, educating others, or participating directly in discussions and campaigns. Being active in public health advocacy is a powerful way to contribute to the greater good. This year, Utah is considering **over 35 public health bills**, addressing topics like vaccines, firearms, safety, and other essential health issues. To keep track of these developments, visit the Utah Public Health Association: [2025 Bill Tracker](#).

Additionally, we have arranged for Linnea Fletcher, MPA, MPH, CHES, the Health Promotion and Prevention Director at the Utah County Health Department, to lead an "Advocacy 101" training. This session will offer valuable insights into public health advocacy and support and direction for public health employees and others. Please join us for our virtual meeting on February 18th at 3 p.m. to gain invaluable insight from Linnea. You should have received an invitation from Anni McKinnon. If not please reach out to her at amckinnon@saltlakecounty.gov



TRAINING & RESOURCES WORKGROUP LEAD

Email George Strawley
george.strawley@utah.edu
to join the training &
resources workgroup



NETWORKING WORKGROUP LEAD

Email Josh Clemens
jaclemens@slcolibrary.org
to join the advocacy
and policy workgroup



ADVOCACY AND POLICY WORKGROUP LEAD

Email Ofa Matagi
ofa@upihc.org to join
the advocacy and
policy workgroup



Helpful Tools



Check out these helpful tools for improving health literacy

The 7 C's of effective communication

- Clear
- Complete
- Concise
- Correct
- Courteous
- Considered
- Concrete

Key points when developing a health literacy ethics toolkit:

- Emphasize the importance of respecting all patients/clients.
- All staff can use the toolkit to improve communication across all settings.
- It aims to identify and address potential health disparities from low health literacy.
- Guides tailoring communication to different cultural backgrounds and language needs.
- The toolkit includes plain language methods.
- The toolkit includes using the teach-back technique.
- The toolkit includes a system to evaluate health education materials for readability and accessibility.
- The toolkit includes a shared decision-making framework.

Health Literacy Tip

Ethics in communicating health information



- **Honesty** - share information truthfully and accurately.



- **Transparency** - be open and clear about what you're communicating.



- **Respect** - treat others with respect and fairness and value diverse viewpoints.



- **Confidentiality** - protect the privacy and confidentiality of others.



- **Responsibility** - take responsibility for your actions and their consequences.



- **Empathy** - understand and share the feelings of others.



Research

[Ethical underpinnings for the development of health literacy in schools: ethical premises \(why\), orientations \(what\), and tone \(how\).](#)

This article looks at why teaching health literacy in schools is important. It explains that the goal should go beyond just saving money for individuals or the country and should include values like fairness and social justice. The discussion focuses on teaching big-picture skills like critical thinking, self-awareness, and being a good citizen, instead of just practical skills. It also talks about teaching health literacy in a way that addresses unfair power structures that cause health problems, rather than accepting those structures as normal.



[Read more](#)

[To understand and be understood: The ethics of language, literacy, and hierarchy in medicine.](#)



Low health literacy is linked to factors like education, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and age, and it contributes to worse health outcomes, including higher hospitalizations and lower preventive care. These challenges create ethical dilemmas for medical practitioners, compounded by social and administrative hierarchies that impact communication. This issue of the AMA

Journal of Ethics explores how language, health literacy, and hierarchies shape medical communication and influence health disparities.

[Read more](#)

[Exploring the ethical scope of health literacy - a critical literature review](#)

Health literacy is essential for educating patients and enabling informed health decisions for individuals, families, and communities. Ethical issues related to health literacy, such as respect for autonomy and social justice, are underexplored in public health policy and research. This study highlights the need for systemic changes to address health literacy barriers, ensuring transparency, autonomy, and equitable health care for all.



[Read more](#)

Member Spotlight

Maria Guadarrama

Health Literacy Program Manager

Salt Lake County Health Department -
Community Access, Resiliency, and
Education (CARE) team



Why did you join the Utah Health Literacy Coalition? I'm interested in joining the Coalition to continue my work as a healthcare advocate, dedicated to ensuring that everyone has access to, understands, and can use health information to make the best choices for themselves and their families.

Briefly explain some health literacy projects you have worked on this year.

Collaborated with CHWs to create a presentation on Latino Health Inequities and Cultural Norms for a doctor-patient dynamic. Created and presented a Health Insurance 101 for communities to enroll in Medicaid and the Marketplace. Recruited Hispanic/Latino members to participate in a focus group to learn more about quitting smoking and resources available in the community.

The first presentation was fundamental to educate medical students on cultural competencies as they become future doctors. The health insurance presentation provided an educational piece for communities to feel more empowered with applying for health insurance. The focus group provided the research team vital information needed to reframe how resources are distributed among communities.

What is your favorite part of being part of the Utah Health Literacy Coalition? The opportunity to collaborate with others who are working toward a similar goal.

Thank you for welcoming me to the coalition.