

# Barriers to Care: Making the Health System Better for People with IDD in Pennsylvania

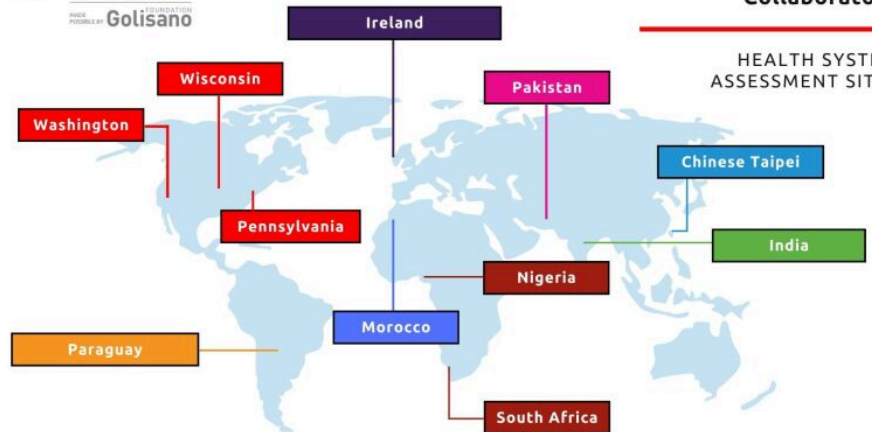
## Introduction

The Rosemary Collaboratory team in Pennsylvania wrote a report about the health system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Pennsylvania. We learned that it can be very hard for people with IDD to get the good, kind healthcare they need. This is not fair, and we are working to fix it.



Rosemary  
Collaboratory

HEALTH SYSTEM  
ASSESSMENT SITES



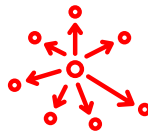
## What Are the Problems?

We talked to people with IDD and to health professionals to find out what is wrong. Here is what we learned:



**Health providers need more training and more time.**

When health professionals have better training and more time to listen during your appointment, it helps you get clear information and feel more comfortable and welcome.



**The healthcare system can be confusing.**

Your health care team doesn't always talk to each other. This makes getting care feel messy and hard to manage. It means you and your family often have to do all the work to connect the pieces.



**An 18-Year Life Expectancy Gap**

When healthcare is hard to get, it can mean people with IDD don't live as long as people without disabilities. There is an 18-year difference in how long people live.

## How We Can Make Healthcare Better

Our report has a plan to fix these problems. Here are our main goals:

**Give doctors and nurses better training.**

We want to make sure all healthcare workers learn the best ways to work with people with IDD. This will help them communicate clearly and provide better care.

**Give you more support to make your own choices.**

You have the right to make decisions about your own health. We want to make sure you get the easy-to-understand information and support you need to be in charge of your healthcare.

**Learn more about our health.**

We need to collect more information (or data) about the health of people with IDD. This helps us prove where the problems are so we can work with the government to fix them.

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