

**TITLE:** Use of digital storytelling to engage parents, and inform systems and policy change

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Parent engagement, childcare as a social determinant of health, policy advocacy

**ABSTRACT:** Oregon families face multiple stressors related to lack of high quality, affordable infant care. These include: job and income insecurity due to pregnancy and an infant caregiving; and lack of qualified, culturally competent childcare providers, especially to serve children with special health needs. The short and long-term impacts of these stressors range from economic, to parental mental health, to child health and social emotional development, to family stability. Oregon's Social Determinants of Health CoIIN team engaged families to tell their stories, and to use those stories to advocate for improved access to high quality, affordable care for infants. Six women from around Oregon participated in a 3-day workshop in which each created a digital story representing their diverse struggles seeking infant care, the impact on their families' health, and the supports that could have made a difference. The participants all emerged from the process with a strong commitment to use their stories to promote systems and policy change. These powerful voices and stories, several of which will be screened in this presentation, will ground the future work of the CoIIN to ensure that policy makers and program planners understand support for infant caregiving as a social determinant of health.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Participants will be able to:

Discuss how the lack of affordable, high quality infant care (including paid family leave) is a social determinant of health contributing to health inequities and parental stress.

Describe three ways in which digital storytelling can be used to engage community members and advocate for public health policy change.

Explain how having storytellers control the creation and use of their own digital stories can strengthen authentic public health partnership.

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