

Healthcare Equity Simulation

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In the “Healthcare Equity Simulation”, participants will learn about the injustices in our healthcare system. By recognizing the problems in our system and comparing our healthcare plan to other countries, participants will be motivated to take action and will be provided with the resources to do so.

In this program, participants will split into three groups, each led by a group leader. Each GL represents a made-up character explains their situation for ten minutes.

- Character 1 is named Jackson Miller, a white 17 year old boy from Little Rock, Arkansas. His family eliminated their healthcare plan in 2019 when the individual mandate (a law requiring healthcare) of the ACA was revoked. His mother died of breast cancer last year after a year of treatment. This treatment was expensive, and now they are \$110k in debt. Jackson’s father works as an elementary school teacher and Jackson goes to school, watches his four siblings, and works a part time job at the grocery store to help pay off their debts.
- Character 2 is a wealthy middle-aged white woman named Rebecca Campbell from Chicago, Illinois. She fell down the stairs a few months ago and shattered her collarbone. She has been going to the doctor consistently for surgery, medication, and treatment. She has reported excellent customer satisfaction as they help her get through recovery. She is on the highest level of her insurance, which helped her pay for a portion of her treatment but not all of it. After her healing, she is expected to return to her regular life just like before.
- Character 3 is a 34 year old African American woman named Angela William from Huntsville, Alabama. She reportedly visited her doctor three times complaining of pain in her lower back and legs. Each visit, her doctor dismissed her concerns. She described the doctors she encountered as rude and condescending. 6 months later, she visited another doctor in a different city who diagnosed her with a herniated disc, a spinal condition. After diagnosis, she was treated for her condition through surgery, medicine, and physical therapy. Her insurance was able to support her, but the end result was still a financial strain.

After visiting each of these characters, the groups collect back together and discuss the scenarios they encountered for ten minutes. They are prompted with questions about how they felt in these scenarios, why each character’s situation was so different, and what overarching issues they recognized (such as racism and privilege). For the remainder of the time they will go into groups of 10 and will be handed information sheets comparing the US, UK, and Israel’s healthcare system. In these groups, they will discuss which system they think best serves their patients, flaws they see with each country’s system, and the importance of health equity. They will

conclude by learning about what healthcare bills are currently in place or circulating in Congress and how they can contact their representatives to take action on a certain bill.