

# Overlooked in Community Development



# What is autism?

- Delayed Language
- Difficulty in reasoning and planning (executive function)
- Narrow, intense interests
- Poor motor skills
- Sensory sensitivities (Autism Speaks, 2016)

# Comorbid Diagnoses

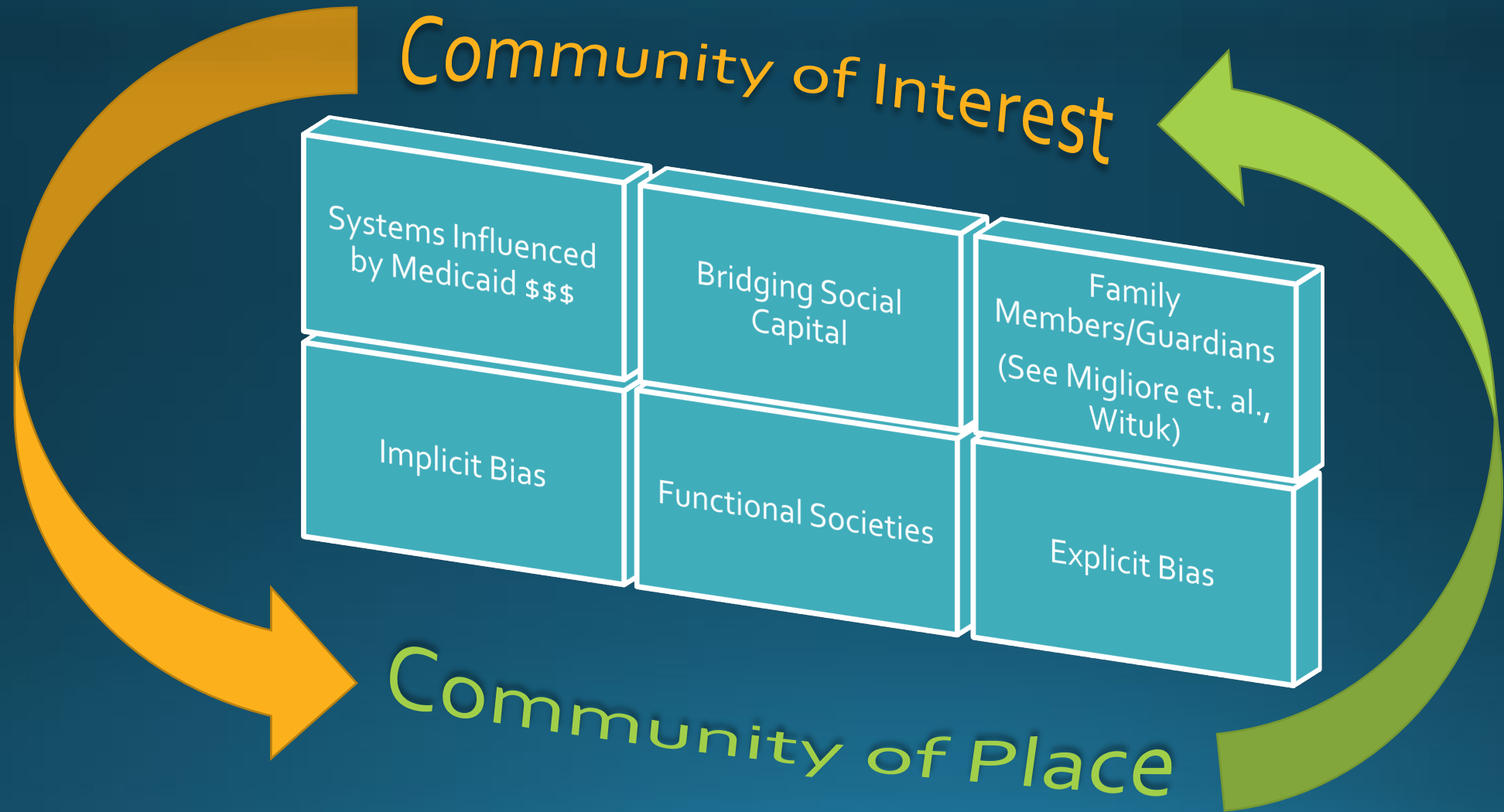
Impairment	Rate of comorbidity
Epilepsy	20-33% of autistics
Intellectual disabilities	32% (Most common with those who have autism as well as epilepsy.)
Gastrointestinal disorders	Autistic children are nearly eight times more likely to suffer from one or more GI issue than the general population.
Disrupted sleep	More than half and possibly as high as 80%
Feeding/Eating issues	Approximately 70% of children
Mental Health	ADHD (30-61%); Anxiety disorders (11-42%); Depression (26% of adults); Schizophrenia (4-35% of adults); Bipolar disorder (6-27%).
Premature Death	Twice as likely to die of premature death. Some subgroups with autism as high as 10 times as likely as the general population (Autism Speaks, 2017).
Sensory Processing Disorder	At least 75% of children (STAR Institute, 2018).

# The Social Data of Autistic Adults

- 28% had no social contact at all.
- 40% never saw friends.
- Half were never receiving phone calls or invitations

(Heasley, 2013)

# Overcoming Barriers to Development



# Methodology: Social Justice

- Appreciative Inquiry online survey
  - Excluded those with guardians, and non-U.S. citizens
  - Open-ended directives written on a 4.4 Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level
- Archival Records
  - TED Talks
  - YouTube panels, primarily Autism 211 series
  - Personal journal entries and family discussions

# Analysis of Human Capital

Responses		Sub-code
The owner told us everything is ok and to not worry about anything else.		<i>tolerance</i>
Not give condescending looks.		<i>tolerance</i>
Once informed what ADA was, they had no choice but to allow us inside.		<i>leadership</i>
Having more small businesses that accepted people with autism by employing them.		<i>tolerance</i>
I felt valued and welcome when I go to conferences or work with people that allow me to speak about disability justice		<i>tolerance</i>
Give me accommodations and train my teachers in the post secondary school as well social programs for the disabled	Give me accommodations	<i>tolerance</i>
	Train my teachers	<i>education</i>
	Social programs for the disabled	<i>social programs</i>
I was empowered when I was discriminated against which gave me strength and the will to fight back and speak up		<i>leadership</i>

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...small- and medium-sized businesses operating at local and regional levels in different parts of the country shows that many HR directors don't even think of disability as part of diversity and inclusion. So we need to start there, not down the road.

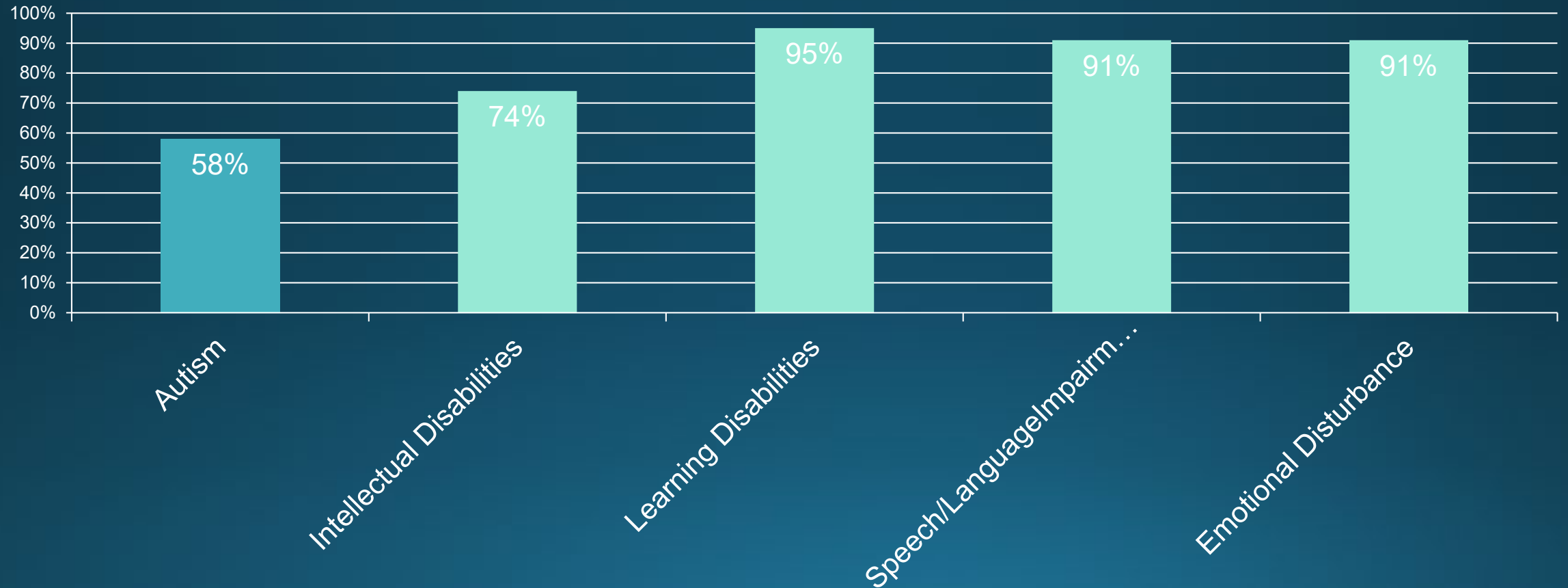
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Bill Novelli in his foreword in Leslie Crutchfield's book *How Change Happens*



# Rate of Employment Across Disabilities

(Roux, Shattuck, and Rast, 2015)



# Financial Capital

- Social Enterprises
- Self-Employment
- Micro-enterprises
- Cooperatives
- 529 ABLÉ accounts
- Estate Planning
  - Special Needs Trusts
  - Pooled Trusts
  - Life Insurance for Family Members



# Built Capital

Home and Community Based Services waiver cost \$25 billion in 2006, an estimated national savings of \$57 billion in Medicaid expenditures for institutional care (Harrington, Ng, and Kitchener, 2011).

## Housing

Congregated Housing

Shared Living

Adult Foster Care

Tiny Homes/Detached Living  
Quarters

En suites

Duplex

## Community

Gender-neutral bathrooms

Deaf Design

Epilepsy Design



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