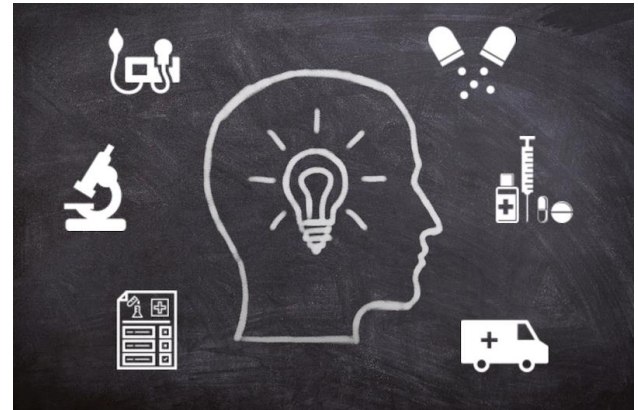

Health Literacy Month 2022: Back to Basics

— Hannah Geressu —
Minnesota Health Literacy Partnership

Webinar 1: Health Literacy, Past & Present

- Original definition of health literacy (1974)
- Calgary Charter on Health Literacy (2011)
- Modern definitions of health literacy
- Importance of health literacy today



Origins of health literacy (1974)

- Research paper titled “Health Education as Social Policy” (1974)
- Health literacy described as health education meeting minimum standards for all grade school levels

Health Education as Social Policy

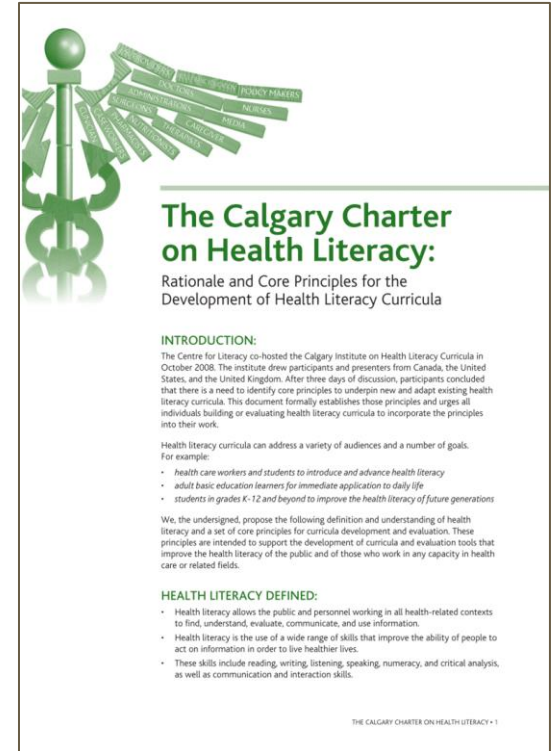
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I would like to discuss health education within the context of social policy, and hopefully establish a common “frame of appreciation” regarding health education as a policy question. I will try to outline some of the essential areas in social policy that are needed to provide a new sense of direction for health education.

Calgary Charter on Health Literacy (2011)

- Provided a more comprehensive description of health literacy
- Published by the Center for Literacy of Quebec
- Helped improve understanding of health literacy around the world
- Takes account of the skills and abilities associated with individual literacy **and** the cultural, social, economic, and policy issues associated with health systems



Health literacy today

- Healthy People 2030 breaks down health literacy into two categories: **personal health literacy** and **organizational health literacy**
- Minnesota Health Literacy Partnership also acknowledges the role of individuals and organizations in its definition of health literacy
 - A **patient's ability** to obtain, understand, and act on health information
 - The **capacity of healthcare providers and healthcare systems** to communicate clearly, educate about health, and empower patients



Why talk about health literacy?



Low health literacy remains a problem

- Many individuals lack resources and knowledge to understand and act on health information
- Gaps in high-speed Internet still exist
- Communication and language used in health environments
- Low health literacy is costly!



Next up: Teach-Back

