|                                | Demographics   |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| • 26<br>• 50<br>• 29<br>• 71 * | Pronouns/Gender<br>• 2 He/him<br>• 4 She/her<br>• 1 They/them<br>tone individual used multiple<br>categories of pronouns | <ul> <li>Disabilities:</li> <li>1. T4 SCI</li> <li>2. Hemiparesis post-stroke</li> <li>3. MS</li> <li>4. Chronic pain/muscle tightness</li> <li>5. Autoimmune disease/neurological disability</li> <li>6. SCI (no use of LE)</li> </ul> | Modifications <ul> <li>Assisted belays</li> <li>Wheelchair (2)</li> <li>Lofstrand crutches</li> <li>Cane</li> <li>Chest harness</li> </ul> |  |

## Themes from Semi-Structured Interviews

| Theme/Code           | Description   | Statement   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Disability etiquette | Statements that describe<br>how to be polite and open<br>minded when working with<br>individuals with disabilities. | <ol> <li>Ask what she needs, don't make assumptions.</li> <li>She welcomes curiosity, allowed to ask questions</li> <li>Ask open ended questions, don't use "can do" or "cannot do" because that feels more insensitive (can you /can you not feels judgemental)</li> <li>"Every person is different"</li> <li>Don't make assumptions, even within the same diagnoses - conditions can vary a lot</li> <li>Ways to ask about someone's abilities could sound like "what feels good to you, what works for you, tell me about, tell me about how your body moves/ROM/strength" etc</li> <li>Staff need to be well trained in disability etiquette - no assumptions that are made!</li> </ol> |

|                       |   | <ol> <li>She appreciates it if people just ask "what do you need, what do you need me to do?"</li> <li>Permission to touch! Chair too</li> <li>Volunteers could say "I'm relying on you to tell me what you need"</li> <li>They should know/ask "how do you like to do this?"</li> <li>Ask, don't' assume</li> <li>Don't pity,</li> <li>Inspiration model - don't share that they inspire you</li> </ol>  |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Person-first identity | Statements that describe a desire to be treated like any other individual.        | <ol> <li>Not treating him any different, treat him like any other climber</li> <li>Doesn't want to be stared at</li> <li>Concern: someone without experience with disabled individuals<br/>might not know what to do with her</li> <li>A concern is that people will be starring, being awkward</li> <li>When people don't know how to interact with disabled people -<br/>makes it uncomfortable, makes it hard to be yourself and want to<br/>hide parts of yourself</li> <li>Wants to be treated like anyone else would be treated</li> <li>Concern/fear: How are they interacting with other people at the<br/>gym</li> <li>Concern: Will they "get in the way"</li> <li>"I like the model with able bodied ppl there also climbing, it's more<br/>of a hangout and everybody gets to climb" - wants more of a chill<br/>hangout rather than volunteers belay, adaptive climbers climb</li> <li>treat them like a regular person, have high expectations</li> </ol> |
| Sense of belonging    | Statements that show a desire to be welcomed, supported, and part of a community. | <ol> <li>"I like social stuff"</li> <li>As a disabled trans man, he is looking for acceptance in the communities he participates in</li> <li>More drawn to the inclusivity and community</li> <li>Main tangible goal: social participation, meeting other like minded people who have disability experience</li> </ol>  |

|   | <ol> <li>Trying new things and making new friends in the disability<br/>community!</li> <li>Didn't originally feel "disabled" enough because his is more<br/>hidden, not as much representation</li> <li>Climbing is a way to be social; disability can be isolating, same<br/>with if you stop working</li> <li>Wants to be able to network, communicate</li> <li>Likes to wear both hats as a participant and a volunteer</li> <li>Likes to wear both hats as a participants</li> <li>Wants a community that motivates consistency</li> <li>Access to a disabled community</li> <li>Concerns that she doesn't know if she belongs in that space</li> <li>Community that is about meeting you where you're at rather than<br/>a shared diagnosis</li> <li>Enjoys how welcoming the community is</li> <li>Wants a welcoming crowd</li> <li>Has sometimes experienced "ageism" - feels like young disabled<br/>climbers are put off, can be discouraging</li> <li>really mixed community, loves that she gets to interact with<br/>interesting, smart people of every gender identity, race, countries,<br/>occupations. Loves the variety in ppl and talking to them</li> <li>Has met people that climbed, "that's the nice thing about climbing,<br/>you can sort of do it with everybody"</li> <li>Currently climbs just on her own, is pretty connected to the<br/>community</li> <li>Has adaptive climbing ppl she meets up with here and there, and<br/>through competitions is very connected</li> <li>"Something that's cool about the climbing community is that</li> </ol> |
|---|---|
| Individualized<br>strategiesStrategies that participants<br>and staff can use to work | through competitions is very connected  |

| collaboratively as a team to<br>ensure a client-centered<br>experience. | <ul> <li>new - and they may have to try things many times</li> <li>Be willing to adapt and improvise and provide new techniques</li> <li>Being willing to collaborate with the adaptive climber, bring in expertise but allow the adaptive athlete to be the expert in their own disability</li> <li>Everyone has their own goals/abilities/comfort</li> <li>Have an initial screening so you know what to expect with participants</li> <li>Initial check-in and then frequent check-ins to touch base to make sure their needs are getting met - don't assume people will advocate for themselves!</li> <li>Ways to use her body creatively rather than "just get stronger"</li> <li>Routes that are set up differently</li> <li>Ways to think creatively to use her body</li> <li>More ways to achieve goals - not just A to B, broader goals or objectives</li> <li>Adaptive climbing is about anyone showing up, but is individualized and tailored to needs/goals</li> <li>Staff need to keep in mind that their goals may be very different than traditional climbing goals</li> <li>Helping people be able to recognize what their limits are, respecting and identifying boundaries</li> <li>A person who uses a WC might walk, might not, etc. huge variability, it's different for each individual</li> <li>Basic calling techniques for visually impaired</li> <li>Think about these things ahead of time</li> <li>Sensory modifications</li> <li>Ask onen ended questions</li> </ul> |
|---|---|
|   | <ul> <li>20. Ask open ended questions</li> <li>21. A local group is geared toward beginners and more intellectual disabilities, so it's not a great fit for her climbing goals.</li> </ul>  |

|          |                     |  | <ul> <li>22. some more variety in setting for different styles of climbing, for example campus climbs</li> <li>23. Flexibility with steep overhang with a toprope (steep overhang is usually lead cave)</li> <li>24. Different training styles, ppl can benefit from having different options for ropes and systems for different terrains based on ppl's needs</li> <li>25. Asking questions because everyone is going to want something different or have a different view</li> <li>26. If you're working with a new climber, just checking with them to see what works, if there is anything they're worried about</li> <li>27. Everyone's goals are going to be different, but challenge them and have high expectations</li> <li>28. Asking if they know what their goals are because that can alter how you support them (For example: wished she didn't have a tight belay for so long, wished someone explained to her that you can have a lose belay)</li> </ul> |
|----------|---------------------|--|---|
| Barriers |                     | Factors that limit an individual's ability or desire to participate in an adaptive climbing program. | <ol> <li>Time of day (evenings are too late in the day)</li> <li>Surface: the padding on the floor takes a ton of energy to get<br/>around in a wheelchair with.</li> <li>Would want more similar interest/abilities in the adaptive climbing<br/>community</li> </ol>  |
|          | Location            | Statements that show that distance or transportation are barriers.                                   | <ol> <li>Distance: doesn't own a car, transportation can be a problem</li> <li>If something was closer, maybe she'd go</li> <li>Distance, location are bigger barriers - works full time. Once in a while will drive for special one-off things</li> <li>Would want something local</li> </ol>  |
|          | Physical<br>Ability | Statements about physical abilities or fear of   | <ol> <li>physically, has very little ROM and dexterity on RUE, coordination<br/>is hard.</li> </ol>   |

|           |                         | injury/illness being a barrier.   | <ol> <li>Concerned with balance</li> <li>Worries about injuring shoulders, esp as a WC user and with<br/>arthritis already</li> <li>Concerned about immunity - compromised immune system, when<br/>it's crowded and busy, borrowing equipment too (spreading germs)</li> </ol>  |
|-----------|-------------------------|---|---|
|           | Cost                    | Statements that explain how<br>the cost of a program may<br>limit someone's ability to<br>participate.  | <ol> <li>Cost of program, cost of equipment - not interested in buying her<br/>own equipment</li> <li>Cost</li> <li>Cost - would need a discounted rate</li> </ol>  |
|           | Knowledge/<br>awareness | Statements that show a lack<br>of knowledge about<br>programming or what is<br>possible regarding ability.  | <ol> <li>Doesn't know the extent of her capabilities/how the adaptations<br/>would work</li> <li>Curious to know how adaptations would work</li> <li>Knowledge about what actually happens in the sports, knowing<br/>about the existence of the sports</li> <li>What are they, who are they for? (adaptive sports)</li> <li>Not knowing if it's possible: Learning to belay was easy but not<br/>knowing anything about climbing, wondered if she could do that<br/>sitting down - wondered about belaying</li> </ol>  |
| Just Righ | t Challenge             | Statements that demonstrate<br>how clients want to measure<br>their abilities and what level<br>of challenge will keep them<br>engaged and motivated. | <ol> <li>Biggest fear is that it's too hard and he fails         <ul> <li>a. He's ok with failing, likes challenge, can be flexible</li> <li>b. This is always a bit of anxiety inducing though</li> </ul> </li> <li>Fears that he won't be able to get started if it's too hard</li> <li>Attitude at most gyms is PROGRESS and STRENGTH, but would prefer more specific, tangible, individualized goals</li> <li>Community that doesn't make her feel like she has to "win"</li> <li>Exercise can/should be about pushing yourself - how to keep the challenge but not feel like you're constantly losing</li> <li>Guidance in figuring out the difference between challenge vs inability - what is someone really capable of?</li> <li>Enough courses that are accessible - wants 5.7-5.9</li> <li>Enjoys it when there are climbs that newer people can achieve</li> </ol> |

| Goals |                    | Achievements and benefits<br>that participants have/want to<br>experience                                   | <ol> <li>Having fun</li> <li>Trying new things</li> <li>Ways to use her body creatively rather than "just get stronger"</li> </ol>  |
|-------|--------------------|---|---|
|       | Climbing<br>Skills | Statements that demonstrate goals specific to climbing technique.   | <ol> <li>Mostly climbing skills</li> <li>Technique too - more climbing specific instruction</li> </ol>  |
|       | Fitness            | Statements that show goals<br>regarding developing<br>strength, endurance, and<br>independence              | <ol> <li>Strength</li> <li>Strength development</li> <li>Strength</li> <li>does all campus climbing, so getting endurance to make it to the top without resting constantly</li> <li>endurance</li> <li>endurance so she needs less of an assistive belay</li> <li>rely less on the strong belay, feel like/get close to being able to climb less difficult or same routes more like an able bodied person (more independently)</li> </ol> |
|       | Social<br>Aspects  | Statements that show people<br>have goals to make friends,<br>find a community, and<br>participate socially | <ol> <li>Access to disabled community</li> <li>Community that doesn't make her feel like she has to "win"</li> <li>making new friends in the disability community</li> <li>Some social participation</li> <li>social participation, meeting other like minded people who have disability experience</li> </ol>  |