Medical Model vs. Social Model of Disability
Disability Resource Center

Carol Gill at the Chicago Institute of Disability Research sought to create a model that explained how disability has historically been viewed and approached while creating a new perception and approach to disability so that the abilities of all people can be affirmed and utilized. The creation of the social model works to bring about a change in the societal perception and treatment of disability.

The Disability Resource Center at the University of Central Arkansas seeks to uphold the social model of disability. In doing so, the center promotes and supports campus efforts to achieve accessibility while affirming and utilizing the abilities of all individuals.

**MEDICAL MODEL**

1. Disability is a deficiency or abnormality.
2. Being disabled is negative.
3. Disability resides in the individual.
4. The remedy for disability-related problems is a cure or normalization of the individual.
5. The agent of remedy is the professional.

**SOCIAL MODEL**

1. Disability is a difference.
2. Being disabled, in itself, is neutral.
3. Disability derives from interaction between the individual and society.
4. The remedy for disability-related problems is a change in the interaction between the individual and society.
5. The agent of remedy can be the individual, an advocate, or anyone who affects the arrangements between the individual and society.