Community Inclusion and the Critical Role of Peers

Presented by: Mark S. Salzer, Ph.D.
Mark S. Salzer, Ph.D.
Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Temple University
Director, Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion

For more information about these issues please go to
www.tucollaborative.org or send an email to
msalzer@temple.edu
Disclosure and Acknowledgments

• I have **no financial conflicts of interest** to disclose associated with this presentation.
  
  • Salary support over the past year includes:
    • NIH; NIDILRR; Mental Health Partnerships (SAMHSA); PA BAS/Drexel University (ASERT); MS Foundation
  
  • Consulting over the past year includes
    • NASMHPD; JBS; National Council; Yellowbrick; County of San Diego; Health & Human Resources Education Center (Alameda County, CA); NC Governor’s Institute; ORE-ACT; Florida Certification Board

• Acknowledgments for this presentation
  
  • The contents of this presentation are supported by a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (90RT5021-02-00) within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this document do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR/ACL/HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the U.S. Federal Government.
Poll: How Would You Describe Your Level of Knowledge When It Comes to the Concept of Community Inclusion?

• Beginner
• Developing
• Competent
• Advanced
• Expert
Community Inclusion

1. Being valued for one’s uniquenesses
2. Opportunity to participate like everyone else
3. Welcoming and embracing environment

https://www.thinkinclusive.us/inclusion-exclusion-segregation-integration-different/
Community Participation

- Community Participation
  - Employment
  - School
  - Housing
  - Dating/marriage
  - Parenting
  - Leisure/recreation
  - Spirituality/religion
  - Civic engagement
  - Friendships and social relationships
Why Promote Community Participation and Inclusion?
Community Integration as a Right

• Definition: “The opportunity to live in the community, and be valued for one’s uniqueness and ability, like everyone else.” (Salzer, 2006)

• Legal and Policy Grounding
  • Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
  • Supreme Court Olmstead decision (1999): unnecessary institutionalization is a form of discrimination prohibited by the ADA
  • President’s New freedom Initiative (2001)

Community Participation as a Medical Necessity*

Fundamentals for Promoting Community Inclusion and Participation

Knowledge and Beliefs

• Fundamental #1: Community Inclusion is important
• Fundamental #2: Community Inclusion applies to everyone
• Fundamental #3: Community inclusion requires seeing ‘the person,’ not ‘the patient’
Orientation to Providing Support
Fundamental #4: Self-determination and dignity of risk are critical
Self-Determination and Dignity of Risk

• Self-determination refers to “acting as the primary causal agent in one’s life and making choices and decisions regarding one’s quality of life free from undue external influence or interference” (Wehmeyer, 1996, p. 24).

• Dignity of risk (Perske, 1981) refers to the right to make choices that affect one’s own life even when these choices could, or do, turn out to be mistakes, allowing individuals to learn from their mistakes, along the way, like everyone else.
Fundamental #5: Multiple domains of mainstream life should be sought
Fundamental #6: Seek participation that is more like everyone else
Participation More Like Everyone Else

Participation Less Like Everyone Else

Institution/Agency-Based ----------------------------------------Community-Based participation

Staff-directed participation----------------------------------------Person-directed participation

Separation-------------------------------------------------------------Association
Fundamental #7: Use emerging support technologies, the natural supports of families and friends, and the engagement of peer supports
Fundamental #8: Providing support to family and other natural supports promotes community integration
The Environment

• Using resources available to everyone
• Social Model of Disability and Addressing Environmental Barriers
Fundamental #10: Maximize the use of mainstream community resources
Fundamental #9: Environmental barriers must be identified and addressed
Fundamental #11: Need to establish welcoming communities

- Community can ignore, isolate, or actively reject = exclusion
  and
- Community can seek out and embrace people = inclusion
Why Are Peers Essential for Promoting Community Integration?
Poll: How much of your time do you spend supporting the community inclusion of people you support?

- Always
- Often
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never
Peer Specialists and Community Integration: Peer Specialist National Survey

291 Peer Specialists who were employed in 8 types of programs:
Independent peer support (N=70)
Case management (N=57)
Partial hospital/day program, inpatient or crisis (N=31)
Vocational rehabilitation/clubhouse programs (N=23)
Drop-in centers (N=21)
Education/advocacy (N=15)
Residential (N=12)
Therapeutic recreation/socialization or psychiatric rehabilitation (N=10)

| Please tell us how often you support your peers in… | Mean Score  
1 = “Never”  
5 = “Always” | Type of Support |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>peer support</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>encouraging self-determination and personal responsibility</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>Core Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>health and wellness</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hopelessness</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>communication with providers</td>
<td>3.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illness management</td>
<td>3.62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stigma in the community</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family relationships (e.g., with parents, siblings, cousins, etc.)</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>Intimacy Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spirituality/religion</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parenting</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dating</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>Leisure/Social Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>developing friendships</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leisure/recreation (e.g., exercise, hobby groups, movies)</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transportation</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>citizenship (e.g., voting, volunteering, advocacy)</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>education</td>
<td>3.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>developing WRAP plans</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>WRAP/PADS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>developing psychiatric advanced directives</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poll: In What Area Over the Next Three Months Will You Intentionally Try to Spend More Time Promoting Community Inclusion?

• No areas (I already do it a lot)
• No areas (I do not believe I am allowed to increase my focus in any of these areas)
• Employment
• Dating
• Parenting
• Spirituality/Religion
• Family relationships
Thank You!!

Feel free to contact me at
msalzer@temple.edu

Checkout our website:
www.tucollaborative.org