Empowering Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities: The Role of the Peer Model of CILs

Providing Core Services to All Consumers

Presenter:
Sarah Launderville
Providing Core Services to ALL Consumers

Joining the Independent Living Movement

- Experiences that led to joining the movement
- Joining the movement
- Learning about the commonality we have as a movement of people with disabilities
Policy Framework for Cross-Disability CILs

- Center for independent living means a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential, private nonprofit agency for individuals with significant disabilities (regardless of age or income) that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities, and provides an array of IL services, including, at a minimum, independent living core services as defined in section 7(17).

~ Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
Cross Disability Rights

Consumers regardless of disability or diagnosis have:

• Shared Experiences
• Shared Stories
• Shared History
• Shared Philosophy
• Shared Barriers
• Shared Pride
Experience

“Knowledge or mastery of an event or subject gained through involvement in or exposure to it.”

What are some of our shared experiences?

~ Oxford Dictionaries
Our Shared Experiences

• Discrimination
• Medical systems
• Social programs systems
• Dependency
• Institutions (nursing home, hospitals, group homes)
• Stereotypes
• Treated like children
• Support Services
Story

“an account of past events in someone’s life”

“a situation viewed in terms of the information known about it or its similarity to another”

Think about: What is our shared story?

~ Oxford Dictionaries
Our Story

• Leaders: Ed Roberts, Judy Heumann, Howie the Harp, Judi Chamberlin
• National Groups: NCIL, ADAPT, NAPRA, NDRN, National Empowerment Center
• Away from the medical model towards recovery, peer support, and independent living
• From institutions to independence
• “superheroes,” “inspirational,” and “puzzle pieces”
• Inequity within movement around race, sexual orientation
History

“the study of past events, particularly in human affairs”

Think about: What is our shared history?

~ Oxford Dictionaries
Our Shared History: Regardless of disability or diagnosis

- Shaming of parents
- Sterilization of our people
- Euthanasia
- Institutionalization
- Segregation
- Experimented on
- Hidden from society
- Secrets
Philosophy

“the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline”

Think about: What is our shared philosophy?

~ Oxford Dictionaries
Our Shared Philosophy

• Peer support
• Recovery
• Empowerment
• Self-help
• Autonomy
• Overcoming barriers
• Pride
• Equality
• Full inclusion
• Independence
Barriers

“an obstacle that prevents movement or access”

Think about: What are our shared barriers?

~ Oxford Dictionaries
Our Shared Barriers

- Attitudinal
- Communication
- Employment
- Physical
- Transportation
- Housing
- Recreation
Pride

“a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated”

~ Oxford Dictionaries
Showing our pride together

- Slogans
- Songs
- Civil disobedience
- Personal Stories
- Social Media
- Connectivity
- Membership
Final Thought

I was walking down the hall of my center one day and the receptionist slammed down the phone and said in a frustrated voice “I hate people with mental illness!”

As she saw me she said,

“I’m sorry – you know what I mean.”

I did.

We had a shared empathy for one another.