

Beyond Self- Direction: Toward Getting a Life
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Major changes are underway in the field of developmental disabilities. These include increasing residential options for people with disabilities (owning or leasing their own homes), people working at real jobs or owning their own businesses, and experiencing community on a daily basis.

In recent years there has been an increasing emphasis on individual budgets and self-direction. This is very positive but may, if misunderstood, be limiting in scope and application. Sometimes the outcome is described as purchasing goods or services with an individual budget.

The outcome that is really needed is for people with disabilities to craft a meaningful life. Thus money, person-centered planning and supports are the means and not the end of this process. This different outcome requires different strategies and focus of our efforts.

This presentation will require participants to challenge systems and themselves to focus on not only different outcomes but also the right outcomes.