

Community Resource Associates

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COMMUNITY INCLUSION SERIES

BACKGROUND. In the early '90s, CRA sponsored a series of one day seminars in St. Louis (and a few in Kansas City).

The purpose of these seminars was to bring in speakers on a variety of topics to challenge participants to think and act differently.

The audience consisted mostly of agency staff, particularly direct support personnel. These are often the people who have the most contact and influence with people with disabilities, yet often they have the least access to the current thinking on best practice or approach to their work.

Because of our continued commitment and interest, we are again planning to offer our series of seminars beginning in spring, 2001.

For the most part, we plan to host two one-day seminars, one in St. Louis and the other in Columbia.

Some of the planned topics at this point include, but are not limited to:

- Gentle teaching as an approach to difficult behavior
- Community organizing to increase citizenship and involvement
- Beyond employment - the need to look at producing income, not just work
- Self-representation - people with disabilities speak for themselves
- Servant leadership - how to transform an agency by listening rather than directing

As a kick off to the series, we are planning to host a one day seminar on self-determination, personal budgeting and system change on February 22, 2001.

Tom Nerney, of the Center on Self-Determination, will be the featured presenter. He will give the introductory talk on self-determination, personal budgeting and fundamental restructuring of services. Derrick Dufresne will then lead a discussion of these issues and their implications for needed systems change.

Finally, participants will be asked to design a road map for Missouri that spells out how this change is possible and the needed steps to foster self-determination.