

## **Extending our reach, rather than rejoicing at our grasp**

2010 is not only the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA, but also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community service system. Yes, sheltered workshops are 60 years old, group homes have been around for over 40 years.

It is time to take a hard look at not how far we have come, but how far we have to go. We have moved from the segregation shackle to the disability bubble, but we are nowhere close the community circle. Most people with disabilities are **in** but not **of** the community. Loneliness is rampant, and we are not much closer to connecting people to their communities than we were 60 years ago.

In the midst of our focus on programs, size of agency, and number of people served, we need to perhaps ask if we are measuring the right things. This presentation will challenge participants to take a fresh look at what we can do to help people move from clienthood to citizenship.

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