

**Getting a Life, Not a Program:  
Developing Housing  
and Supports for  
People Leaving Institutions**

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**ISSUES, CHALLENGES,  
AND OPTIONS**

- Changing Role of Professionals
  - Directors
  - Teachers
  - Brokers- Consultants -Niche Providers

**ISSUES, CHALLENGES,  
AND OPTIONS**

- Conflicting Roles of Professionals
  - Parent
  - Friend
  - Teacher

**ISSUES, CHALLENGES,  
AND OPTIONS**

- Emerging Roles of People with Disabilities
  - Recipient
  - Client
  - Customer

### **ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS**

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - We are asking people what they want when we are used to giving people what we think they need.

### **ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS**

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - Someone's wants may be expensive, indiscernible, inconsistent, or, in some cases, possibly not in his/her best interest (smoking, obesity, etc.).

### **ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS**

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - We are utilizing public money. Our customers do not have the money. We are seeking to transfer control. It will not work without transferring money.

### **ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS**

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - We expect seamless change. The history of social movements is choppy, contentious and usually outlives its current advocates.

### ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - Supported living has often become another program. It is married to Medicaid but wishes it was divorced, but can't afford it financially.

### ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - We have begun to retrench our choices. It is too expensive for people to live alone, yet we have limited options/choices of roommates.

### ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - Choice is not consistent across environments. We have people who are living in apartments still getting on yellow buses and making \$.20 per hour.

### ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - Many people only making good choices by making many choices, some of which are bad. The system is risk averse which limits choice. (Medicaid=Health and Safety) yet obsession with safety is unhealthy.

## ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - Disability is largely becoming a useless word. Advances in technology, learning and experience challenges this assumption . It may be more about learning styles and opportunity.

## ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS

- Issues Causing Dissonance
  - The system builds artificial relationships. People with disabilities live, play and work together and then we wonder why they are clients not citizens. Staff get people **in** the community yet many people are not **of** it.

## IMPORTANT ISSUES IN CHANGE

- Community
  - Third place
  - Bumping into people
  - Work
  - Church
  - Interests

## IMPORTANT ISSUES IN CHANGE

- “The Money Thing”
  - Unlinking Housing & Services
  - Self-Determination
    - Person- Centered Plans and Individual Budgets
  - Earning power
    - **Minimum** Wage means **Minimum** wage

## IMPORTANT ISSUES IN CHANGE

- Expanded Options
  - Home ownership
  - Relationship building
    - One Person One Wish
  - Investment pools
    - Non-traditional supports
  - Business opportunities
    - MicroBoards

## IMPORTANT ISSUES IN CHANGE

- Changing of the Guard
  - Younger parents
  - Educated customers
  - First generation parents passing on
  - First generation professionals retiring
  - Future staff?

## IMPORTANT ISSUES IN CHANGE

- Implementation Issues
  - All means All
  - Start one Person at a time
  - Avoid “Null Hypothesis” People
  - Good to Great-Jim Collins thinking
  - Start with the most difficult People to Support
  - Start with the Best Staff
  - Start with a sense of Urgency
  - Complete “CARE” analysis
  - Kill Stupid, neutralize YABBUTS
  - DOSEARCH, NOT RESEARCH
  - Quality not compliance