EMPLOYMENT FIRST MAINE

CHQS

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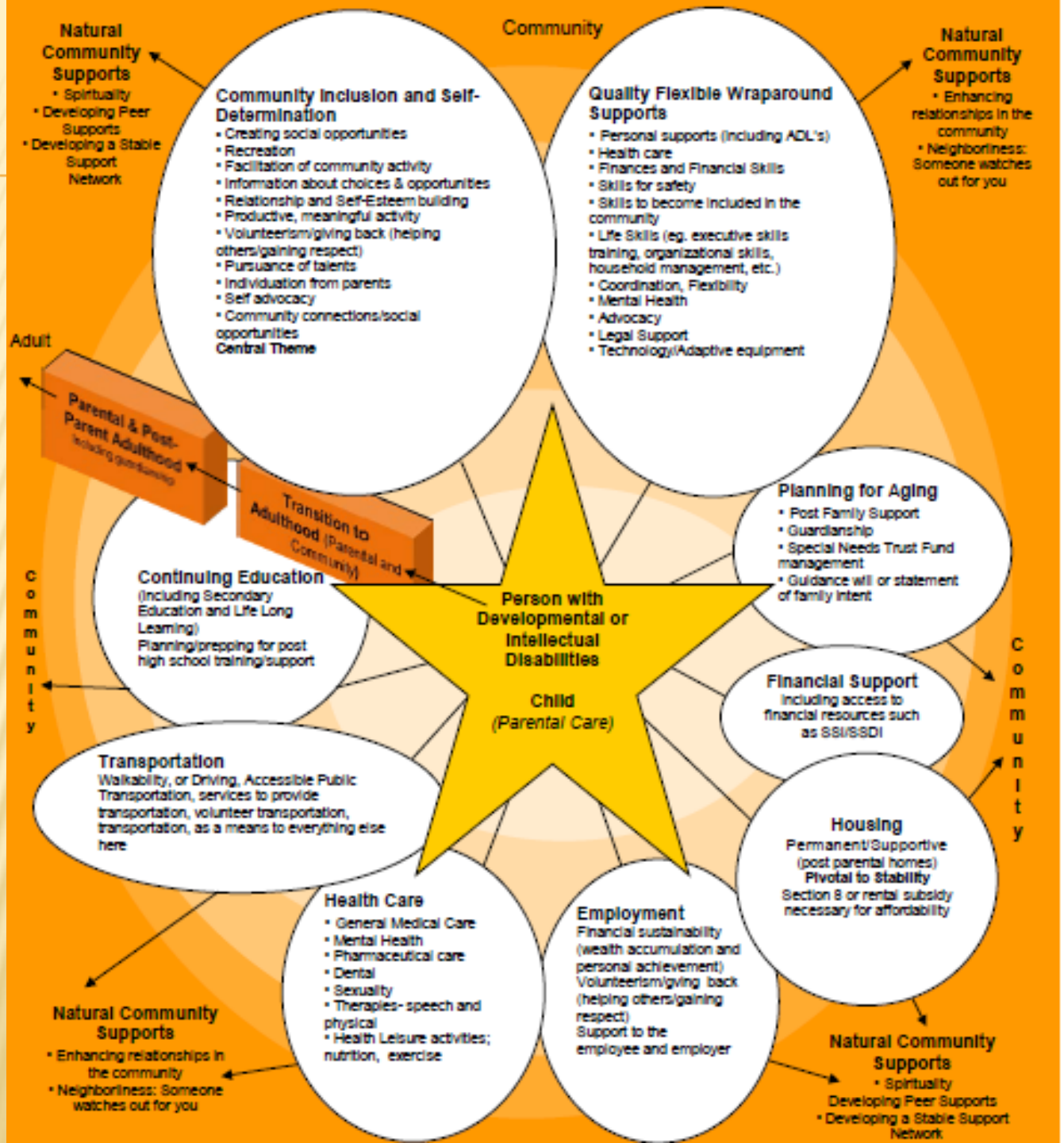
Community
Natural Community Supports
• Spirituality
• Developing Peer Supports
• Developing a Stable Support Network
Community Inclusion and Self-Determination
• Creating social opportunities
• Recreation
• Facilitation of community activity
• Information about choices & opportunities
• Relationship and Self-Esteem building
• Productive, meaningful activity
• Volunteerism/giving back (helping others/gaining respect)
• Pursuance of talents
• Individuation from parents
• Self advocacy
• Community connections/social opportunities
Central Theme
Quality Flexible Wraparound Supports
• Personal supports (including ADL's)
• Health care
• Finances and Financial Skills
• Skills for safety
• Skills to become included in the community
• Life Skills (eg. executive skills training, organizational skills, household management, etc.)
• Coordination, Flexibility
• Mental Health
• Advocacy
• Legal Support
• Technology/Adaptive equipment
Natural Community Supports
• Enhancing relationships in the community
• Neighborliness: Someone watches out for you
Adult
Parental & Post-Parent Adulthood
Transition to Adulthood (Parental and Community)
Person with Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities
Child
(Parental Care)
Planning for Aging
• Post Family Support
• Guardianship
• Special Needs Trust Fund management
• Guidance will or statement of family intent
Continuing Education
(Including Secondary Education and Life Long Learning)
Planning/prepping for post high school training/support
Financial Support
Including access to financial resources such as SSI/SSDI
Transportation
Walkability, or Driving, Accessible Public Transportation, services to provide transportation, volunteer transportation, transportation, as a means to everything else here
Housing
Permanent/Supportive (post parental homes)
Pivotal to Stability
Section 8 or rental subsidy necessary for affordability
Health Care
• General Medical Care
• Mental Health
• Pharmaceutical care
• Dental
• Sexuality
• Therapies- speech and physical
• Health Leisure activities; nutrition, exercise
Employment
Financial sustainability (wealth accumulation and personal achievement)
Volunteerism/giving back (helping others/gaining respect)
Support to the employee and employer
Natural Community Supports
• Enhancing relationships in the community
• Neighborliness: Someone watches out for you
Natural Community Supports
• Spirituality
Developing Peer Supports
• Developing a Stable Support Network
Community
Community

"SO, WHAT DO YOU DO?"

For many Americans, work is

- an expectation of adults
- central to their identity
- a path to relationships
- needed for financial security

DISTURBING STATISTICS

- The employment rate of adults with disabilities is 30.5% (vs. 79.8%)
- The poverty rate for people with disabilities is 300% greater than for those without disabilities.
- Only 1% of recipients ever stop receiving SSI

"EMPLOYMENT FIRST"

Began in response to abysmal employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.

Has become a national movement inclusive of a wider population

Focuses on individual skills & interests

Integrated employment at competitive wages

EMPLOYMENT FIRST-NATIONALLY

- 20+ states have passed some type of legislation
- Each state's policy is different
- Making a systemic commitment to employment improves outcomes!

EMPLOYMENT FIRST IN MAINE

- From the Alliance for Full Participation to EFM
- Why legislation?

EMPLOYMENT FIRST MAINE: KEY POINTS

- Promotes the right to the opportunity to integrated, community-based employment
- Requires state agencies to prioritize employment as a core service
- Requires interagency data sharing and coordination
- Formally establishes Employment First Maine

EMP 1ST DOES

- Require that employment be seriously considered for anyone with a service plan
- Require state agencies to prioritize employment as a core service
- Require state agencies to share data

EMP 1ST DOES NOT

- Require anyone to work
- Require anyone to forgo essential services
- Change the availability of current non work services or subminimum wage employment

EMPLOYMENT FIRST MAINE : CURRENT STATUS

- Bill drafted
- Sponsored by Senator Justin Alfond
- Bill has not been printed
- Bill text may be changed upon printing
- Public hearing, work session, etc

SOME ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Short term

- Increased opportunities for employment
- Better tracking of outcomes
- More coordinated systems

Long term

- Early expectations that children with disabilities will work
- Inclusion of people with disabilities in the general workforce
- Adequate funding for employment supports

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS

RESOURCES

- http://www.employmentforme.org/
- http://www.maineapse.org/index.html
- http://www.dol.gov/odep/
- http://www.ndrn.org/images/Documents/Resources/Publications/Reports/Segregated-and-Exploited.pdf
- http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org/

THANK YOU!