



Enhancing the
Experience of Dignity of
Risk

Dignity of Risk

“People with ID/DD are often overprotected; that others make choices for them that they could make by themselves; and they are often kept from experiencing and growing from failure.”

Robert Perske, 1972

Dignity of Risk

..... healthy development can be increased by risk taking and its absence can be crippling.

We learn from our mistakes!



Dignity of Risk



Dignity of Risk

- Support needs are different for everyone.
- How to gain approval & stand up for yourself?
- Getting out of comfort zone is scary.
- Rebellion may be later and unexpected for persons with ID/DD. Risk taking is progressive.
- 'Kids' in the middle of parents & providers.

Opportunities for Change:

- Service Delivery Models
- Funding
- Systems
- US: Persons with ID/DD, Parents and Providers

Self-Directed Service Models

“Consumer Control”

- Decision making authority over certain services.
- Direct responsibility to manage services with the assistance of a system of available supports.
- An alternative to the traditionally delivered and managed services.

Opportunities for Change: Service Models

Dignity of Risk = Self determination = Choice

- Over types of services
- Over how funds are spent

Opportunities for Change: Funding

- State Plan Options
- Section 1915c Waivers: Home and Community Based Services Waivers
- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act options (Obama Care)

Opportunities for Change: Systems

- Assessment of Needs
- Person Centered Planning Process
- Service Plans begin with individual strengths
- Individualized budget based on support needs
- System of supports and resources
- Transparency in resource allocation

Lessons Learned - Other States

- There has been a high level of consumer satisfaction with self directed plans.
- “Broker role” = bridge builders.
- Build additional roles that are sensitive to the varying levels of clients’ needs.
- Starting slow allows for adjustments.

Lessons Learned – Other States

- A IT infrastructure to support individualized spending.
- Be open minded to change & opportunity.
- Utilize quality assurance to monitor client choice and satisfaction with planning and goal setting processes.



Future Considerations ...

Clients and Families

- Form a consumer driven stakeholders group that 'brings a voice' to what people want in their lives.
- Allow for support of family members.
- Start the conversation.
- Support persons in gaining approval from their families.

Providers

- **Annual Plans** address how the team supports client's choice and dignity of risk.
- Scarce **resources allocated** on basis of need.
- **Training and education** to help caregivers gain skills that promote client independence.
- **Quality** is built in from the beginning.
- Utilize **performance based contracting** to capture the expectation that agencies are enhancing dignity of risk in their services.
- **Needs don't end with service.**

System

- The current system is not sustainable.
- Balance public accountability with private control of money.
- Get stakeholders on board.



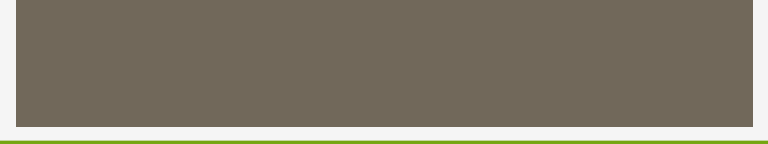
Questions?



THANK-YOU!

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