

Community Integration

An Essential Way of Life for All



Community Integration is...

“The opportunity to live in the community, and be valued for one’s uniqueness and ability, like everyone else.” (Salzer, 2006)



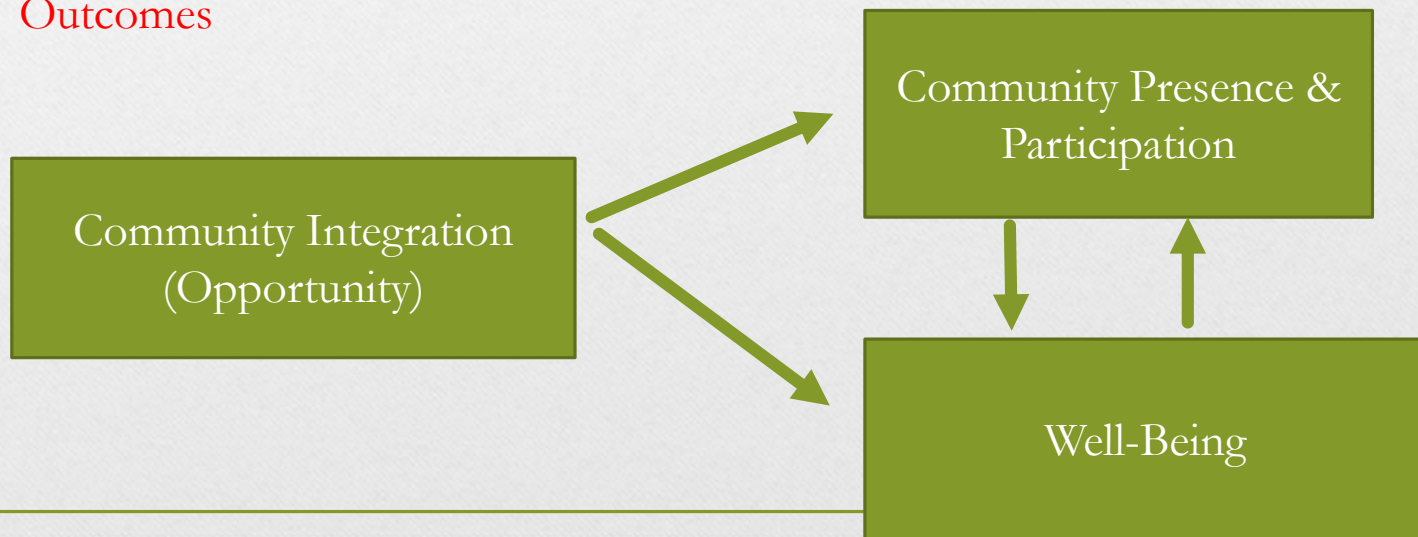
Community Integration Encompasses:



- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Health Status
- Leisure/ Recreational
- Spirituality/ Religion
- Citizenship
- Valued Social Roles (i.e. marriage, parenting)
- Peer Support
- Self-Determination

Community Integration (or the opportunity to live like everyone else) should result in community presence & participation of people with disabilities similar to that of all others without disabilities.

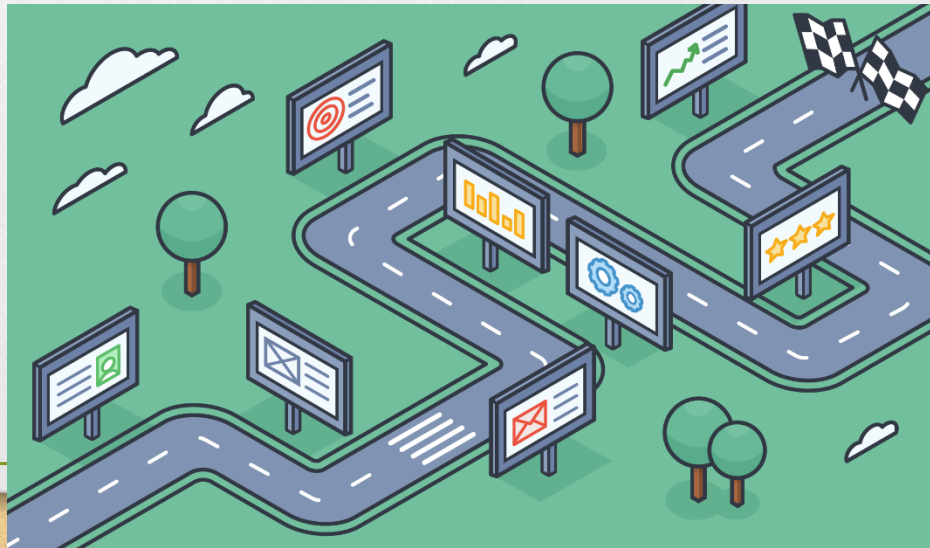
Outcomes



Community Integration

Why promote community integration?

Community Integration is a road map to empowerment by creating an environment that facilitates individual well-being



Community Integration Principles: Rights, Roles, Responsibilities

- Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) - Title II: requires governments to give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all programs, services, and activities
- Department of Justice “Integration Regulation”: services, programs, and activities must be delivered in a way that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled people to the fullest extent possible
- Supreme Court Olmstead decision (1999): unnecessary institutionalization is a form of discrimination prohibited by the ADA
- Bush Executive Order (2001): requires federal agencies to work with states to ensure community integration



Community Integration Principles: Rights, Roles, Responsibilities

- **Community integration offers opportunities for participation in varied roles.**
 - Employment, education, housing, civic life, family, friendships, peer support, intimate relationships, spirituality, health and wellness, leisure/recreation, finances
- **Community integration promotes a sense of responsibility**
 - Like everyone else, people with disabilities have a range of responsibilities, from monitoring their own health and welfare to being responsive to the needs and concerns of their communities



Community Integration Principles: Participation Dimensions

Participation Less Like
Everyone Else

Participation More
Like Everyone Else

Institution/Agency-Based ----- Community-Based participation
Staff-directed participation ----- Person-directed participation
Separation ----- Association



Community Integration Principles: Participation Dimensions

- Community integration is founded on consumer choice and self-determination
- Community integration involves use of natural support
- Community integration means access to mainstream resources



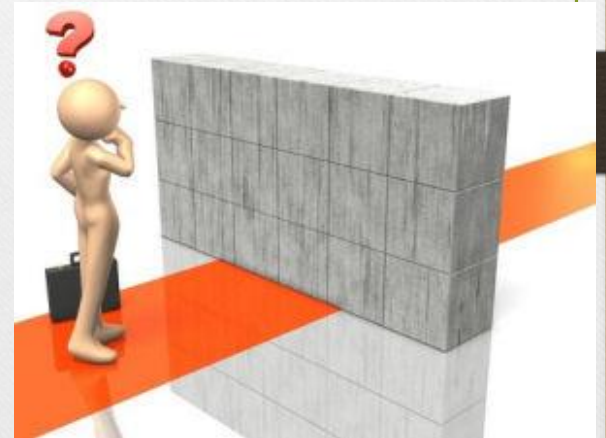
Community Integration Principles: Participation Dimensions

- Shift in views about disability
 - Old paradigm: “Disability” is something inherent within an individual
 - New contextual paradigm: “Disability” results from a person- environment interaction that reduces opportunities for people to live like everyone else
- Reduce “disability” and increase opportunity by
 - Identifying, reducing, and eliminating environmental barriers
 - Identify individual needs and make individualized supports readily available



Common Environmental Barriers

- Discrimination
- Finances
- Disempowerment
- Transportation



General Principles:



- Individuals with disabilities should have the opportunity to live like people without disabilities. They should have the opportunity to be employed, have a place to call home, and be engaged in the community with family and friends.
- Individuals with disabilities should have control over their own day, including which job or educational or leisure activities they pursue.
- Individuals with disabilities should have control over where and how they live, including the opportunity to live in their own apartment or home.

Employment:

- Individuals with disabilities should have the opportunity to be employed in non-segregated, regular workplaces.
- Virtually all individuals with disabilities can be employed and earn the same wages as people without disabilities.
- When needed for such employment, they should have access to supported or customized employment.
- They should be afforded options other than sheltered work, day treatment, clubhouses, and other segregated programs.



Choice:



-
- Individuals with disabilities should have the opportunity to make informed choices.
 - They must have full and accurate information about their options, including what services and financial support are available in integrated settings.
 - They should have the opportunity to visit integrated settings and talk to individuals with similar disabilities working and living in integrated settings.
 - Their concerns about integrated settings should be explored and addressed.

Common Individual Needs

- Rediscovering hopes, dreams, and desires
- Self-stigma
- Accessing community resources
- Skills training
- Personal assistance and support



Community Integration Practices

- **Citizenship**
 - Promote volunteering
 - Identifying volunteer opportunities
 - Full membership in civic groups (Aktion Club, Elks Club, Knights of Columbus, etc.)
- **Religion/Spirituality**
 - Congregant helper/support network
 - Congregation education
 - Attend church
- **Leisure/Recreation**
 - Developing partnership with health club (YMCA, Planet Fitness, memberships or internships)
 - Sporting events
- **Financial**
 - Work-out buddy
 - Community employment
 - Self-sufficient
- **Social Roles**
 - Dating & intimacy education
 - Parenting supports
 - Joining leagues (golfing, bowling, etc.)
- **Self-Determination**
 - Individual councils