



## The Nation Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems

### Transcript to a short video "We Are The Collective" with Shain Neumeier for NCAPPS Pandemic Wisdom series

*Shain N. Neumeier is an attorney, activist, community organizer, and proud member of the disability & LGBTQ+ communities. They are a passionate advocate for the autonomy of young, disabled and queer people. You can [follow them](#) on twitter to learn more.*

It would be a mistake to pretend like collective care and person-centered care are a big dichotomy or somehow in opposition to one another because the collective is made out of all of us. The collective loses something when it loses any one of its members, so we can't be forgetting right now that every one of those members matters. If we lose one, it's a harm. If we lose five, it's a harm. If we lose a thousand, it's a harm. And each one of those people who we lose counts, and each one who we save matters. And in the process, we can't lose sight of people's value, of their, of their individual consciousness, of their wishes. We can't write anybody off as either valueless or like they don't have any meaningful autonomy or that they shouldn't. We need to not lose sight of the fact that people will have preferences as far as their care. We can't impose our own ideas of who's valuable and who's not valuable, if I were this person, I would not consider my life less worth living than the next person. Collective care means looking after each one of us even or sometimes especially the people who are most at risk of being thrown away.