



National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems

Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement: A Collaborative Approach to Programs for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

Summary of a webinar from January 22, 2020

Introduction

This webinar gave an example about how Tennessee worked with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families in systems change.

Tennessee Employment and Community First

In Tennessee, there is a program for people with IDD called Employment and Community First (ECF). It is offered through the state's managed care program. During planning meetings, the support team first talks about how to help the person find a job. They focus on jobs people want in the community. Along with any other supports they need like job coaching. This program is working well! The number of people who have jobs is higher than the average across the US.

"Can managed care be person-centered?" Patti says, "Yes, but it doesn't happen automatically."

The ECF program is successful because it was developed together with state IDD partners, the DD Council, and people who use services and their families. This strong partnership was built over many years. It started with person-centered planning efforts. During this project, they held monthly meetings with people from all levels. So, when ECF was going to launch, the groundwork was already there to work closely the same groups of people. This includes people with disabilities and their families.

Personal Stories

Eric was one of the first to use ECF. Eric has worked at a local grocery store for many years. He has other support services through ECF. Gina, Eric's mom, says "He is an important part of our community. He has built relationships outside the family."

Clancey uses the CHOICES Program in Tennessee and serves on the DD Council. She thinks it is very important for people with disabilities to have leadership roles. It eliminates stigma and showcases what people with disabilities are able to do.

The speakers on this webinar were:

	<p>Eric Wilson is a self-advocate, participating in his community and workplace. He has been employed with Publix for ten years and is an all-around athlete in Special Olympics. His hobbies include photography, anything athletic and traveling. His favorite sports are power lifting, swimming and basketball.</p>
	<p>Gina Wilson is the Director of the Early Learning Program at Waves, Inc., serving children from birth to three years who have a disability or developmental delay in Williamson County and six surrounding counties. She has been an advocate for 33 years, focusing on inclusion and empowerment.</p>
	<p>Patti Killingsworth is the TennCare Assistant Commissioner and Chief of LTSS. She has worked in Medicaid for two decades, leading system redesign in multiple states. Her commitment is to transform systems to better serve individuals and families, and to bring their voice to bear in state policy and program decisions.</p>
	<p>Wanda Willis has been the Executive Director of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities since 1991. The Council is a state agency established to improve disability policies and practice, educate policymakers and the public, and facilitate community collaboration to create lasting, positive change for Tennesseans with disabilities and their families.</p>
	<p>Clancey Hopper moved to Tennessee as a young adult for Project Opportunity, preparing her for many successful jobs including as tour guide at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. Clancey serves on the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Board of Directors for Prospect, Inc. and the Board of Trustees for the National Williams Syndrome Association.</p>
	<p>Jordan Allen is the Deputy Commissioner of Program Operations for the TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Under his leadership, Deputy Commissioner Allen has championed and implemented community integration strategies, vocational training, integrated employment supports and enabling technology for persons with disabilities that have gained national recognition.</p>