

Integration and Independence

The Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement

December 2009

Independent Living Movement

*“Create a new social paradigm and emphasize that people with disabilities are the best experts at their own needs, that they have a crucial and valuable perspective to contribute to society and **are deserving of equal opportunity to decide how to live, work and take part in their communities.**”*

National Council on Independent
Living

Olmstead v. L.C and E.W.

The integration mandate of the ADA requires public agencies to provide services in the “most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified persons with disabilities”

What Do People with Disabilities Want?

SIMPLE: What Everybody Wants.....to live, work and participate in their community life.

What Are Key Components of Community Life?

- **HOUSING:** affordable, adequate, accessible and integrated
- **EDUCATION:** affordable, adequate, accessible and integrated
- **EMPLOYMENT:** competitive, adequate, accessible and integrated

What Role Does Case Management Play in This?

- These three components should provide a foundation for assisting your members.
- As a key point person in the life of a person with a disability, you are uniquely positioned as a resource/support for attaining a better community life.
- Changing paradigms always requires everybody's cooperation and effort.

Why is This Important?

- Understanding these components and working on them will have a positive impact on people's lives.
- All federal and state policy is moving in this direction and focusing on integration and independence.
- The law requires it.

Arizona's Success

- Strong Independent Living movement
- Higher percentage of people living in the community
- Very few institutions.

Centers for Independent Living

- Goal is to assist individuals to reach maximum potential within their families and communities.
- Information and Referral, Independent Living Skills Training, Peer Support and Individual/Systems Advocacy are Core Services.
- Centers located throughout Arizona:
www.azsilc.org.