

About the Council Missouri Planning

Community Quality of Life ! Living

The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (MPCDD) is a federally funded, 23-member, consumer-driven council appointed by the Governor. Its mandate, under P.L. 106-402 (The Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act) is to plan, advocate for, and give advice concerning programs and services for persons with developmental disabilities that will increase their opportunities for independence, productivity, and integration into communities.

The Council's Mission is:

To assist the community to include all people with developmental disabilities in every aspect of life. The council believes this mission will be achieved when people with developmental disabilities:

- Make informed choices about where they live, work, play, and worship;
- Receive individual and family supports which are flexible, based on need, and provided in a culturally sensitive manner;
- Have the opportunity to engage in productive employment and meaningful retirement;
- Experience continued growth toward their full potential;
- Live in homes with the availability of individualized supports;
- Are treated with dignity and respect;
- Attend school with their peers in regular classrooms in neighborhood schools, and
- Are members of powerful advocacy networks made up of individuals, parents and family members.

The Council also believes that individuals, parents and family members are the most powerful forces in forging a responsive and flexible support network for people with developmental disabilities.

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Historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities in large facilities and institutions.

In Missouri, there continues to be a strong institutional orientation regarding where people with developmental disabilities live. A significant portion of residential resources are spent on relatively few people who live in institutional settings.

*In June 1999, the Supreme Court ruled in *L.C. & E.W. vs. Olmstead* that it is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act for states to discriminate against people with disabilities by providing services in institutions when the individual could be served more appropriately in a community-based setting.*

"We are Americans too! We want to be included in all communities in our great nation and to have all the rights and responsibilities of full citizenship. We need to be safe and free at the same time. We know how to do this. Few American communities are listening." -- Alliance for Full Participation, 2005

Individuals with developmental disabilities *DO* successfully live, work, learn, play, participate in and are vital members of their *community!*

Community Settings Result in Improved Quality of Life

Individuals with developmental disabilities actively engage in the community and shop at neighborhood grocery stores --
Just Like You Do!



Individuals with developmental disabilities actively participate in daily activities required to take care of their homes --
Just Like You Do!



Nationally . . .
Since 1980, 38 research studies have indicated that people who move into communities from institutions show improvements in daily living skills, community participation, frequency of contact with family members and others in the community, greater choice, and satisfaction.
Kim, Larson & Lakin, 1999



Individuals with developmental disabilities engage in their community in recreation and social activities --
Just Like You Do!

“All relevant research supports the fact that community settings result in improved *Quality of Life*” --
AAMR, et.al. 2004



Individuals with developmental disabilities participate in activities --
Just Like You Do!



The most recent research (Gardner, 2003) establishes the fact that there are no increased risks related to health and wellness, abuse or safety when community affiliation, choice and self-determination are increased.

Individuals with developmental disabilities attend school with their peers and are included as a part of their community --
Just Like You Do!



People with developmental disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as other citizens, including the opportunity and responsibility to direct their own lives.

