

# The Evolution and Response to a Community Living Mandate

Alabama Disability Conference

September 10, 2019

Birmingham, Alabama



# Welcome

Eric M Peebles PhD, CRC

Executive Director, Accessible Alabama

Co-chair, Disability Leadership Coalition of Alabama (DLCA)



# Learning Objectives

- During this presentation participants will...
  - Gain knowledge about the evolution of the community living movement
  - Share knowledge about the challenges of facilitating community living in Alabama
  - Be introduced to the Accessible Alabama Community Readiness Assessment and its utility as a tool beginning a dialogue about needed considerations to promote successful community living for an individual

# Olmstead vs. LC

**The 1999 Supreme Court decision that requires states to administer their services, programs and activities, “in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.”**

# Most Integrated Setting

**A setting that enables individuals with qualifying disabilities to interact with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible.**

# Qualifying Disability

**Title II of the ADA defines an individual with a qualifying disability as a person with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity.**

# Public Accommodations

- **Title II of the Act addresses Public Services, whether provided directly by, or on behalf of, a public entity.**
- **A public entity is defined as:**
  - Any State or local government;
  - Any department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or local government; and
  - The National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

# Service Provision Guidelines

- **Under the Court’s Olmstead decision, states are required to provide community-based services for persons with disabilities who would otherwise be entitled to institutional services when:**
  - **The State’s treatment professionals reasonably determine that such placement is appropriate;**
  - **The affected persons do not oppose such treatment; and**
  - **The placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others who are receiving state-supported disability services.**



The Human Experience

# CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION IN ALABAMA

# Statistics

There are over \_\_\_\_\_ people with disabilities in Alabama who are under age 65, dependent on Medicaid and living in nursing homes.

\_\_\_\_\_% of them want more community-based housing options.

# Statistics

There are over **4600 people with disabilities in Alabama who are under age 65**, dependent on Medicaid and living in **nursing homes.**

**78%** of them want more community-based housing options.

# Statistics

At the same time, the aging population is rapidly growing—especially in Alabama. By 2025, **over \_\_\_\_\_ people in Alabama will be over 65**—that is an increase of \_\_\_\_% in just 15 years.

As people age, the rate of disability rises dramatically. \_\_\_\_% of Medicare recipients report 2 or more disabling or chronic conditions.

# Statistics

At the same time, the aging population is rapidly growing—especially in Alabama. By 2025, **over 1 million people in Alabama will be over 65**—that is an increase of 57% in just 15 years.

As people age, the rate of disability rises dramatically. 74% of Medicare recipients report 2 or more disabling or chronic conditions.



Understanding the Theory

# REVIEW OF LITERATURE

# Quality of Life

- A Universally Important Concern
- Societally shared set of ideas
- Culturally, and Personally constructed/influenced construct

# Domains of Life

- Physical and Mental Health
- Family
- Friends
- Work
- Leisure
- Marriage/intimacy
- Financial security
- Living situation
- Religion/Spirituality
- Community participation (voting, engaging in civic and community activities)

# Well-being – Life Satisfaction

- An Evolutionary Role
- A Functional Role
- An Adaptive Role
- A Predictive Capacity
- A Protective-Adaptive Role
- A Homeostatic Mechanism

# Evolution of Quality of Life in the Social Sciences

- Social indicators and Population Studies
- Shift in Focus: Group to Individual
- Theory Development and the Recognition of Clinical and Research Potential
- Quality of Life in Rehabilitation Counseling

# Challenges in Defining

- Lacks uniform or consistent definition
- Many different disciplines use the concept with different purposes and measurement techniques. (Anderson and Burckhardt, 1999; Farquhar, 1995)

# Quality of Life (QOL) Defined

- The subjective and personally derived sense of overall well being that results from an evaluation of happiness or satisfaction across an aggregate of personally or clinically important domains

# Haplern (1993)

- Domains
  - Mental and physical well-being
    - Basic entitlements that should be available for all
  - Performance of adult roles
    - Encompass the ways in which a person interacts with the environment
  - Sense of personal fulfillment
    - Entirely person centered
    - Build successively upon one another

# Mental and Physical Well-Being

- Basic entitlements available to all
  - Food, clothing, and lodging
  - Safety from harm
  - Financial Security

# Performance of Adult Roles

- Mobility and community access
  - Able to use transportation effectively
- Vocation, career, and employment
  - Attain employment aligned with career interests
- Leisure and recreation
  - Pursues activities of their choice during free time
- Cultivation of personal relationships and social networks
  - Positive involvement with friends

# Performance of Adult Roles Cont.

- Education attainment
  - Earning high school completion documents (diploma/GED)
- Spiritual fulfillment
  - Participates in spiritual activities of their choice
- Citizenship
  - Exercises right to vote without the influence of others
- Social responsibility
  - Understands obligations to obey law

# Sense of Personal Fulfillment

- Happiness
  - Transient
  - Reflects current events
- Satisfaction
  - Behavior patterns and events over long period
  - Related to specific adult role
- Sense of general well-being
  - Enduring satisfaction with personal quality of life
  - Irrespective events and conditions that lead to happiness



Theory in Practice

# COMMUNITY READINESS ASSESSMENT

# Readiness Assessment

- Accessible Alabama has developed the community readiness assessment to help individuals interested in community living consider the skills necessary to do so with the greatest likelihood of success. Based on best practices in rehabilitation and community transition literature, the assessment examines eight common adult roles and identifies tasks associated with effectively fulfilling each.
- The assessment provides participants and their supports links to community resources that may assist with the transition. These resources are tailored as closely as possible to the community where a participant wishes to reside based upon the ZIP code provided.

[Take the Assessment](#)



# Available Resources:

Accessible Alabama- <http://accessiblealabama.org>

Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities- <http://acdd.org>

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)- [adap.ua.edu](http://adap.ua.edu)

Alabama's Gateway to Community Living-  
<https://gclportal.medicaid.alabama.gov/>

US Department of Veterans Affairs- <http://www.va.gov>

Universal Design- <http://www.universaldesign.com>

Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama-  
<http://www.collaborative-solutions.net/Programs/lihca.html>

HUD- <http://portal.hud.gov>

Americans with Disabilities- <http://www.ada.gov>

# STAR Program:

STAR, Alabama's Assistive Technology Act program, is administered through the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Since its inception in 1994, STAR has been and continues to be a resource to provide Alabamians free access to information, referral services, educational programs, and publications in accessible format on extensive topics related to disability rights, laws/policies, and funding opportunities for assistive technology.

<http://www.rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/star>



# Thank You

For More Information Contact...

Eric M. Peebles, PhD, CRC

President and Chief Executive Officer

Abilities Unlimited DBA Accessible Alabama

888-678-2767 (Toll-Free)

[eric@accessiblealabama.org](mailto:eric@accessiblealabama.org)

[www.accessiblealabama.org](http://www.accessiblealabama.org)

