

“Discovery consists of
looking at the same thing
as everyone else and
thinking something
different.”

A.Szent-Gyorgyi

What Do People Want?

- To be supported to get:
 - Meaningful Day Activities (Interesting things to do)
 - To Live in their Own Home (Housing)
 - To Be Able to Get Around (Transportation)
 - Lots of Friends (Social Capital)

How have we done?

- The majority of vulnerable folks are often in idle situations. 76% of p/wd are unemployed
- Many people are still institutionalized or have to leave their home for medical/support reasons
- Most communities have no or very limited public transportation options
- Social Capital networks decline – many people end up in socially isolated realities

Why Haven't We Done Better?

How Can We Do Better?

We Use A Flawed Paradigm

Paradigms

“A paradigm is a set of rules and regulations that:

- 1) Defines boundaries
- 2) Tells you what to do to be successful within those boundaries”

Joel Barker

How Paradigms are Influenced

- Moral Issues – Vulnerable have fallen out of favor
- Economic Issues – Vulnerable lose/don't work
- Institutional Issues – Vulnerable should be together
- Medical Issues – Vulnerable should be treated/fixed

Medical/Clinical Paradigm

- Looks at deficits or deficiencies
- Separates and congregates
- Relies on Experts to make decisions
- Attempts to fix the person

Sociological/Cultural Implications

- Vulnerable people are unemployed more often
- They are often segregated into their own world
- They become stigmatized and stereotyped
- They have less chance to build social capital
- They have more sick days – but are treated less
- Their mortality data is above the average

Detailed Medical Paradigm

- The person is the problem
- The problem is in the person
- The person is labeled
- The label leads to separation
- The experts do an assessment
- The person gets a treatment plan
- The program attempts to fix the problem

Difference Model

- Identifies and highlights the difference
- The difference is identified in stereotypes
- The stereotypes separates the person
- The person is then avoided/stigmatized

Effects of Difference

- Person is Misunderstood
- Person is Avoided
- Person is Not Welcomed
- Person is Banned
- Person is Banished
- Person is Isolated
- Person Dies Sooner

Results of Clinical Treatment Model

- Separate programs for vulnerable
- Hi Rises – segregated residential settings
- Limited Work Opportunities – insurance risk
- Clubhouses – Support Groups
- Limited Relationships, except with others w/vulnerabilities
- Separate recreational programs

IS THIS AS GOOD AS IT
GETS?

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice”

W.J. Bryan

The Magic Wand

If you could wish for 3 things for yourself or someone you love, what would they be?

Quality of Life Indicators

- Healthfulness
- Happiness
- Longevity

Research Shows

- Healthfulness
 - Happiness
 - Longevity
-
- ARE ALL TIED TO SOCIAL CAPITAL

Research Also Shows

That Social Capital is related to:

- People getting jobs
- People finding others to live with
- People finding rides/transportation
- People being more tolerant, respectful, kind, helpful and the like
- That most pro-social behaviors increase
- People advance or achieve more

What is Social Capital?

- It is nothing more than relationships and friendships that people have in their lives
- It leads to people being more tolerant, cooperative and reciprocal
- It leads to people resolving problems more easily
- It enhances physiological/psychological functioning

Simply Stated

The more (quantity and quality) social capital you have, the healthier you are, the happier you are, the more you achieve, the longer you live, and the better the outcomes are in your life.

“To think is to differ”

C. Darrow

Building Social Capital

- We need to stop thinking clinically and focus our attention on the community
- We must understand how community operates
- We must find ways to reverse institutionalization and clinical approaches
- We must listen to people and allow them to decide
- We must help people build social capital

“Social problems stem not from individual differences or deficits, but from the failure of society to meet the needs of all its members”

L. Gutierrez

Building Social Capital

- Identify our key areas of interest/affinity
- Find the matching group or community
- Understand how these communities behave
- Finding a gatekeeper to acceptance

The Gatekeeper

Someone already in the community who has some influence or authority over the other members. They can have formal or informal influence, and can affect how people react to new things in either positive or negative ways.

Magic of Community

When Similarities Override Differences

He who would be a leader, let him first become
a bridge.

The Bridgebuilder

An old man going a lone highway, came at the evening cold and gray, to a chasm vast deep and wide; the old man crossed in the twilight dim, the sullen stream held no fear for him, but he turned when safe on the other side and built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man” said a fellow pilgrim near, “you are wasting your time with building here, you never again will pass this way, your journey will end with the close of the day, you have crossed the chasm deep and wide, why build you this bridge at even tide.”

The builder lifted his old gray head. “Good friend, in the way that I’ve come,” he said. “There follows after me this day, a youth whose feet must pass this way. This stream which has been nothing to me, to the fair haired youth might a pitfall be. Yes he too must cross in the twilight dim; Good friend, I am building this bridge – for him.”

“We must become the change we wish to create.”

Gandhi

“In a new sense, all life is interrelated. All persons are caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be, until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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