Integrated Community Project

SHA Membership Meeting

February 3, 2021
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Poll Question:

*In what ways do you personally feel engaged in the community where you live?*
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Goal:

Increase the capacity of people with disabilities to become fully engaged in their communities
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How will we begin to reach our goal?

- Over 18-month timeline

- Through capacity Building grant funding through NJ Dept. of Human Services Division of Disability Services

- With municipalities in Bergen, Camden and Ocean Counties
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How will we begin to reach our goal? (cont.)

• With experience of people with a variety of disabilities including physical, intellectual and developmental, mental health and substance abuse disorders and who experience homelessness or are elderly

• Through focus groups in partnership with two main partners New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness & New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
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How will we begin to reach our goal? (cont.)

- With help of leadership teams made up of people with disabilities and staff of organizations that serve them
- Survey and assess current successes and opportunities
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Poll Question:

People with a Variety of Disabilities feel that they are engaged and integrated in the day to day life of my community
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NJ’s Communities & People with Disabilities

- Striven to be truly inclusive and integrated for 30 years
- Room to further shift definition of inclusion & grow integration
- Expanded leadership opportunities for people with a variety of disabilities in the municipalities where they live
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What will be critical role of individuals with disabilities?

• Fully define community integration and engagement as they see it

• With people who support them, lead work towards equity and reducing stereotypes and decreasing prejudice

• Assist in developing system to celebrate, assess, measure, and evaluate progress towards and opportunities for community integration in their municipalities
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Poll Question:

*My community’s views on the importance of access to aspects of life in our community for all people with or without disabilities ...*
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Supporting municipalities towards fuller integration?

• Ultimately, provided tools and resources to fully engage all in community life

• Shift paradigm from compliance with laws and regulations towards value of all individuals

• Encouragement of further decisions by communities to move toward full inclusivity of and understanding of people with all abilities
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Expected Impact Beyond Project’s Timeline

- Potentially, impact 300,000 individuals living in municipalities in three initial counties who live with a variety of disabilities

- Eventually, more and more communities will use the developed tools to further assess and integrate their communities
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How can you and your organization get involved?

Contact Kate Kelly at kate.Kelly@shanj.org if you:

• Live with a disability of any type in a municipality in Bergen, Camden or Ocean County
• Are part of:
  • A Regional or statewide organization or agency serving people with disabilities OR
  • An organization or agency that works in a municipality Bergen, Camden or Ocean Counties to assist people with disabilities