

Ethics and Disability

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Service Reform Paradigm - 1

Institutional Reform Period

- Person referred to as a patient
- Custodial/Medical model
- Institutionally based
- Care Plan
- Priority on health and safety

Service Reform Paradigm - 2

Deinstitutionalization Period

- Person referred to as a client
- Developmental/Behavioral Model
- Services in group homes and sheltered workshops: community based
- Individual Habilitation Plan
- Priority on rehabilitation, behavior management, skill development

Service Reform Paradigm - 3

Community Membership Period

- Person is considered a citizen
- Services provided in home, school, workplace, community
- Individualized supports
- Personal Futures/Person Centered Planning
- Focus on self-determination, relationships, and quality of life
- Person/family is in control

Current Trends and Challenges

- Increased Demand for Services: Waiting Lists for services.
- Advances in Medical Procedures and Treatment
- Changing Expectations of Families and Individuals
- Lack of an Adequate Workforce
- Limits of Human Service Systems; Community Engagement
- Technology Advancements

Ethical Dilemmas

- Institutional vs. home and community based care
- Choice and Dignity of Risk
- Disability and stigma and how it impacts quality of care
- Lack of universal health care coverage

Ethical Dilemmas

- Funding and the cost of care: Who receives services and how much?
- Advances in medical science which save lives and increase longevity but at what cost?
- Lack of availability of medical and home care professionals
- Cost of long term care as baby boomers age: How will the US afford it? Crisis in Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare.

Discussion Questions

- What are some of the tension points between a medical model (institutional reform period) and a consumer-directed, social model of service delivery (community membership period)?
- What are some ways, through our own prejudices and fears, that we perpetuate some of the older conceptions of disability?
- How might our communities be different if we viewed disability as a natural part of life and included people with disabilities in all aspects of community life?