

**Presentation to
Children & Seniors Committee**

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Social Movements That Influenced The Independent Living Philosophy

- **Civil Rights Movement**
 - The belief that all humans deserve equal rights & no group of persons should be treated as second class citizens
- **Deinstitutionalization**
 - Wolfensberger theory of “Normalization” (1972) – “People with developmental disability should live in the most ‘normal’ setting possible if they are to be expected to behave ‘normally’”
- **The “Self-Help” Movement**
 - 1950’s the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous – peer support, development of support systems
- **Consumerism**
 - Individuals having options and choices

Tenets of IL Philosophy

- **Consumer Choice** – Individuals with disabilities have various options in which to choose, such as, where they want to live, type of job or career they want to pursue, where they receive services, and the providers from whom they can receive services
- **Consumer Control** – The ability to determine how services are provided – self-direction
- **Peer Support** – Having a network of peers with disabilities to provide information on similar life experiences – limits reinventing the wheel
- **Individuality** – Eliminate grouping by labels, reduces preconceived beliefs of a persons limitations
- **Removal of Barriers** – Recognizing that society's physical and attitudinal barriers limits a person with a disability's options

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) encompass the Independent Living Philosophy

- HCBS give individuals the choice of staying in the community as oppose to being place in institutional settings
- The individual may choose to self-direct their services, thereby having control of, and responsibility for, hiring, training, supervising and firing their personal care attendant
- Community integration – When people with disabilities live in their communities it raises expectations of the individual, and society that they will become productive members of their community.

The Entitlement Mentality Trap

Whether a person is born with a disability or acquires one later in life, he or she faces some of the following road blocks, which may lead to the Entitlement Trap

- Medical professionals/service providers focus on individual's future inabilities
- Lack of emphasis put on academic achievement or employment
- Lack of parental/family peer support
- Low expectations for future regarding independence, employment, economic self-sufficiency
- Assessments based on label verses actual needs

Raising Expectations

- All people with disabilities should have the expectations that they can work in an integrated setting making a competitive wage
- Service Providers should ensure that people with disabilities are informed of all their options, including assistive technology, so that they may make informed decisions
- Supports and services need to be made available so that people with disabilities can obtain and maintain integrated employment
- Current service systems need to be examined to ensure that goal of the system is to advance independent living and economic self sufficiency of the individual with a disability