

Develop Buy-In Plan – Conversation Guide Example

Community Integration



What community integration is about:

Ability Beyond is transforming day and work services into integrated, community-based services by providing individuals with options based on their preferences and abilities.

Why are we doing this:

- Like all Americans, people with disabilities want to be employed, educated and participating in their communities to lead full and satisfying lives. Ability Beyond wants to continue to be at the cutting edge to make this happen.
- Funding is being redirected. Presently, 75% of Federal and State funding for persons with disabilities goes to institutional programs and 25% goes to community-based services. The trend is changing, however, and a reverse-ratio is expected in the near future. There is an overall decrease in funding at both the state and federal level for segregated work and day services. 43% of our day and work services are presently in segregated settings. The self-determination movement, the Olmstead Decision and our own data indicate that people expect and desire community-based, non-segregated settings. We simply do not presently have the services that people with disabilities desire and that funding sources will pay for. We need to create the services that people desire and will purchase if we are to continue to operate.

What it looks like:

- Ability Beyond is shifting to become a “program without walls,” transferring services from central facilities to community sites. Ability Beyond is delivering our entire network of vocational, residential, recreational, rehabilitative and medical services to the people we serve in local, individualized settings. This transition changes the use of our physical premises, it increases staffing and training needs and requires the incorporation of new technology.
- Ability Beyond is creating and developing an increasingly competent and dedicated workforce to serve people with disabilities in their community settings.

What can you do:

Everyone must be involved in the planning and implementing process. No one can stand outside the process. Your ideas, support and commitment are vital to achieving the goal.