

Polk County Positive Behavior Support Network

An interagency coalition promoting positive support to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities.

Members

PROVIDING A LIFE REQUIRES THINKING “OUTSIDE THE BOX”

Candeo

When faced with adaptive problems, we challenge the status quo in order to come up with creative supports. Dr. Pomeranz praised the Polk County Positive Behavior Support Network of community living service providers' efforts in supporting individuals with disabilities. He additionally indicated our network goes beyond traditional PBS and re-framed our PBS acronym:

CASS
Incorporated

- P - Psychological, Psychiatric (and Pro-active)
- B - Biological, Medical
- S - Social, Environmental

ChildServe

Community
Support
Advocates

We need to continue brainstorming how we can minimize barriers, looking at the WHOLE person and to not make assumptions...things are not always as they appear to be. Dr. Pomeranz equipped us with several methods to better understand what the individual's unmet needs might be and to either provide the support or connect the individual with needed support. One of these approaches is the 5 “Ws” (i.e. What is known?, Who knows it?, When did they know it?, What did they do about it?, and When did they do it?). We realized connecting individuals with neuropsychologists and neuropsychiatrists is a service gap area and requires referral to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. We will continue to identify ideas to provide a life to those we serve including: supporting individuals to create a desert or other holiday favorite to take with them to their family holiday celebrations, providing volunteering opportunities, encouraging employment opportunities, focusing on the communicative intent of the individual's behavior, and continuing to work with the State Resource Centers, families, and guardians to identify people who would like to move to community based settings.

Crest Services

Easter Seals

Eyerly-Ball
Residential

H.O.P.E.

RELATIONSHIPS ARE KEY

Link Associates

Dr. Pomeranz reminded us people will accomplish great things when given hope but will quit trying when it is taken away. Our primary intervention is to coach others into their life. What a difference the simple phrase, “less is more,” can make as we work supporting individuals' self-actualization. Absent this mantra, good intentions will likely result in decreased opportunities for assisting others to be as independent as possible. We have a moral obligation to explain to those supported that they are adults and will be treated like adults even if others still observe them as not like adults. Our challenge is to get to know each person intimately, learning all facets of their life, and recognizing that anger communicates an unmet need. We will continue to emphasize the “nothing about me without me” mantra as we continue to increase involvement through-out all aspects of life including: hiring support staff; soliciting input into performance evaluations; scheduling appointments outside of work hours; administering medications; being listed in the phone book; and having “perpetual calendars” to not miss any of the important dates (i.e. birthdays, anniversaries). We are continually reminded EVERYONE can participate in all aspects of their lives. We must continue to increase the respect we show those we support through our words and actions.

Mainstream
Living

Mosaic

Optimae

Polk County
Health Services

Polk County
Targeted Case
Management

SAFETY FIRST

Progress
Industries

The
Homestead

As community support providers, we have a duty to those we support to teach safety concepts. How individuals are supported may look different in homes with hourly support and homes with 24-hour support; none-the-less, if those concepts are not learned, we have to have systems in place to demonstrate individuals' health and safety needs are met. Regulations may prevent bad things from happening, but they do not promote someone into a life. It is important for us to re-assess and explain the “why” of restrictions in the individual's home and to be creative in minimizing those restrictions (i.e. a locked linen closet isn't typically locked because of the towels, move the towels into a container in the individual's bedroom). Similarly, it is important for us to ensure a safe environment and prepare those we serve for fire and tornado drills in the early morning hours. Living in the community does not necessarily mean individuals are participating in the community. We will continue to address environmental changes and obtain adaptive equipment to increase living, working, and playing in the community. All people love being a part of an environment where they are appreciated, encouraged and enjoyed.