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Rehabilitation research abstracts

Community-based Integration

McGaughey, M.J., Kiernan, W.E., McNally, L.C. and Gilmore, D.S. (1995). A peaceful coexistence? MR/DD agency trends in integrated employment and facility-based services. *Mentally Retarded* 33, 170-180.

The National Study of Day and Employment Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities was designed to examine patterns of services for persons served by mental retardation/developmental disability (MR/DD) agencies during fiscal year 1990 and to compare those findings with those of similar studies for 1988. Responses were obtained from 51 of the 52 MR/DD agencies representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Texas reported only eligibility and policy information because service data were not available.

A total of 311 998 individuals were reported to be served by MR/DD agencies, an increase of 8.4% over the 1988 total. Forty-three agencies were able to categorize their service consumers by the type of service setting. The overwhelming majority of consumers (82%) were being served in segregated services, with 18% in supported employment or time-limited competitive training. While the percentage of consumers served in integrated settings increased from 10 to 17% from 1988 to 1990, there was a corresponding increase in the numbers of individuals in segregated services.

New consumers, i.e. those receiving day or employment services for the first time during 1990, were twice as likely to enter integrated employment as were members of the overall population. Forty-one agencies (80%) reported having waiting lists for day and employment services, with an

average waiting list of 928 individuals. The percentage of those waiting for supported employment was 34% of the total waiting list.

State MR/DD funds constituted almost two-thirds (62%) of program funds, with the remainder coming from Medicaid Title XIX, XX and Waiver funds and other sources. Adjusted for inflation, total funding for MR/DD consumers showed no increase between 1988 and 1990. However, spending for integrated employment showed a significant increase. Thirty-four of the reporting agencies indicated that they have developed formal plans for expanding integrated employment options over the next 5 years.

McGaughey, M.J., Kiernan, W.E., McNally, L.C., Gilmore, D.S., and Keith, G.R. (1995). Beyond the workshop: National trends in integrated and segregated day and employment services. *Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps* 20, 270-285.

In addition to the above study of MR/DD systems, McGaughey and colleagues surveyed day and employment provider agencies regarding use of integrated and segregated options. A representative sample of agencies was generated based on state population data and rate of usage of supported employment per 100 000 persons. The overall response rate was 47.8%, with 643 usable surveys returned. Follow-up telephone contacts were used to clarify missing or inconsistent responses.

Most respondents (77.3%) indicated that their agencies provided a mix of integrated and segregated services. Respondent agencies served 168.4 individuals, 22.4 in individual supported employ-

ment, 25.22 in group supported employment and 28.8 in unsupported competitive employment. The bulk of consumers ($m = 95.7$) were in facility-based programs. Overall, approximately 30% of respondents' consumers were in integrated employment options. The number of individuals entering services in segregated settings exceeded those entering integrated settings (7229 vs. 6785).

Respondents were asked to describe their agencies' plans for expanding or decreasing segregated and integrated services during the 5-year period from 1992 to 1997. Almost three-fourths (72%) indicated that they planned to increase the number of persons served in individual supported employment. However, over 50% also indicated that they planned to either initiate, maintain, or expand segregated services during the same time period. Only about 3% of respondents indicated that they intended to discontinue segregated services, with 22% indicating that they intended to decrease the number of consumers in segregated services.

Respondents were asked if state policies had affected their past activities related to services. Eight of ten responded positively for supported

employment and six of ten for segregated services. Respondents were also requested to identify state policies would have helped to expand integrated employment opportunities in their state. The most frequently reported policy initiatives included (1) funding tied to a commitment for integrated services (42%); (2) provision of training and technical assistance (29%); (3) Social Security work incentives (23%); (4) higher rates of funding for integrated services (17%); and (5) fewer regulations covering integrated services (14%).

Together, the two studies by McGaughey and colleagues show that integrated employment opportunities have expanded for persons with developmental disabilities in recent years. However, the findings also clearly show that segregated services continue to consume the majority of MR/DD service funds and program slots and remain the focus of most MR/DD-funded agencies.

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