Building Community Capacity for Full Participation at the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)

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Community Living Summit
Sept. 19-21, 2016
Alexandria, Virginia
CIL Background

- Percent adult population with independent living difficulty ranges from 3% to 10% per service county
Study Findings - Qualitative

• Friends Groups extended the capacity to advocate within each community for specific needs
  – El Dorado, Emporia, Eureka, Ft. Scott, Iola, Osage City, Paola

• Most held voter registration booths to distribute applications and advanced ballot voting information

• Several groups addressed accessibility and usability of public places
  – City Hall, library, restaurants (large print and braille menus)
  – Street lighting, fuel pump assistance, increasing stoplight crosswalk timers for safety
Study Findings - Qualitative (cont.)

• Building awareness through connecting with the community, especially celebrating ADA Anniversary

• RCIL reached new populations through school presentations on disability awareness, and awareness events in the community

• Many new support groups, trainings and classes, and programs to offer new services to consumers
Research & Training Center on Community Living

Cumulative Community Changes over Study Period

Cumulative Community Changes

RCIL (RCIL) Community Changes

Resource Center for Independent Living
Study Findings – Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)

Community Changes in Each Goal Area
Pre-Training (N = 6 over 12 mo.)
- Reduce discrimination, 1, 17%
- Access to education, 1, 17%
- Accessibility of public places, 2, 33%
- Access to services, 2, 33%

Community Changes in Each Goal Area
Post-Training (N = 30 over 32 mo.)
- Reduce discrimination, 6, 20%
- Access to services, 3, 10%
- Accessibility of public places, 5, 17%
- Advocacy, 1, 3%
- Assistive technology, 1, 3%
- Peer support, 4, 13%
- Physical environment design, 2, 7%
- Independent living skills, 1, 3%
- Civic engagement, 4, 14%
- Housing, 1, 3%
- Employment, 2, 7%
Challenges

• High caseloads compete with expanding services or developing new programs
• Time is spent putting out fires for clients
• Loss of Targeted Case Managers to Managed Care, assumption Center no longer existed
• Loss of grant funds
• Loss of staff
• Changes in leadership (executive director)
Positives Outcomes

• Increased the number of community changes
• Increased the variety of goal areas
• Use of the Community Tool Box increased Friends Groups’ capacity to make community changes
• Community and government organizations were more receptive to helping make community changes