

Toward Having a Good Life
National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
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Seeing ourselves as social inventors

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Why see ourselves as social inventors?

We need new ways...

...to meet new demands: support for
people's choice of their own homes & real
jobs

...to connect with our communities

...to deal with scarcity

Why see ourselves as social inventors?

We need to discover how to **learn with**
people as **allies, not** do things **to** people or
for people

Why see ourselves as social inventors?

Sustainability depends on activating the
(hidden) assets of people &
communities who rely on the DD
system

How to be social inventors

A different look at the person-in-relationship that shows assets & changes relationships

Patterns that continue to respond to the concerns of the person & people who know & care

Ways to spread & adapt these patterns



“It’s always ‘Sit,’ ‘Stay’, ‘Heel –never
‘Think’, ‘Innovate’, Be yourself.”

How to be social inventors

Challenge assumptions that hold us back from doing what we think right...

...especially those we don't see that tell us, "this is just how things are"

In North America, this is the most common contemporary pattern of service development

We
build it

Experts identify a disability group “need” + a response for that abstract group, raise funds from government (& charity), build (often with bricks & mortar), operate & manage the response to that need that matches their expert idea.

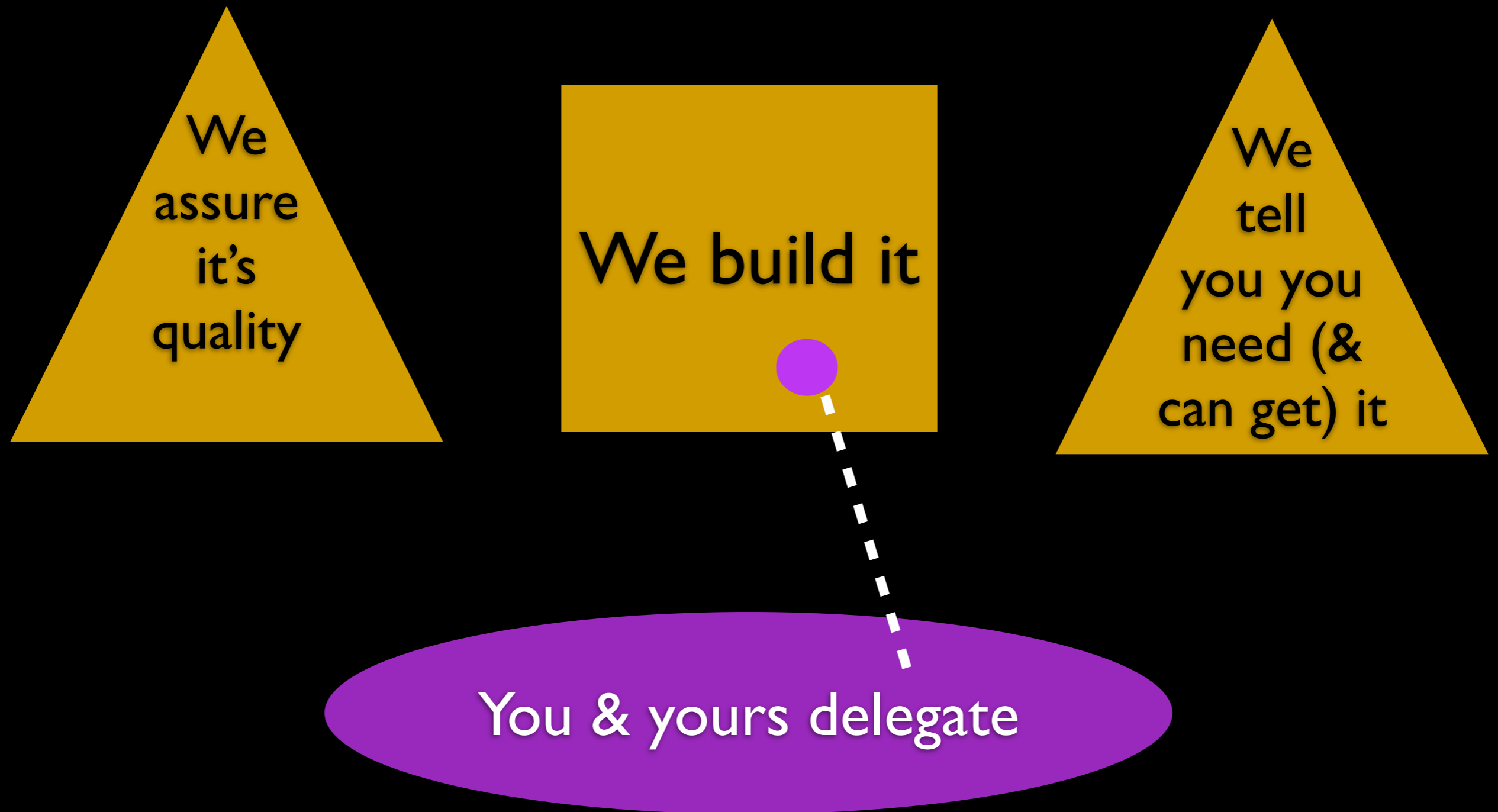
We
tell
you you
need it (&
when you can
get it).

Experts establish an officially recognized need for the built service & determine priority for access

We
assure
it's quality

Experts set standards and metrics, authorize or license, monitor, audit, intervene & correct

When people & their families & allies need assistance, they are “placed” in available day & residential services, & responsibility for quality of life is turned over to the experts who operate & manage services



We
assure
it's
quality

We build it

We
tell
you you
need (&
can get) it

You & yours delegate

Lately, the services that experts build & operate are more open to people's choices through individual plans and person-centered thinking & they & their people have opportunities for consultation on policies. But people's ties to the inside of services grow stronger with time & connections to family & community grow weaker. Day to day life remains bounded by what the experts have built & choose to measure. So, a person and families' life chances depend on how experts choose to manage their resources.

We
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You & yours delegate

Real progress begins when we choose to collaborate to disrupt this pattern.

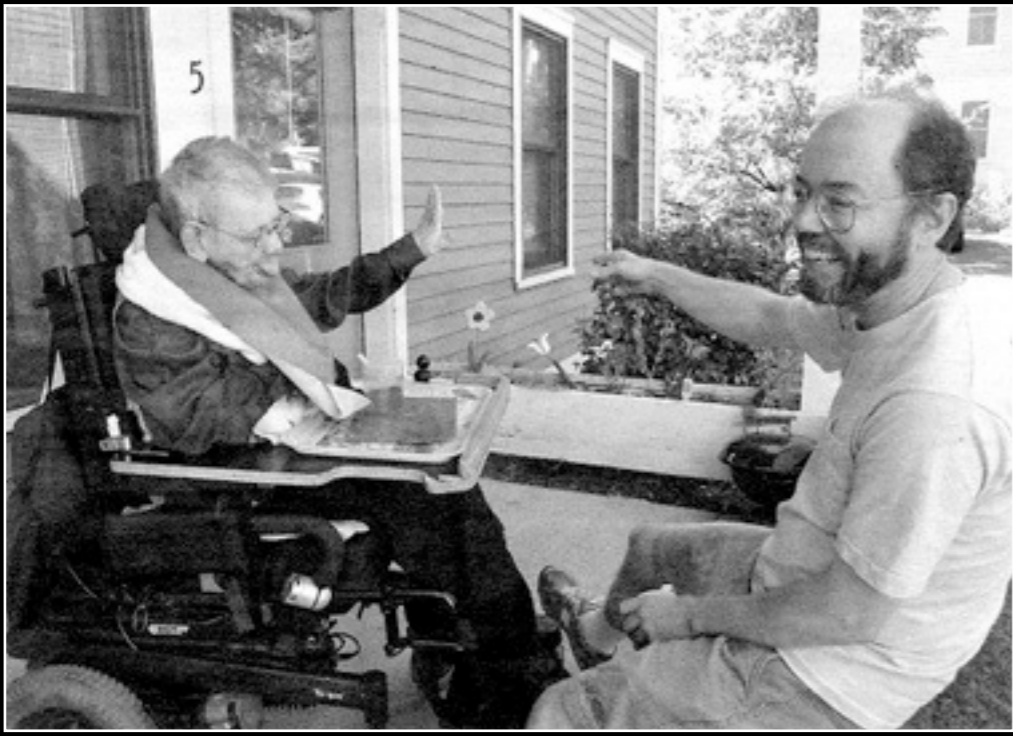
The first step is noticing that this is just the way we do it now, not the only way it could be. The second step is connecting with people, families & community members who want to learn new way to find new paths to valued social roles.



Work Colleague

The 25 year journey that *Options in Community Living* and *Community Work Services* has shared with Darwin began with an organizational commitment to build up the assistance people need one person at a time. No buildings. No groups defined and served from an abstract account of deficiency based “needs”. This translated into a rapid move from a congregate setting where “everybody knew” what was not possible for him to his own rented accommodation in his community, shared with a person he knew from the institution and a live-in assistant and supported by his team. This provided the platform for discovering his gifts and capacities, opening up contributing roles, and refining the supports he requires.

Read more: *Celebrating the Ordinary* from www.inclusion.com



Housing Co-Op Founder



Work Colleague



Advocate



Outdoorsman



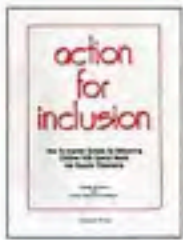
Fund Raiser

Patti Scott & her colleagues have disrupted every element of the “we build it & you fit into it” pattern of service provision that remains typical in North America.

Watch the video of her story & identify ...

What new things have people invented through Neighbours?

What made this possible?



Action for Inclusion
How to improve schools by welcoming children with special needs into regular classrooms
by O'Brien & Forest with J. Pearpoint, Snow & Hasbury
> **Inclusion Classic Books Pack**



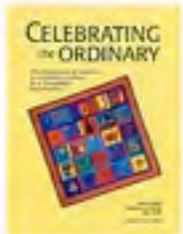
Members of Each Other
Building community in company with people with developmental disabilities
by John O'Brien and Connie Lyle O'Brien
> **Community Living Pack**



Conversations on Citizenship and Person Centered Work
Edited by John O'Brien & Carol Blessing
NEW!!



The PATH & MAPS Handbook
Person-Centered Ways to Build Community
John O'Brien, Jack Pearpoint and Lynda Kahn



Celebrating the Ordinary
The emergence of options in community living as a thoughtful organization
by John O'Brien, Connie Lyle O'Brien & Gail Jacob
> **Community Living Pack**



PATH: Planning Possible Positive Futures
Planning alternative tomorrows with hope for schools organizations, businesses and families
by Jack Pearpoint, John O'Brien, Marsha Forest
> **Path Action Pack**



A Little Book About Person Centered Planning
Ways to think about person-centered planning
John O'Brien & Connie Lyle O'Brien - Editors
> **Person-Centered Planning Pack**



Person-Centered Planning with MAPS and PATH
A Workbook for Facilitators
by John O'Brien & Jack Pearpoint



Implementing Person-Centered Planning
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Finding Meaning in the Work
Facilitator's Kit
Ten Exercises to Encourage Reflection on Direct Support



Make A Difference
A Guidebook for Person-Centered Direct Support
John O'Brien & Beth Mount
Plus Resource Kit and Learning Journey Manual

FREE JOHN O'BRIEN DOWNLOADS:

- Actions That Build Communities**
- Deinstitutionalization: Do We Still Know How to Fall After All These Years?**
- Supporting Social Roles: A second bottom line for services**
- A Disgrace to the Nation**
- Remembering Why: Promoting Valued Social Roles (English)**
- Se souvenir pourquoi (Français)**
- Reflecting on Social Roles**

To read more...

Books & downloads

www.inclusion.com/jobrien.html

More downloads

<http://thechp.syr.edu/rsapublications/>

www.centreforwelfarereform.org/library/authors/john-obrien/