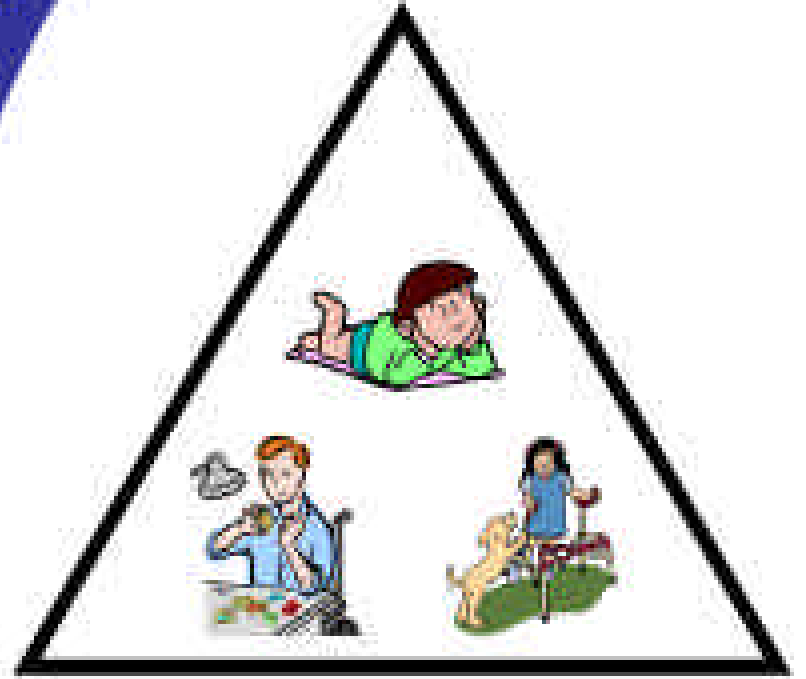
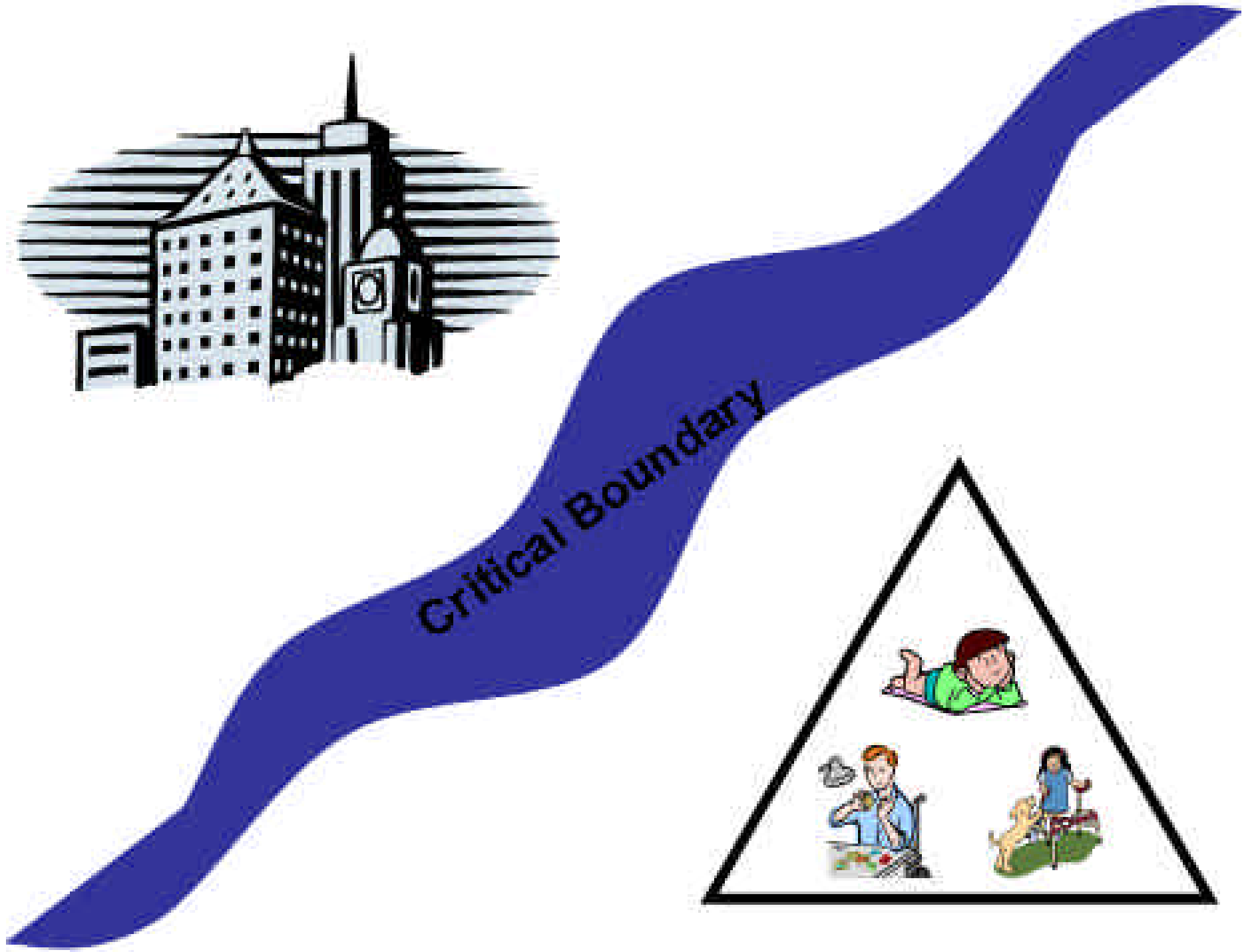


# Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Community Service Organizations

---

Angela Novak Amado, Ph.D.  
Institute on Community Integration  
University of Minnesota  
651-698-5565  
[amado003@umn.edu](mailto:amado003@umn.edu)

Conference presentations will be available at [www.reinventingquality.org](http://www.reinventingquality.org)





# Research Questions

---

1. To what extent are people with DD integrated into community service organizations, clubs, and groups?
2. What are the outcomes for other group members?
3. What are group members' perspectives on inclusion?
4. What factors affect duration of membership?



# Basic Survey Information

---

- Community Organizations surveyed in 4 states
  - Florida
  - Massachusetts
  - Minnesota
  - Washington

Randomly selected from Adopt-A-Highway Lists

- 415 Community Organizations
  - mailed or e-mailed



# Basic Survey Information

---

	# of groups Surveyed	# of completed surveys returned	% returned
Florida	103	13	10%
Massachusetts	96	19	20%
Minnesota	107	40	37%
Washington	109	29	27%
Totals	415	101	24%

# Returned Surveys

67 of the 101 organizations that completed a survey had at least one member with a disability

	# of surveys/ groups	Groups with members with disabilities		Groups with members with DD	
		(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Florida	13	8	62	3	23
Massachusetts	19	13	68	5	26
Minnesota	40	26	65	9	23
Washington	29	20	69	4	14
Totals	101	67	66	20	20



# Interviews

---

- Community Organization Interviews
  - 21 Total groups interviewed
  - 11 Groups interviewed that had member with DD
- Individual/Family Interviews
  - 3 Interviews completed

# Types of Disabilities

	Total		FL		MA	
	Gps	Ind	Gps	Ind	Gps	Ind
Mental Illness	5	5	2	2	1	1
Traumatic Brain Injury	3	4	1	1	0	0
Spinal Cord Injury	3	4	1	2	0	0
Physical Impairment						
Hearing Impairment	26	106	2	11	6	27
Vision Impairment	15	26	2	3	2	4
Other Physical	21	45	5	11	3	4

\*Only includes data from organizations that reported numbers of members with each type of disability; does not include Best Buddies or Big Brothers/Big Sisters #s





## Types of Disabilities

---

	MN		WA	
	Gps	Ind	Gps	Ind
Mental Illness	2	2	0	0
Traumatic Brain Injury	2	3	0	0
Spinal Cord Injury	2	2	0	0
Physical Impairment				
Hearing Impairment	8	42	10	26
Vision Impairment	3	3	8	16
Other Physical	6	7	7	23



# Types of Disabilities

---

	Total		FL		MA	
	Gps	Ind	Gps	Ind	Gps	Ind
Developmental Disabilities	15	37	2	3	1	1
Cerebral Palsy	4	4	1	1	0	0
Mental Retardation	8	12	1	1	1	1

\*Only includes data from organizations that reported numbers of members with each type of disability; Does not include Best Buddies or Big Brothers/Big Sisters #s



# Types of Disabilities

---

	<b>MN</b>		<b>WA</b>	
	<b>Gps</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Gps</b>	<b>Ind</b>
Developmental Disabilities	8	26	4	7
Cerebral Palsy	2	2	1	1
Mental Retardation	5	9	1	1



## Big Brothers/Big Sisters (2 groups)

---

	<b>Gps</b>	<b>Ind</b>
Mental Illness	2	55+
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	1
Spinal Cord Injury	1	1
Physical Impairment		
Hearing Impairment	2	5
Vision Impairment	2	4
Other Physical	0	0
Developmental Disabilities	2	35+
Cerebral Palsy	1	2
Mental Retardation	1	10



## 34 Responding Organizations without members with disabilities

---

Florida = 5

Minnesota = 14

Washington = 9

Massachusetts = 6



## 34 Responding Organizations without members with disabilities

---

- 7 – Kiwanis or Key clubs
- 4 – University Fraternities/Sororities
- 3 – Rotary Club
- 3 – Lions Clubs
- 5 – Outdoorsy clubs (e.g., Pheasants Forever; 4-H; Sno-Riders)
- 9 – Other (e.g., Zibibi OES Foundation, Knights of Columbus, Masonic Lodge, Historical Society, TOPS, PALS Club)

\* No apparent differences in type of group, size, or location.



# 21 Organizations with Members with DD (on surveys)

---

## **Massachusetts**

1. Degree of Pocahontas (DD = 1)
  2. Canal Association (DD = no #s)
- 

3. Big Brothers/Big Sisters (DD = 30+)
4. Big Brothers/Big Sisters (DD = no #s)
5. Best Buddies (DD = no #s)

## **Washington**

1. Lions Club (DD = 1)
2. Christian Fellowship (DD = 2)
3. Hiking Club (DD = 1)
4. Key Club (DD = 3)



# Organizations Continued

---

## **Florida**

1. Knights of Columbus (DD = 2)
2. The Florida UFO Group (DD = 1)
3. Moose International Lodge (# unavailable)

## **Minnesota**

1. SADD (DD = 6)
  2. Lions Club (DD = 1)
  3. Sertoma Club (DD = 1)
  4. Jaycees (DD = 1)
  5. Moose Lodge (DD = 4)
  6. 4-H Club (DD = 6)
  7. Health/Community Service Group (DD = 5)
  8. Saddle Club (DD = 1)
- 
9. Big Buddies (DD = 5)





# Types of Organizations with Members with Developmental Disabilities

---

- 6 – Lions/Jaycees/Sertoma Club/Moose Club/Key Club
- 3 – Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Big Buddies
- 3 – Outdoorsy: Saddle Club, 4-H, Hiking Club
- 2 – Religious Affiliated Groups
- 2 – School Groups
- 1 – Best Buddies
- 3 – Other: UFO Group, Canal Association, Degree of Pocahontas



# Nominated Exemplary Organizations

---

## From Surveys

1. *Degree of Pocahontas* (MA) – member for 9 years
2. *Warren Jaycees* (MN) – member for 15-20 years

## Other Nominations sought out (not identified from surveys)

3. *Lions' Club* (WA)
4. *Knights of Columbus* (MN) – member for 12 years
5. *Knights of Columbus* (MA) – member for 10 years



# Interviews of Community Organizations

---

- 21 total community groups interviewed
  - 11 groups interviewed that had members with DD

## Important note:

- Many interviewed groups that have members with disabilities, but no members with DD, mentioned that as group members have aged they have developed disabilities but also remained active in the organization. This has led the organizations to making changes to accommodate individual needs.



# Groups with Member with DD: Benefits to Ordinary Group Members Reported on Surveys

---


- Tolerance/Acceptance of individuals with disabilities
- Learning experience
- Recognition of the talents and abilities of individuals with disabilities
- Friendship



## Groups with Member with DD: Benefits Reported in Organization Interviews

---

- Recognition that individuals with disabilities have talents, abilities, and are able to participate in many things.
- Became more relaxed with people with disabilities
- More awareness of accessibility issues



## Groups with Member with DD: Barriers/Challenges Reported on Surveys

---

- Transportation
- Accessibility
- Variety of others Barriers/Challenges



## Living Arrangements for those Individuals with DD in Groups that were Interviewed\*

---

- On their own – 4 individuals in 3 groups
- With family (parents) – 6 individuals in 1 group (SADD high school group)
- In a group home
  - Comes to meeting alone (picked up by members) – 1 individual
  - Originally lived in supported apartment and now lives in a group home (picked up by members) – 1 individual
  - Comes to meetings with staff – 1 individual
- Other
  - 3 groups provided no information about living arrangements of their members with developmental disabilities

\*Only includes information from organizations that provided #s.



# Groups with Member with DD: Barriers/Challenges Reported in Organization Interviews

---

- Planning & accessibility
- Transportation
- Communication with group home
- Person talking at inappropriate times
- Acceptance from some members





## 3 Individuals Interviewed

---


- Mother of daughter with DD
  - Daughter is member of Girl Scouts
- Woman with CP
  - Member of Lions Club
- Man with Autism
  - Big Buddy for High School Student



## Benefits/Likes Reported by Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

---

- Social Interaction
- Diversity of activities in which to participate
- Using skills in the community



# Barriers/Challenges Reported by Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

---

- Initial “grumblings”
- Integrated, but sometimes not included
- Transportation



## Summary/Conclusions

---

- Groups are increasingly dealing with members who are aging
  - Increased capacity to address disability
- All types of groups have people with disabilities
  - No difference with groups who don't
- More research is needed on what groups need from agencies



# Resources

---

- 1. Friends manual: [www.mncdd.org/extra/publications/friends.pdf](http://www.mncdd.org/extra/publications/friends.pdf),
- 2. Other articles: [www.hsrdc.org](http://www.hsrdc.org)
- 3. Friendship and Community Connections Between People with and without Developmental Disabilities, by Angela Novak Amado [www.amazon.com/used books](http://www.amazon.com/used_books)
- 4. TASH CONNECTIONS, September 2001  
“Resource Review: Promoting Friendships, Community Connections, and Membership”