

Interview Protocol

Upon arriving at an agency, the interviewers will organize themselves in 1 or 2-person teams. Individuals to be interviewed are scheduled in 45-minute blocks and are welcomed together by the Ask Me!sm Project Coordinator.

Introduction

1. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator introduces herself and thanks individuals for agreeing to participate in the Project.
2. People On the Go's involvement in developing the interview is described. Issues of choice and self-determination are discussed, explaining how important it is for self-advocates and consumers to be asked that they think: We hope this will be empowering for them. Staff knows that people with disabilities are looking at their services and what they do.
3. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator explains that interviews are being conducted to find out how happy people are with different parts of their lives and that we think it is very important that consumers be empowered to say what they think.
4. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator explains that consumers will be interviewed by other people with disabilities who also receive support services, and that we hope that they feel comfortable talking with the interviewers.
5. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator explains that all answers are confidential: We will not tell anyone their responses, including staff, housemates, boss, or people with whom they work. Since answers are not be shared, individuals' services will not change if the person participates in the interview. If the person wants a change in services, they should tell others about what they want, including their staff, others at their provider agency, and their service coordinator.
6. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator explains that participation is voluntary. Anyone not wishing to be interviewed may leave at any time. There are no right or wrong answers. She explains that the interview is not a test for the individual, but rather a way to learn how well agencies and staff and helping them lead the kind of life they want.

7. Ask Me!sm Consent Forms are passed out for persons being interviewed to sign. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator explains the purpose of the consent form and that by signing the form, the agency supporting the individual will provide us with basic statistical information about the person, such as what types of services they receive, the length of time they have been receiving services, their age, sex, and basic information about their disability or disabilities.
8. Each interviewer introduces him or herself.
9. Ask Me!sm staff answer any questions interviewees may have.

Pre-Interview Information

The Ask Me!sm Coordinator explains a little about the survey. Individuals are interviewed about their lives in nine areas -- 1) Emotional Well-Being, 2) Social Inclusion, 3) Interpersonal Relations, 4) Self-Determination, 5) Personal Development, 6) Physical Well-Being, 7) Rights, 8) Material Well-Being, 9) Transportation.

1. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator shows response/answer sheet with happy, neutral and sad faces and explains what each face means. She walks through one question with entire group to practice.
3. The Ask Me!sm Coordinator explains that if anyone wants to take a short break, they should just tell their interviewer.

Interviews

1. Individuals are paired with their interviewer or interviewers, and interviews begin.
2. Two support persons (the Ask Me!sm Coordinator and one other Support Person) are always available to provide assistance if needed.
3. Interviews, on average, last twenty to thirty minutes. When an individual finishes an interview, the Ask Me!sm Coordinator or Support Person thanks them for their time and asks for any feedback about the survey or interview process.