18 core concepts of disability policy were identified by our research. While these 18 core concepts affect and even sometimes conflict with one another, achieving a balance among them that promotes maximization of all will promote policy best calculated to achieve positive outcomes for persons with disabilities.
TIPS

- Use the core concepts as the basic criteria for analysis or creation of policy that affects persons with disabilities.

KEY FINDINGS

- Our research resulted in the identification of 18 core concepts: (1) anti-discrimination, (2) individualized and appropriate services, (3) classification, (4) capacity-based services, (5) empowerment/participatory decision-making, (6) coordination and collaboration, (7) protection from harm, (8) liberty, (9) autonomy, (10) privacy & confidentiality, (11) integration, (12) productivity and contribution, (13) family integrity and unity, (14) family centeredness, (15) cultural responsiveness, (16) accountability, (17) professional capacity, and (18) prevention.

METHOD

- A review of disability policy literature, relevant statutes, and case law yielded an initial core concepts Matrix that preliminarily documented the core concepts.

- In the interviews and focus groups, disability policy experts were asked to confirm, modify, explain, exemplify, or reject the core concepts as set out in the Matrix.

- 108 individuals including individuals with family, legislative, administrative, research, or professional expertise at the federal, state, and local level in the fields of education, social services, and health care.

- We used purposive sampling to ensure that the research respondents were widely recognized as knowledgeable in the field and had policy development, advocacy, and service delivery perspectives.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS


Turnbull, H. R. & Stowe, M. J. (2001). Five models for understanding how professionals, policy leaders, researchers, families, and individuals with disabilities think about the meaning of and


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