

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Disability Policy

Turnbull, H. R., Beegle, G., Stowe, M. J. (2001). The core concepts of disability policy affecting families who have children with disabilities. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 12(3), 133-143.

BOTTOM LINE

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.

Beach Center on Disability

Making a Sustainable Difference in Quality of Life



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.

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.

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., Wilcox, B. L., Stowe, M. J., & Umbarger, G. T. (2001). Matrix of federal statutes and federal and state court decisions reflecting the core concepts of disability policy. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*,12(3), 144-176.

Turnbull, H. R. & Stowe, M. J. (2001). A taxonomy for organizing the core concepts according to their underlying principles. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 12(3), 177-197.

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

about societal and policy responses to disability. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 12(3), 198-205.

Stowe, M. J. & Turnbull, H. R. (2001). Tools for analyzing policy on the books and policy on the streets. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 12(3), 206-214.

Umbarger, G. T., Stowe, M. J., & Turnbull, H. R. (accepted). The core concepts of health policy affecting families who have children with disabilities. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*.

This research was conducted in collaboration with the Beach Center on Disability. It was funded by the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Families of Children with Disabilities of the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (H133B30070) and private endowments. Permission granted to reproduce and distribute this research brief.
Please credit the Beach Center on Disability.

Beach Center on Disability

The University of Kansas
1200 Sunnyside Avenue, 3111 Haworth Hall • Lawrence, Kansas 66045
Telephone: 785.864.7600 • TTY: 785.864.3434
www.beachcenter.org

