WIFLI Team Strategy Weekend

TEAM A. WILD RIVER INCLUSION

Overview. Create a new organization or coalition to a) promote accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in Wild River, WI (population: 12,000), and b) help people with disabilities and their families in Wild River get the information and resources they need.

Current Situation:
- not much inclusion in school (kids with severe disabilities bussed to another town)
- some parents have asked for inclusion in regular classes and have been denied
- people with disabilities are not very visible in town
- most adults with disabilities go to a sheltered workshop in a town 10 miles away
- Down Syndrome play group for kids with Down Syndrome
- no accessible playground
- weak disability organizations in the county
- many people with disabilities & families are unaware of publicly funded services available
- not much awareness of exciting developments for people with disabilities going on in the rest of the state
- no active effort to connect people with disabilities and families with each other

Stage 1. Initial Decisions your team has to make

1. What sorts of people would you like to have on your initial steering group?

2. Will your focus include all adults and children with disabilities? Or just kids? Just adults? Just certain disability populations? Will you include people with serious mental illness? (what is the reasoning for your decision?)

3. Do you need to create a formal non-profit corporation, with a board of directors? if so, why? If not, why not?

4. What are the highest priority kinds of information you would like people with disabilities and families in Wild River to have access to?

Stage 2. Setting Goals and Objectives
1. What are your long-range goals (i.e. 5 year goals)? (rank order them in order of importance)

2. What objectives would you like to achieve in the first 3-6 months?

3. At the end of one year, what accomplishments would be the markers of real progress?

Stage 3. Developing Your Strategy

1. What obstacles do you foresee that you may encounter? Any thoughts about how to deal with those obstacles?

2. What are some possible opportunities for inclusion and/or information dissemination that you envision might exist in a town the size of Wild River?

3. Pick 1-2 of the inclusion opportunities from your answer to Q.2 and 1-2 of the information dissemination opportunities and flesh out your strategy for each of the opportunities you pick.

Stage 4. Unexpected Surprise

There is an interesting new development: the mayor’s wife (who is a leader in the biggest Lutheran church in town) has MS (multiple sclerosis). It has progressed to the point that she is now using a wheelchair. The mayor recently made a public statement at a City Council meeting, in which he said that he wants Wild River to become a “more welcoming community for people with disabilities”. His statement was included in a local newspaper story about the meeting.

Brainstorm some ideas of how you could capitalize on this new development.