

Continuity of Community Living: An Independent Living Perspective

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We've Come a Long Way—or Have We?



The Graying of America

- **In the 1900's persons with disabilities or aging into them lived and died in place—their homes.**
- **In the 60's with the advent of Medicare and with advanced medicine prolonging lives, the nursing home industry flourished.**



NCIL March to Capitol

- **The nursing home was convenient for working couples who lacked time to take care of ailing parents**
- **Unfortunately, it also became a convenient place to house people with severe disabilities, many who did not want to be there**

ADAPT Actions



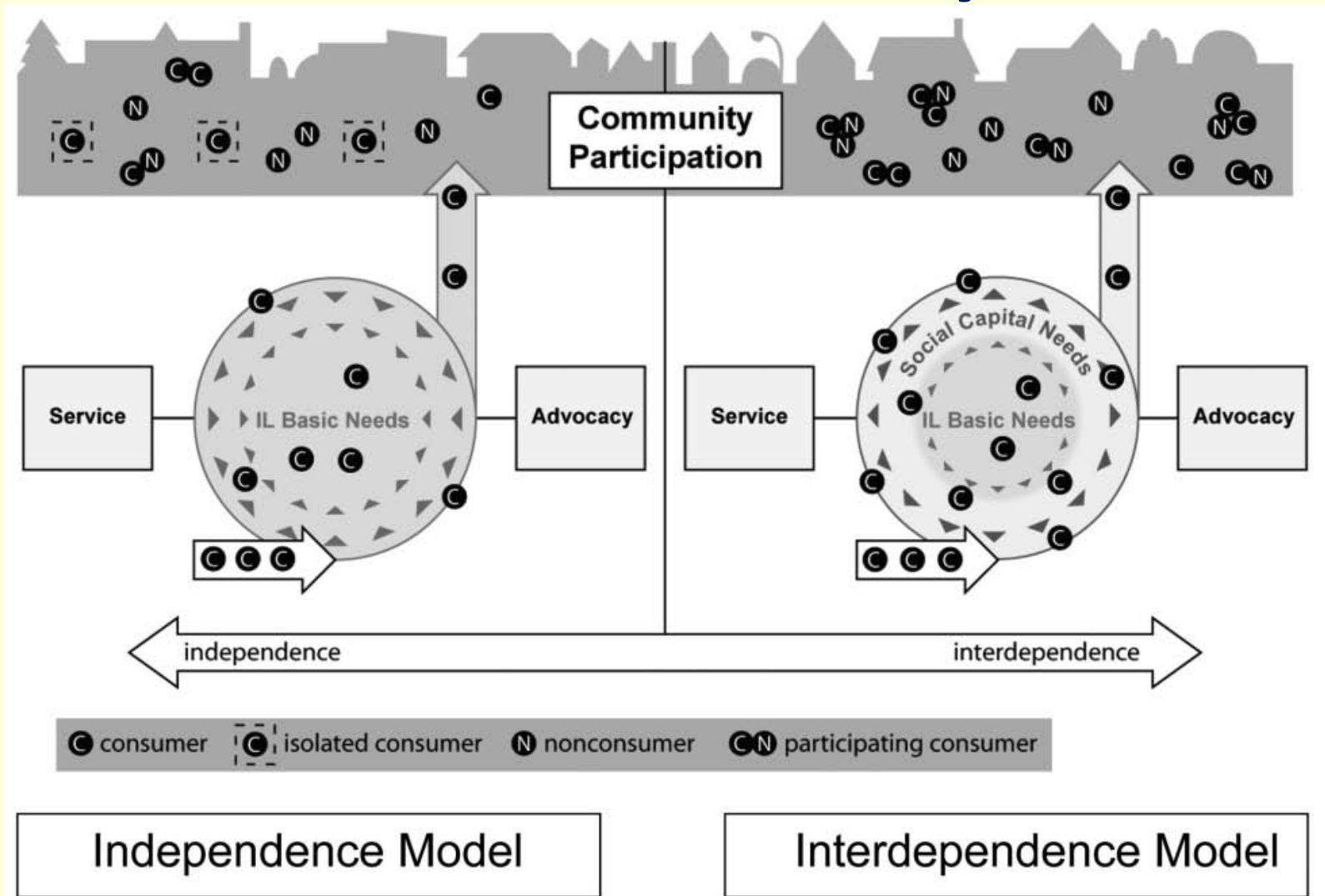
- **Developed MiCASSA**
- **Supported the Olmstead Decision**

ADAPT current work



- **Disability Integration Act (S. 2427)**
- **People who need LTSS are forced into institutions – losing basic civil rights**
- **Goal is to provide seniors and PWD HCBS as alternative to institutionalization**

Independent Living and Transition into the Community



Aging into a Disability vs. Aging with a Disability

Aging into Disability

- Disability can be slow and progressive
- We tend to deny aging process and are afraid to use the “d” word, or assistive technology.
- There are few good role models for aging into disability

Aging with Disability

- Disability onset at younger age
- Easier adjustment and adaptation
- Greater community inclusion and role models
- Tend to embrace the “D” word more
- Secondary Health Conditions can be a ‘tipping point for independence

Taxonomy and Philosophy



Some Considerations

- **There is no one size fits all when identifying policies and practices for a workforce to provide services and supports for those who are aging into disability or aging with a disability**
- **When transitioning seniors or those with disabilities from institutions to community based living, we need a clearer conceptualization of what that means**
- **How can the disability community and the aging community better connect? What are common goals that can be achieved by working together?**

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