Supported Employment for the Most Disenfranchised and Challenged: From Church Basements to the Department of Justice------Where We Are and Where We Need to Go.

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Supported Employment & Customized Employment

The Good,
The Not so Good
& The Ugly
The Good

A. The Laws- WIOA IDEA

B. The Justice Department
Closing Workshops and acting as a Deterrent (e.g. Oregon & Rhode Island)
C. Employment First Initiative

D. Funding Mechanisms e.g. Medicaid Waiver, WIOA
E. Body of Research and Scholarship

• Documentary Work Potential
  (e.g. Special forthcoming JVR issue on Employment First Outcomes.)
But Most Importantly

DEMONSTRATION OF WORK CAPACITY AND TALENTS OF PERSONS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES
Meet Damien
-video shown during presentation not included for distribution
The “Not so Good” & The Ugly
A. Hundreds of Thousands of Persons with Disabilities Remain Segregated: Totally Unacceptable and Violation of Human Rights
B. Tens of Thousands of Youth Get Non Age-Appropriate Meaningless Curriculum: Huge Waste of IDEA funds
Employment outcomes are Disappointing

- Less than 25% OF Persons with Disabilities are in Competitive Integrated Employment.
- National Rates according to Louis Harris Poll (2015) shows 66-70% of all persons with disabilities are Unemployed.

(Pioneer Press: John Doman 2012)
Thousands ...

Of Employment Specialists, Case Managers and Program Coordinators are NOT TRAINED in SE/CE.
Community Rehabilitation Program Leadership Does Not Know How to Downsize &/or Close Segregated Programs: This is hard to do and requires T.A.
What We Need to Do:

Expand Effective Policies & Practices
A. Seamless Transition through Paid Employment BEFORE High School Graduation
B. Stop Federal $ for Segregated Day Programs as well as Sheltered Workshops.
C. Pay for Competitive Integrated Employment Outcomes and lower rates for less desirable outcomes.
D. Create State SE/CE Training Institutes by using the AUCD mechanism.