



Provincial BCACRN Teleconference Review

Wednesday January 14, 2009

People With Disabilities

Key Issue: People with disabilities are part of the BCACRN mandate.

We recognize the diversity within the term, “A person with disabilities”. It often includes additional designations that also increase the risk factor for abuse, i.e., female, senior, First Nations, etc. The capacity varies greatly, so how we respond as a community needs to vary from person to person. No one size fits all.

TIPS FOR ENGAGING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1. Do an orientation to inform clients about services, resources and facility.
2. Be cognizant whether facilities are user-friendly. Consider accessibility, creating a welcoming environment, providing a larger font for people with visual challenges, etc.
3. Use the right language to avoid creating offense. For example, avoid use of words evoking pity. Recognize the power of words. E.g., wheelchair bound vs. Wheelchair user.
4. Don't use/overuse jargon, acronyms—explain words instead.
5. Respect people's privacy. Ask: “How can we accommodate you to fully participate?”
6. Consider translation of basic CRN materials.

Resources Related to Topic:

1. Dave Hingsburger, author and gifted speaker: What to teach and How to teach people with developmental disabilities
2. Abuse_Disabil._Fact_sheet[1].pdf
3. Abuse%20of%20People%20With%20Disabilities%20For%20Service%20Providers%202nd%20Edition[1].pdf