

Consumer Consultation

June 2nd, 2014 - Surrey Place Centre, Toronto

MAPS (Multidimensional Assessment of Providers and Systems) is a research program to inform the assessment of services and supports for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Ontario, Canada. On June 2, 2014, MAPS researchers and staff met in Surrey Place Centre with 11 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn how to ask men and women with disabilities if they feel included in their community.

What did we do?

The government, service providers, families, and researchers want to know if adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities feel included in their community. To figure this out, the MAPS research team wrote questions about five main things that are shown in the picture at the side.

We tested these questions by showing them to 11 adults with disabilities to see if they felt the questions were important, appropriate, and easy to understand.

First, we went through the questions one at a time and wrote down how people felt about them. Then we asked people to sort the five types of questions in order of importance. Finally, the whole group discussed how they felt about the interview questions.



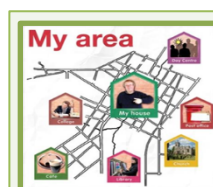
Schools,
volunteering
and work



Social roles and
relationships



Job training



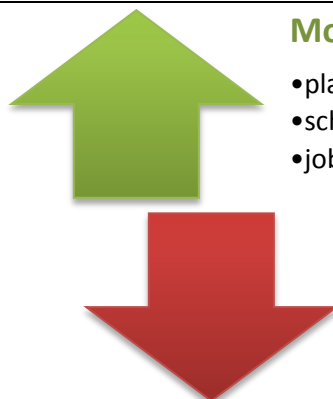
Communities
and
neighbourhoods



Planning and
choice

What did we learn?

Questions about planning and choice, school, volunteering and work, and job training are more important than questions about social roles and relationships or community and neighbourhood.



More important

- planning and choice
- school, volunteering and work
- job training

Less important

- social roles and relationships
- community and neighbourhood

We should not ask personal questions about how much money people make or about their boyfriends and girlfriends. Instead, we should ask questions that are less personal.



How much do you get paid?



Do you have enough money to do the things you want to do?

We should change questions that are confusing. For example, many people we talked to had not heard of a planning team even though they had one.

Confusing term

Less confusing terms

Planning team

Circle of friends

People that help you plan

Sometimes people felt questions were not relevant to them. Many older participants could not remember details about co-op placements or job training programs that they did in high school because it was such a long time ago.

We should try to ask questions that are relevant to the individual - for example, we should only ask younger people about their experiences in high school.

Many people felt that the questions about their neighbours were not important because neighbours are not people that they need to know that well.

We should ask people about their relationships with family and friends, and if they feel safe in their community and trust their neighbours.

Participants told us it would be important to ask people if there were enough events and activities that they can do for free; especially in their neighbourhoods.

Important Questions

Are there activities to do in your neighbourhood?

Are these activities free?

Are they accessible?

Are they well advertised?

What will we do with everything we learned?



Thanks to everyone who took part in the consultation, we learned some very important questions to ask to find out if adults with disabilities feel included in their communities. We presented what we learned to service providers and government employees on June 3rd, 2014 at the MAPS knowledge transfer workshop, and will continue to work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, service providers, and government employees to learn the best ways to help people feel more included in their community.