Inclusion in Recreation in CT

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Background

- Some research on **positive benefits of inclusion**
  - Social acceptance
  - Health and wellness

- Some research on **barriers to inclusion**
  - Financial
  - Staffing
  - Transportation
  - Equipment

- Most of this research conducted prior to 2006
- Little research on inclusion practices in Parks and Rec programs
- No research found on CT inclusion practices
Purpose of My Research

• Research the current landscape of inclusion in recreation in CT
• Determine what common supports are in place for PWD in recreation in CT

• RESEARCH QUESTION:
  • What current recreational opportunities and supports do CT Parks and Recreation departments have for PWD?
Methods

• Executive Director of CRPA allowed me to use her listserv to distribute the survey to approx. 700 members of CRPA

• Survey was emailed with two follow-up reminder emails

• Respondents (34) not required to enter contact info

• If respondent desired follow-up they were able to request it
Methods - Survey

- Does your Parks and Recreation department have programs specifically for children and adults with disabilities?
- Do you provide accommodations so that children and adults with disabilities can participate in all Parks and Recreation programs?
- Do you have someone on staff responsible for helping children and adults with disabilities?
- Do you make accommodations for children and adults with disabilities in your summer camps?
- Do you communicate/market to potential customers your inclusion of children and adults with disabilities and the existence of accommodations you can provide?
- Have you been confronted with barriers to implementing inclusive programs in your town?
- Would you like further training in working with children and adults with disabilities?
Results (n=34)

Do you provide programs/accommodations?

- Children: 16 programs, 33 accommodations
- Adults: 9 programs, 29 accommodations
Results (n=34)
Results (n=34)

• Specific staff to help PWD
  • 13 of 34 (38%)

• Titles
  • Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor
  • Recreation Supervisor
  • Adaptive Program Coordinator
  • Only 1 of 13 - Inclusion and Special Needs Coordinator

• Specialized training/degree
  • 10 of 13 (75%) of those with specific staff are trained
  • 10 of 34 (29%) of all respondents have trained staff
31 of 32 (97%) make accommodations in summer camps.
14 of 32 (44%) market/advertise
13 of 31 (42%) have confronted barriers
Would like further training (n=28)

- Yes: 86%
- No: 14%
Discussion

- Segregated programs exist in many towns - ?? Inclusion??

- Inclusion is not very prevalent in CT.

- Why are accommodations not always made for adults WD?

- How do programs support PWD in recreation?

- How do we move from segregated programs to inclusion of PWD?

- How can funding be addressed? Need for additional support staff.
Discussion

• How to best reach out to PWD in the community.

• Staffing and staff training are important.

• Departments are interested in more training – What should that training include?

• Follow up with respondents interested in more info.

• Next study: How can CT municipal recreation programs improve the inclusion of PWD in their existing programs?
References

QUESTIONS?