Providing Advocacy to Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Non-offending Parents

Theresa Fears MSW
The Partnership 4 Safety Program
The Arc of Spokane
Do you have any experience with people who have disabilities?
What people think disability is
Washington State definition of Developmental Disability

Before age 18

Can be expected to continue through out life

Results in substantial limitations
Children with a Disability in Washington

60,000
Sexual Assault and children with IDD

4.42 Times Higher
Risk Factors for Children with IDD

1. Beliefs about disability
2. Lack of Education
3. Disability
Being the Parent of a Child with Disabilities
Parental/Family Obligations

Extended Family
Friends
Church
Social Groups

Respite Workers
DDA Case Manager
Special Education/IEP
Speech Therapy
Physical Therapy

Caregivers
Specialist Doctors
Specialized Recreation
Occupational Therapy
Behavioral Intervention

Disability Advocacy Organizations
Nurses
Specialist Dentists
Mandatory Classes
Early Childhood programs
Changed Family Dynamics

- Parent
- Child
- Parent
- Child
- Child with a disab
- Parent
Consequences of Unemployment

Impact on Income

- Master's Degree or Higher
- Bachelor's Degree
- Some College
- High School
- <High School

- Child with Disability
- Child without Disability
Emotional Costs - Isolation

Parents

- Friends
- Parents
- Siblings
- Social Activities
- Hobbies
- Other Children
- Child with a disability
Emotional Costs--Guilt

Disability in the Family: A Mother’s Story

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBbul6FnBvE
From the Headlines...

Va. Lawmaker: Disabled Kids are God's Punishment for Abortion

Republican Virginia State Delegate Bob Marshall said at a press conference last week that God is taking "vengeance" on parents who have had abortions by making their other children disabled, according to the News Leader in Central Virginia.
In 2011, independent Wadebridge East councillor Mr Brewer told a charity worker "disabled children cost the council too much money and should be put down".
Disposable

Gardendale couple sentenced to probation after plea in malnutrition death of their Down syndrome child

The couple had been indicted for manslaughter after a medical examiner determined that their 16-month-old son Justin Trent Stockton, who had Down syndrome, died April 22, 2010 of severe malnutrition.
Divorce and Disability

30% Birth - 3

50% 10 years
System Exhaustion

Special Education IEP Meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWNYnVFL2Cc
Disability and Family Life

“My dear, here we must run as fast as we can, just to stay in place. And if you wish to go anywhere you must run twice as fast.”

Alice Through the Looking Glass
Parental Fears
“Now” Centered

Tomorrow
Tomorrow
Tomorrow

NOW

Yesterday
What Parents Need

Listen
Be Flexible
Ask Questions
Ask for help if you need it
The Strengths Of Families with a child with disabilities
Recommendations for Advocates

Build collaborations
Learn about disability resources
Educate yourself
What is Disability?
What are the Vulnerabilities unique to Children with a disability?
What are the effects on the family?
How can you improve advocacy for children with disabilities
Do You Have any Questions About Today’s Presentation?
References


• Partnering with Families of Children, Ray, Pewitt-Kinder and George, downloaded from http://www.naeyc.org/

References

• The US census
• Family Consequences of Children’s Disabilities, D. Hogan, Russell Sage Foundation (2012)