Everyday Lives in Action:
One Organization’s Use of *Independent Living Technology* in Pennsylvania

National Association of State Directors of Disability Services and Supports (NASDDDS)
Mid-Year Conference/June 2019/Seattle, Washington USA
Values into Action

Offers **individualized support** to people with disabilities and their families, exclusively in their own **homes and communities**.

Believes that a person’s **strengths and aspirations** defines who they are and that every human being has the **right to self determination**.

Demonstrates that the more **complex and significant** one’s support needs, the more compelling the reason to **direct one’s own services**, and hence their lifecourse.
Making **You** Happen

Our values and beliefs underpin everything we do by:

**Empowering you** to live your life

**Respecting you** and your choices

**Dedicated to you** and your ambitions

**Kind to you** without exception

**Transforming services with you**

**Open minded to you**

**Accountable to you** and yours
Service Definition

• ‘...The purpose of independent living technology is to assist participants in obtaining and or maintaining their independence and safety within their home and community and decrease their need for assistance from others...’.

• **Independent living technology** involves the use of remote monitoring services and/or equipment in conjunction with additional technological support and services.

• **Examples**...include: medication dispensers, door sensors, window sensors, stove sensors, water sensors, pressure pads, GPS Tracking Watches, panic pendants and the remote monitoring equipment necessary to operate the independent living technology.
Why? What? How?

• Provide people with the most significant support needs the **opportunity** to control the design and delivery of their support system

• No cameras! Type of equipment is directed by the person’s needs and preferences: *sensors, pagers, pendants*....

• Vet companies for **alignment with our values**

• Language precedes behavior: this is about **support not monitoring!**
And most important, **WHO**?

• We began with those who are using the most services:

  • **KF**: psychogenic polydipsia
  • **RB**: PTSD and choking risk
  • **BB**: Stroke survivor x2
  • **DB**: Sleep apnea
  • **DB**: Sleep apnea and diabetes
Our Process

• Ask, inform and educate all involved stakeholders
• Include the people, their families and other chosen allies in all aspects of design, delivery and evaluation
• Introduce vendor and resources in a safe and collaborative manner
• Implementation is unique and flexible, adapting to preferences and needs
• Anticipate changes and use opportunity to drive innovation: EVV
Not just for people with disabilities!

• Technology is for those who provide the services too

• Tablets or laptops available for everyone we support

• App based for convenience and accessibility:
  
  • Paycom: Time and Attendance and so much more
  
  • Therap: Service Documentation/’Progress’ Notation
What’s Next

• Visionary government leadership enables responsible experimentation and innovation in the private sector and that results in systems change: we’ll keep going!

• Expanding our technology exploration: Virtual Desktop Integration

• Confronting the challenges of providing support to rural communities

• Continued evaluation and re-design from people using remote supports
Exceptional service and support should be a matter of *choice*, not chance.
"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

— Socrates
Questions?
values into action

Making YOU Happen

-thank you-

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