

Access to Support Services Related to the Social Participation of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

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Introduction

The present qualitative study aims to document government services received by adults with intellectual disabilities who live in the Montreal area, in Quebec, Canada.

Objective

Therefore, an objective of the presentation of this poster is to describe the perception of people with intellectual disabilities as well as those of their families, regarding the government services received within the past few years compared to those received before the implementation of the Intellectual Disability Policy.

Method

A semi-structured exchange grid was developed and 12 people with intellectual disabilities were interviewed, in their home or activity center, accompanied by their parent or caregiver. Ten (10) of these people were aged between 18 and 35 (group 1), and three (3) between 38 and 50 (group 2). Seven (7) participants had a mild intellectual disability, three (3) moderate and three (3) severe disabilities. The content of the interviews was recorded and the minutes were fully transcribed for analysis.

Results

The thematic analysis (Miles & Huberman, 2003; Paill  & Mucchielli, 2012) based on contents revealed eight themes: a) place of residence, b) respite activities, c) work, d) leisure activities, friendships and romantic relationships, e) health, f) services that are not accessible, g) services lost and h) services desired.

Place of residence

- 9 people live at the family home
- 2 people live in a supervised apartment (Group 2)
- 1 person lives in an intermediate residence (Group 1)

Respite activities

- 9 people take advantage of holiday camps or respite

Work

- 10 people perform work activities :
- None are paid
- They work an average of 3.5 days (2-5 days)
- Receive social assistance and an allowance

Leisure activities, friendships and romantic relationships

- All have leisure activities :
- Painting, theatre, cinema, show, country dance, restaurant, religious activities, shopping,
- Swimming, skiing, badminton, walking, skating, Special Olympics

Health

- 9 people also say they have health problems :
- Obesity, Bad knees
- Thyroid gland problem, sleep problem
- Stomach cyst, blood in stool
- Heart condition, recurrent nasal congestion

Results

Service that are not accessible

- 11 people have a doctor :
- They see him once a year
- 4 people go to the chiropractor, osteopath, massage therapist, nutritionist or their dentist frequently
- All go with their parents

Service lost

- All have lost specialized educational services

Service desired

- 9 people would like more services :
- 5 people would like services for psychological difficulties (mood disorders, anxiety, behavioural disorder, conflict with family and friends)
- Responder to offer sports activities (yoga, training, basketball)
- Integration into the labour market
- Program to help them manage their budget
- Help program to find an apartment

Discussion

The results show that it is evident that people with intellectual disabilities received few services from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, especially since 2008. Any required assistance generally comes from a parent. As they get older day by day, it is even more difficult for these parents to support their child ?