

Talk Story: Making Self-Determination Real Today

Presenters: Jim Dehem, Tom Nerney, Derrick Dufresne, Mike Mayer

Intended Audience: All audiences

Session Description

The principles of self-determination have been around for a while now, and there are many myths and misperceptions that have grown up around this innovation to how we support people who have disabilities. This Hawaiian style discussion of will address these myths and misunderstandings, including that self determination is limited to a specific type of disability or people who have a certain level of cognitive skill. We will also examine the issues that arise in taking these principles out of the “abstract and philosophical” and putting them into practice in a real world. Finally, we will discuss “the next generation of efforts” to look at what is happening that moves us beyond the policy discussions and “oh, yeah, we do that” to take self-determination “to the street” across multiple disability groups with secure, long-term funding.