

1

00:00:04,160 --> 00:00:15,200

(Interviewer)

Part one, Francisco Alvarado, Assistant Director of the Department of Illinois Rehabilitation Services.

2

00:00:15,200 --> 00:00:23,060

(Francisco Alvarado)

Today, I am the, you know, the assistant director for the Division of Rehabilitation Services for over 10 years.

3

00:00:23,060 --> 00:00:29,270

I am also the administrator of operations for the Division of Rehabilitation.

4

00:00:29,270 --> 00:00:42,020

This last three years and in managing the operations and assisting the directors and the programs, it has been a tremendous opportunity for me.

5

00:00:42,020 --> 00:00:46,700

So who we are is a division.

6

00:00:46,700 --> 00:00:59,990

I think today we are a comprehensive service program that looks at the individual's needs in terms of their desires,

7

00:00:59,990 --> 00:01:04,730

of who they want to be in the future, what they want to do with their lives.

8

00:01:04,730 --> 00:01:13,160

And that's what my hope is, you know, I hope is that counselors will not see themselves as case managers,

9

00:01:13,160 --> 00:01:22,190

Community based organizations and nonprofit organizations in our community are the pillar of the resources and supports in our communities.

10

00:01:22,190 --> 00:01:24,080

Before they existed

11

00:01:24,080 --> 00:01:33,140

most of the resources and support would come from your local church or civic organizations to help the individuals in need, not communities.

12

00:01:33,140 --> 00:01:40,340

As community based organizations have grown, they've also developed with different identities and different purposes,

13

00:01:40,340 --> 00:01:47,390

and they all have their group logo in terms of who they serve, what their mission is,

14

00:01:47,390 --> 00:01:54,590

you know, as community based organizations start developing in the early 70s, they all had a mission, a vision.

15

00:01:54,590 --> 00:01:59,420

They did their strategic planning and try to create their identity and who they were.

16

00:01:59,420 --> 00:02:01,790

In general, they all serve their community.

17

00:02:01,790 --> 00:02:12,230

Therefore, in their community, of course, there are people with disabilities, whether they focused on this aspect of disabilities or not.

18

00:02:12,230 --> 00:02:16,700

I think that that's something that needs to be spoken about.

19

00:02:16,700 --> 00:02:23,720

But community based organizations are organizations that are very eager to expand.

20

00:02:23,720 --> 00:02:34,580

They are individuals that have roots in the community, and many of them have people that are working in these organizations now that are

three,

21

00:02:34,580 --> 00:02:40,160

third and fourth generation of family members that used to work at this community based organization.

22

00:02:40,160 --> 00:02:43,700

So the roots of these organizations are very deep.

23

00:02:43,700 --> 00:02:50,720

And that's really important that these organizations be brought to the level of awareness of understanding

24

00:02:50,720 --> 00:02:58,400

the people with disabilities really need and would benefit from their services and their value.

25

00:02:58,400 --> 00:03:10,790

So in working with them, if their immigrant communities of their refugee communities or of their communities that are limited English proficient,

26

00:03:10,790 --> 00:03:19,970

all of these communities have come in contact with people with disabilities, whether it's in their families or in the communities.

27

00:03:19,970 --> 00:03:29,900

And educating them on the value of the existence of disability services is something that I'm sure would come

28

00:03:29,900 --> 00:03:37,580

very natural to community based organizations because they're always looking to enhance and build themselves.

29

00:03:37,580 --> 00:03:41,570

And you have to remember that they were created out of need.

30

00:03:41,570 --> 00:03:50,600

There was a need that was identified that was needed to be filled or needed to be addressed.

31

00:03:50,600 --> 00:03:59,090

So in their communities, there is a need for them to be able to understand how to help people with disabilities.

32

00:03:59,090 --> 00:04:06,480

So they already have that model within their agency to be a helping entity.

33

00:04:06,480 --> 00:04:16,830

So disability services and understanding and linking them and adding disability components to Sibos is a natural fit,

34

00:04:16,830 --> 00:04:24,360

and I think that you will find is you will find a great amount of interest you will find in

35

00:04:24,360 --> 00:04:29,280

community based organizations that are truly going to want to become experts in the field,

36

00:04:29,280 --> 00:04:38,580

disabilities. And they're going to want to help build those bridges with the agencies that provide these services directly.

37

00:04:38,580 --> 00:04:46,890

So, yes, you're working with I think you should focus on that aspect and yes.

38

00:04:46,890 --> 00:04:59,670

You know, offer the opportunity to engage them on the subject and offer to create that bridge to help bridge that gap within their agencies,

39

00:04:59,670 --> 00:05:05,310

because most of the agencies in our in our communities are struggling.

40

00:05:05,310 --> 00:05:13,860

They are trying to get themselves back together because the last four or six years, they lost a tremendous amount of funding.

41

00:05:13,860 --> 00:05:19,560

They were under a lot of different types of attacks. And so they're just barely getting themselves together.

42

00:05:19,560 --> 00:05:29,790

So as they restructure at this point, it to me would make total sense to add a component of serving people with disabilities,

43

00:05:29,790 --> 00:05:41,160

helping them understand that they already have 90 percent of the tools within their agencies to help individuals with disabilities.

44

00:05:41,160 --> 00:05:48,570

And they just need a tiny bit of information that can be easily transmitted to them to be

45

00:05:48,570 --> 00:05:54,810

able to enhance their capacity to provide the benefits of what they're already doing.

46

00:05:54,810 --> 00:06:03,370

This great work in the community. But it will be also extended to the disability community.

47

00:06:03,370 --> 00:06:17,984

(Interviewer)

A partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago Institute on Disability and Human Development, and Illinois Department of Human Services IDHS.