Abstract

The goal of this project was to promote community inclusion of individuals experiencing developmental disabilities by influencing family-focused recreation businesses in Anchorage, Alaska. Literature reviewed included that related to developmental disabilities, cultural competence, universal design and inclusion legislation, guidelines, and resources. There was a broad coalition of stakeholders created to develop a plan to address health promotion needs and promote inclusivity.

Discussion included disability prevalence, changing demographics, and potential economic cost and benefit of improving inclusion. The stakeholder group has progressed to drafting a strategic plan. Analysis included legislation, guidelines, and resources applicable to the identified population. Booklets were compiled containing resources to assist businesses in defining and assessing cultural competence, universal design, and inclusion. Recommendations delineated change at all levels of the social ecological model.

Improving community inclusion for people experiencing developmental disabilities is possible and improves health and quality of life for individuals, families, communities, and society.