

Measuring Quality of Life - “The Maryland Ask Me!sm Experience”

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Abstract

The state of Maryland is home to a unique and valuable approach to quality enhancement for services for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Known as the Ask Me! Project, this effort consists of face-to-face interviews conducted by individuals who themselves have developmental disabilities. A total of 154 peer interviewers, for 11 years, have assessed the quality of life of consumers who receive publicly provided services and supports. Evidence suggests that peer interviewers achieve higher levels of self-response with less bias than non-peer interviewers. The Ask Me! Project findings are being used statewide to move policy and services toward greater self-determination and rights, and provide people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities information to make more informed choices about agencies to support their desired quality of life.