

Fred's Story

Discussion Guide: For Families

Why did Fred's family make the decision to put him in an institution?

- Parent died
- Professional advice
- Original intent that it was to be temporary
- Lack of support services in the community
- Lack of other choices
- Embarrassment
- Fred's social behavior and needs
- Other ideas?

What would happen to Fred today if his parent died?

- Family would be encouraged to support him in his community life
- Some support would be available in his town
- Fred would have access to personal funds
- What else?

What support would he need in the community?

- Help with his medical condition
- Someone to assist with basic arrangements for living and working, getting things organized and helping with personal problems
- Links to a social network
- What else?

The philosophy presented in the black and white film footage from the 1960's is different from the way people with disabilities are seen today. How have things change and how are they the same?

- *Changes*
 - Support in the community is priority
 - Institutions are not preferred options for most people
 - Advice from professionals favors community placement
 - Support services exist in the community
- *Similarities*
 - A person with a disability is often not part of decisions
 - Options for home and work are limited
 - Community support not adequate for all who need it
- What Else?

What made the institution seem like a prison to Fred?

- Lack of choices; i.e., lining up to march to meals

- Lack of freedom of movement
- Separation from his family
- Lack of respect from staff people
- Having his belongings taken and broken
- Lack of privacy
- What else?

What did he miss from his real life back in his home community?

- Family members and events
- The rhythm of life as relative were born, married, died
- Acceptance as part of a family
- His job at the grinder shop
- Community places and faces
- What else?

Fred didn't like the job he was assigned at the institution. Why not?

- Did not choose it
- Work was hot, dirty
- Pay was very low
- No vacation days
- No pension
- No benefits of any kind
- Lack of respect from his co-workers and from his family members
- What else?

Fred said he was a prisoner at the institution. How was it like a prison?

- Forgotten by society
- Denied basic human rights
- Not part of everyday life decisions
- What else?