The Future at the Center for Disability Studies:
The Right Perspective, the Right Time for a New Partnership

Patricia Morrissey
The Future Matters

You and I will play roles in shaping it.

The question is – Will we do it together, here?
The 500 Gorillas in the Room

• How OLD is she?
• Can she handle the physical elements of the job?
• Does she know ANYTHING about research?
My experience and its alignment with the ability to do research

My experience -
• Writing federal legislation
• Implementing federal legislation
• Creating new initiatives
• Training others

The things I’ve done require -
• Asking the right questions
• Analyzing and interpreting results
• Assessing impact
• Making adjustments based on what is learned
• Reporting on what is found in language that stakeholders understand and can use
More 500 pound gorillas…

- Can she write?
- Is she a team player?
- Why does she want a job NOW?
Talking Story:
Who is Pat Morrissey?
Even at two months of age I knew I wanted to solve problems and had discussions with my parents about it…
My mother had common sense...

She gave me just enough help...
I had my own transportation…

I had walking bars…
Included in all things…
At 10, I wanted to walk around the block by myself in downtown Frankfurt, Germany, and mother let me do it…
1960s – Exploration and loss

College adventures

Losing my brother, John
Opportunities: Learned the importance of disability policy

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act -- my ticket to Washington, D.C.

1978 - Section 504

1978 - Independent Living Centers
1980s – New responsibilities

- I began to write parts of laws
- 1983 - Parent Information and Training Centers
- 1986 - Projects with Industry
- 1988 - the Tech Act and section 508
1990’s – Participated in drafting many laws

- 1990 - Americans with Disabilities Act
- 1997 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- 1998 - Education of the Deaf Act
- 1998 – Rehabilitation Act, including section 508
- 1998 – Tech Act
- 1999 - Ticket to Work Act
- 2000 – Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
The importance and power of the DD Act

- Recognizes the power of systems change driven by self advocates and their families to achieve rights
- Expects and tracks collaboration
- Represents a credible organizational model for other countries
- Impacts all phases of community life, all ages, using many tools – education & training, research, enforcement of rights
- Demonstrates and holds people accountable for community partnerships
- Impacted many countries at UN (2004)
Experienced disability rights beyond U.S.

With Chinese special education graduate students in Beijing 2004

Member of U.S. delegation to UN during CRPD drafting 2004-2005
Istanbul 2015

Trained Iranian DPO leaders on disability rights and implementation of CRPD
Had opportunities to share

Graduation speaker
College of Education
Penn State
2004

ADA speaker 2000

State Dept.
2015

White House
2015
Networks are important: U.S. International Council on Disabilities Gala 2015

- Randal Johnson – VP of U.S. Chamber of Congress and drafter of ADA
- Margaret Gianinni, MD – initiator of the DD Act
Many trips to Hawai’i

- Taught at University of Hawai’i at Manoa - 1979
- Business for HHS - 2008
- CDS - 2016
What is important to CDS?

Effective leadership
Responsive management
Proactive Mentoring
Lucrative fund raising
Powerful communication
Productive partnerships
Results
What could we do together?

• Learn, share, and lead so that people with disabilities in Hawai’i experience a future where they have the opportunity to …

• Be independent
• Have choices
• Exercise their preferences
• Contribute to their families and communities
• Experience directly the American dream
Challenges and opportunities for CDS

• Challenges
  – Job security and career advancement
  – Expansion of education, research & community service opportunities
  – Sufficient resources with which to pursue new initiatives
  – Targeting specific audiences, the value of old & new BFFs

• Opportunities
  – Keeping project info., faculty & staff profiles & marketing skills current on university web pages
  – Connecting training to employment opportunities
  – Developing a diverse funding portfolio
  – Creating new & revitalizing current partnerships
Job security and career advancement

• Opportunities
  – Invest in marketing skills of faculty, staff, and students
  – Create a career ladder for everyone
  – Develop/use skill sets to pursue diverse funding opportunities
  – Explore diverse partnerships
  – Use the power of transfer

• More opportunities
  – Organize around topics and areas of expertise (actual and potential)
  – Create liaisons
  – Recognize results
  – Capture and use teachable moments
  – Market results in the right places
  – Sustain and replicate success
Expansion of education, research & community service opportunities

• Training leads to jobs
  – Be open to the full range of research-based opportunities
  – Continue to emphasize the value of data driven questions, designs, and outcomes
  – Continue to test hypotheses in real-world settings

• Experience builds expertise in –
  – Surveying, organizing, and messaging – controlled studies, qualitative research, participatory research
  – Making decisions based on facts
  – Simplifying the transfer of research to policy and practice with stakeholders
Resources with which to pursue new initiatives

Immediate resources
- Fruits from what CDS is doing now
- State DD Network
- Expertise, enthusiasm, commitment, and interests of current faculty, staff, and university students
- University of Hawai‘i System tapped/untapped allies
- Community support
- Pac Rim
- Ocean Fest

Strategies
- Thinking outside of the box
- Strengthen/create mechanisms to troll for, brainstorm about, and design new funding opportunities, especially related to trending themes
- Increasing use of info from projects ending to extend/transform to new phases or sell capability for a new venture
- Update boiler plate information so it can be quickly accessed and adapted for any new venture
Target specific audiences: Continue and expand partnerships to put people with disabilities first

- Within the university system
- Within the state
- Nationally
- With the military
- With corporate America
- With governments and DPOs overseas (help them respond to CRPD implementation)

- CRDG, Ed. Psych., other Depts., other colleges & programs - Business, Medicine, Law, Tourism
- DD Council, P&A, NGOs, elected officials
- Orgs., federal leaders
- Those serving families & vets
- Chamber, USBLN
- Especially Asia and the Pacific Rim
Some Big Ideas

- Wellness – Use CDS HI-PRAISE project as model for new wellness initiatives
- Ocean Fest – Let students majoring in tourism work with people w/ disabilities
- Transition--Work w/ local Chamber of Commerce to offer job sampling and internships to junior & high school students
- Employment – Offer accommodation coaching to VA as a project for vets with post-traumatic stress syndrome
- Transportation – Ask taxi companies to give people with disabilities free rides in return for advertising on the University of Hawai’i's at Manoa websites
- Criminal justice system – needs help and will have $ to get it
More Big Ideas

- Housing – Approach venture capitalists about buying an apartment building & reserving some units for accessible apartments; opportunity for partnership and support for people with a range of disabilities
- Education – Apply what has been developed through literacy initiatives at the CDS to reading stories to the kids by kids and writing stories to promote inclusion
- Community supports – Ask faith communities to adopt a family with a disability, especially transient families from outer Pacific, ask them to function as navigators help families learn how to live successfully in Hawaii
- International – Use relationships established through Pac Rim to set up exchanges and expand distance learning options on disability studies with people from overseas
I would welcome the opportunity to join you

The future is ours to shape together if we choose to do so

Mahalo
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