Adapting to Age-Related Changes in the Home, Day Program and Community

Promoting good health and quality of life for adults with IDD who are aging or experiencing dementia
Aging and Intellectual and Developmental Disability

- Adults with IDD may experience natural aging processes at an earlier age than those in the general population
- Adaptations help ensure safety and promote full and safe participation across all settings
- Community partnerships can be important resources that should be fostered
Honoring Cultural Practices and Individual Preferences
Today’s Speakers

Mary Jo Cooper

Dottie Farrell

Photo provided by Bay Cove
Honoring Culture and Personal Preference

* Cultural and religious practices
* Different perspectives on death and dying
* Honoring someone’s advanced directive
Cultural Preferences of ALL

- Know the cultural preferences and religious practices of the individual
- Help peers understand that their peer’s beliefs might be different
- Understand cultural preferences and religious practices of all staff
In some cultures:

- Death is not discussed for fear of hastening it or giving a loss of hope
- End of life decisions, including when and if to tell the person their prognosis, rests with the male head of the family and/or a religious leader
- End of life decisions may be made considering the entire family rather than only considering the individual
Caregiving Customs

* Caregiving
* Prayer and religious practices
* Perspectives on pain and help-seeking
Determining Beliefs and Preferences

- Formal assessment tools
- Informal assessment
- Cultural assessment
How Do You Show Support to Individuals Throughout the End of Life Process?
Communicate preferences

- Communicate to everyone who provides services
- Make notes in the record
Additional Webinars

Adapting to Age-Related Changes in the Home, Day Program and Community Series:

* Adapting the Residence for Adults Aging with IDD
* Adapting the Day Program for Adults Aging with IDD
* Honoring Cultural Practices
* Community Inclusion and Solutions
Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Health Promotion and Aging in Adults with IDD
https://shriver.umassmed.edu/cdder/aging_idd_education/
Training produced by the Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation & Research (CDDER)

on behalf of the

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Cultural Approaches to Pediatric Palliative Care in Central Massachusetts: World’s People in Central Massachusetts. Interactive guide to different cultures and beliefs around pediatric care. http://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/diversity_guide
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