Pieces of the Same Puzzle: The Role of Culture in Person-Centered Thinking, Planning, and Practice

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What we will do together this afternoon

- Review the evolution of person-centeredness.
- Define and take a deep dive into the multiple dimensions of culture and cultural diversity.
- Examine the essential role of culture in person-centered thinking, planning, and practice.
- Draw upon the lived experience of two individuals about their multiple cultural identities, issues of intersectionality, and insights about person-centered thinking.
A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF PERSON-CENTEREDNESS

A review of the literature that spans person-centered thinking, planning, and practice reveals:

- Earliest published work on the concept of person-centeredness was documented in 1979 with a formative period through 1992

- Individuals with developmental disabilities were the original focus of this work both nationally and internationally

- Michael Smull has been a pioneer of person-centeredness in the area of developmental disabilities since the mid 1980’s


A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF PERSON-CENTEREDNESS

A review of the literature that spans person-centered thinking, planning, and practice reveals:

- Numerous definitions of and approaches for person-centered thinking, planning, and practice have emerged over time.

- The common factor across definitions and approaches is the “person is at the center,” and ultimate control and decisions about all aspects of the person’s life is made by the person (and/or decision-making support from those closest to the person), and is based upon what is important to and for the person.
An interpretation of Person-Centered Thinking in Services & Supports

In an interview, Michael Smull describes five elements that exemplify a person-centered thinking environment that are commensurate with CMS rules.

Who supports him/her/they

Where he/she/they live

The person chooses

What she/he/they do with their time

With whom he/she/they live

How she/he/they spend their resources

Data sourced: Retrieved on 7/5/19 from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rmLtU6FYBE

NCAPPS puts forth the following definitions

“Person-centered thinking is a foundational principle—requiring consistency in language, values and actions—that reveals respect, views the person and their loved ones as experts in their own lives, and equally emphasizes quality of life, wellbeing, and informed choice.

Person-centered planning is a methodology that identifies and addresses the preferences and interests that make up a desired life and the supports (paid and unpaid) needed to achieve it. It is directed by the person, and it is supported by others selected by the person.

Person-centered practices are the alignment of services and systems to ensure the person has access to the full benefits of community living and to deliver services in a way that facilitates the achievement of the person’s desired outcomes.”

Retrieved on 6/5/19 from https://ncapps.acl.gov/about-ncapps.html
“Person-centered planning (PCP) is a process for selecting and organizing the services and supports that an older adult or person with a disability may need to live in the community. **Most important, it is a process that is directed by the person who receives the support.**

PCP helps the person construct and articulate a vision for the future, consider various paths, engage in decision-making and problem solving, monitor progress, and make needed adjustments in a timely manner. It highlights individual responsibility, including taking appropriate risks (for example, whether arranging for back-up staff is needed). Emergency planning is often part of the process.

The PCP approach identifies the person’s strengths, goals, medical needs, needs for home- and community-based services, and desired outcomes. The approach also identifies the person’s preferences in areas such as recreation, transportation, friendships, therapies and treatments, housing, vocational training and employment, family relationships, and social activities. Unique factors such as culture and language also are addressed.”

Retrieved on 6/5/19 from [https://acl.gov/programs/consumer-control/person-centered-planning](https://acl.gov/programs/consumer-control/person-centered-planning)
The multiple dimensions of Culture is the learned and shared knowledge that specific groups use to generate their behavior and interpret their experience of the world. It includes but is not limited to:

- communication
- rituals
- courtesies
- thought
- ceremonies
- beliefs
- expected behaviors
- practices
- roles
- manners of interacting
- customs
- relationships
- values

Culture applies to racial, ethnic, religious, political, professional, and other social groups. It is transmitted through social and institutional traditions and norms to succeeding generations. Culture is a paradox, while many aspects remain the same, it is also dynamic, constantly changing.
Culture ...

- is applicable to all peoples
- is value laden & rooted in belief systems
- is active & dynamic
- is multilayered & multidimensional
- exists at conscious & unconscious levels
- is often viewed as thick, thin, or compartmentalized
- provides group member identity
- structures perceptions & shapes behaviors
  (e.g. relationship to the natural world or traditional homelands)
- varies in expression both among and between individual group members
- permeates every aspect of life


CULTURE IS ...

Comprised of beliefs about reality, how people should interact with each other, what they know about the world, and how they should respond to the social and material environments in which they find themselves.

Reflected in religion, spirituality, morals, customs, politics, technologies, and survival strategies of a given group. It affects how groups work, parent, love, marry, and understand health, mental health, wellness, illness, disability, and end of life.

**Culture**

*Culture* is akin to being the person observed through a one-way mirror; everything we see is from our own perspective.

It is only when we join the observed on the other side that it is possible to see ourselves and others clearly – but getting to the other side of the glass presents many challenges.

(Lynch & Hanson 1992 Developing Cross Cultural Competence)

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**An Iceberg Concept of Culture**

- dress
- age
- gender
- language
- race or ethnicity
- physical characteristics
- eye behavior
- facial expressions
- body language
- sense of self
- notions of modesty
- concept of cleanliness
- emotional response patterns
- rules for social interaction
- child rearing practices
- decision-making processes
- approaches to problem solving
- concept of justice
- value individual vs. group
- perceptions of & beliefs about of mental health, health, illness, disability
- patterns of superior and subordinate roles in relation to status by age, gender, class
- sexual orientation
- gender identity & expression

and much more...

Adapted by the NCCC
POLLING QUESTION

In your role or capacity, which element of ADDRESSING do you consistently consider as cultural diversity factors related to the individuals and populations that you serve?

Age
Disability (congenital)
Disability (acquired)
Religion (or spirituality or no affiliation)
Ethnicity (or race)
Social Status
Sexual Orientation
Indigenous Heritage
National Origin
Gender (identity & expression)
ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

The values and behaviors that contribute to the unique social and psychological environment of an organization. Organizational culture includes an organization's expectations, experiences, philosophy, and values that hold it together, and is expressed in its self-image, inner workings, interactions with the outside world, and future expectations. It is based on shared attitudes, beliefs, customs, and written and unwritten rules that have been developed over time and are considered valid. It is shown in:

1) the ways the organization conducts its business, treats its employees, customers, and the wider community,
2) the extent to which freedom is allowed in decision making, developing new ideas, and personal expression,
3) how power and information flow through its hierarchy, and
4) how committed employees are towards collective objectives.

Data source: http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/organizational-culture.html

Convergence of Cultural Contexts:
Implications for Person-Centered Thinking, Planning & Practice

Slide Source: © Tawara D. Goode 2019 - Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence
MULTIPLE CULTURAL IDENTITIES

The literature indicates that we as human beings have multiple cultural identities that can be grouped as follows.

- **Categorization** – people identify with one of their cultural groups over others
- **Compartmentalization** – individuals maintain multiple, separate identities within themselves
- **Integration** – people link their multiple cultural identities

Data Sources:

Slide Source: Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence, 2019.

Intersectionality

Kimberlé Crenshaw uses intersectionality to describe overlapping social identities and related systems of oppression, domination, or discrimination and their complex and cumulative effect specially focused on Black women because of their membership in multiple social groups.

Since her original work was published in 1991, the application of intersectionality has strayed from its feminist, legal, civil rights advocacy, and race theory roots and is applied to other identities that include but are not limited to social class, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. Intersectionality is currently being embraced by many in academia and human services, including within the network of individuals and organizations concerned with developmental disabilities.


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Polling Question

How much do you know about the multiple cultural identities and intersectionality of people who you serve and their families?

Consider the following response options.

- not at all familiar
- slightly familiar
- somewhat familiar
- moderately familiar
- extremely familiar

Rule #1

Have a solid appreciation for and understanding of culture – both your own and others.
Let’s hear from Andy and Chacku

Cultural Diversity and Differing World Views
Cultural Diversity

The term *cultural diversity* is used to describe differences in ethnic or racial classification & self-identification, tribal or clan affiliation, nationality, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, education, religion, spirituality, physical and intellectual abilities, personal appearance, and other factors that distinguish one group or individual from another.

Who are people in need of person-centered thinking services and supports?

What are the current and emerging demographic trends in your state, territory, or tribal nation?
Projections for the U.S. Population: 2020 to 2060

- The United States is projected to continue becoming a more racially and ethnically pluralistic society. This is not a new pattern and is well documented in early 1900s.²

- The United States is projected to become a plurality nation. While the non-Hispanic White (alone) population will still be the largest, no race or ethnic group is projected to have greater than a 50 percent share of the nation’s total through 2044.¹

- More than half of all Americans are projected to belong to a minority group, any group other than non-Hispanic White alone, and will become majority-minority beginning in 2045.¹²


The fast‐growing racial or ethnic group in the United States is people who are Two or More Races, who are projected to grow some 200 percent by 2060.

The next fastest is the Asian population, which is projected to double, followed by Hispanics whose population will nearly double within the next 4 decades.


A Nation of Immigrants

“About 44 million people in the United States—around one in eight—were born in another country. However, most residents have immigration in their family history. Some 36 million Americans must look to their parents to find it, while 235 million—or about 75 percent of Americans—must look back to their grandparents’ generation or earlier.”

(pages 8‐9)
### ACS 2017 United States Demographic Estimates

#### One Race or Latino or Hispanic and Race

**Total Population = 325,719,178**

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<tr>
<th>RACE</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>Percent of POPULATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>One Race</td>
<td>315,003,713</td>
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<td>White</td>
<td>235,507,457</td>
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<td>41,393,491</td>
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<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>2,726,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>18,215,328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian &amp; Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>608,219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>16,552,940</td>
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<td>10,715,465</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino of any Race</td>
<td>58,846,134</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
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</table>

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), Demographic & Housing Estimates, Table DP05, 1-Year Estimates.

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### Population Self-Identified by Race & Ethnicity Categorical Listings

- White and Black or African American
- White and American Indian and Alaska Native
- White and Asian
- White and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- White and Some Other Race
- Black or African American and American Indian and Alaska Native
- Black or African American and Asian
- Black or African American and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Black or African American and Some Other Race
- American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian
- American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- American Indian and Alaska Native and Some Other Race
- Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Asian and Some Other Race
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and Some Other Race
- Three or more races

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder.

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Languages Spoken at Home in the U.S. in 2017

Estimated Total Population 5 years and over 305,924,019

Speak only English 78.2%
Speak a language other than English 21.8%

Speak Spanish 41,017,620 (13.4%)
Speak Indo European languages 11,321,488 (3.7%)
[French (Patois, Cajun), French Creole, Italian, Portuguese, Portuguese Creole, German, Yiddish, Other West Germanic languages, Scandinavian languages, Greek, Russian, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Other Slavic languages, Armenian, Persian, Gujarathi, Hindi, Urdu, Other Indic languages]
Speak Asian and Pacific Island languages 10,839,407 (3.5%)
[Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mon-Khmer, Cambodian, Miao, Hmong, Thai, Laotian, Vietnamese, Tagalog, other Pacific Island languages]
Other Languages 3,413,791 (1.1%)
[Navajo, Other Native American languages, Hungarian, Arabic, Hebrew, African languages, other unspecified languages]

Limited English Speaking Households

Limited English Speaking Households formerly (linguistic isolation) refers to households in which no member 14 years old and over: (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English “very well.”

Limited English Speaking Households in the United States in 2017

All households 4.4%

Households speaking--
- Spanish 21.7%
- Other Indo-European languages 14.9%
- Asian and Pacific Island languages 24.6%
- Other languages 17.0%
Cultural Factors That Influence Diversity Among Individuals and Groups

Internal Factors
- Cultural/Racial/Ethnic Identity
- Tribal Affiliation/Clan/Societies
- Nationality
- Acculturation/Assimilation
- Socioeconomic Status/Class
- Education
- Language
- Literacy
- Family Constellation
- Social History
- Military Status
- Perception of Time
- Health Beliefs & Practices
- Health & Mental Health Literacy
- Beliefs about Disability or Mental Health
- Lived Experience of Disability or Mental Illness
- Age & Life Cycle Issues
- Gender, Gender Identity & Expression
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion & Spiritual Views
- Spatial & Regional Patterns
- Political Orientation/Affiliation

External Factors
- Institutional Biases
- Racism & Discrimination
- Community Economics
- Intergroup Relations
- Group & Community Resiliency
- Natural Networks of Support
- Community History
- Political Climate
- Workforce Diversity
- Community Demographics

Adapted with permission from James Mason, Ph.D., NCCC Senior Consultant

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Cultural Beliefs about Health, Mental Health, Illness, Disease, Disability

- Superstition
- Fate or Destiny
- Karma
- Malevolent Forces
- Religiosity & Spirituality
- Cultural & Familial Folklore

Cultural Barriers to Accessing Services and Supports

- Historical mistrust of health care, mental health, education, and social service professionals
- Based on country of origin, unfamiliar with services and supports offered in the U.S.
- Experiences of racism, oppression, ableism, sexism, homophobia, religious-phobias, discrimination, oppression, and bias
- Cultural beliefs about the meaning of disability (including differing value systems)
- Stigma
- Literacy and health literacy
- Limited English Proficiency
Differing World Views

Person-centered as a concept and practice may be viewed by some as uniquely Western because the emphasis is on the individual.

Cultures that are individualistic tend to value and stress the needs of individuals over the needs of the group as a whole. Selected characteristics include:

- Individual rights take center stage
- Independence and autonomy are highly valued.
- People tend to be self-reliant
- Being dependent on others is frowned upon
- The rights of individuals take a higher precedence.

Collectivist cultures emphasize the needs and goals of the group as a whole over the needs and desires of each individual. Selected characteristic include:

- Social rules focus on promoting selflessness and putting the community needs above individual needs.
- People are encouraged to do what is best for society.
- Working as a group and supporting others is essential.
- Families and communities have a central role.

Some individuals, families, and cultural groups that reside in the United States, territories, and tribal nations may embrace either individualism or collectivism or a combination of both characterize their values and behaviors.

- Have you or your organization explored these concepts with the people to whom you provide services and supports?
- What are their implications for person-centered thinking, planning, and practice?
COMMON VALUES IN INDEPENDENT LIVING & RECOVERY MOVEMENTS

Do these values have the same meaning across all cultural groups?

- Self-advocacy
- Independence
- Self-determination
- Productivity
- Equality
- Inclusion

Rule #2

The values system that underpins many services and supports may neither be shared, accepted, nor similarly expressed by all cultural groups.
Let’s hear from Andy and Chacku

**Person-Centered Thinking**
It is not just the culture of the person receiving services and supports, it is also the culture of the person delivering services and supports.

**Person Centered Planning**
It is: (1) having the knowledge and willingness to embed the multiple dimensions of culture in all aspects of the planning process; and (2) revisiting and revising extant tools and approaches that do not or minimally emphasize culture.

**Person-Centered Practice**
It is ensuring that the values, structures, practices, attitudes, and behaviors of the organization and its staff are aligned with principles and practices of cultural and linguistic competence.
Some thoughts to remember about culture

- You are a cultural being and have multiple cultural identities, one of which may be your professional discipline or position in a school, university, clinic, community-based organization, or governmental entity.

- You view and interpret the world through your own cultural lens which is comprised of both individual and group experiences over time.

- Your cultural frame of reference may or may not be shared by the individuals to whom you provide care, services, and supports.

It is not person-centered if culture is not fully embedded.