MOVING FROM CULTURAL STIGMA TO EMPOWERMENT

Chicagoland’s Asian Americans Living with a Disability

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Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial ethnic group population in the US.
Employment Rates in Illinois

Employment rate of people with disabilities

34.8%

Employment rate of people without disabilities

75.5%

(Cornell University Report, 2011)
3.5% of AAWD’s are working age (21 – 64) in IL.
(Cornell University Report, 2011)

Less than 1.09% of the VR client population in Illinois is Asian.
1,421 are Asian out of the total 130,351 of VR customers.
(DRS FY 2005-2010)
Some Current Institutional Barriers

- Westernized culture
- Lack of understanding of Asian culture
- Lack of linguistic capacity
- Disability myths
- Asian myths
- Lack of outreach
Chicago Demographics:
2007 Distribution of Asian Residents with Disabilities

Legend
- Asian Services
- CTA Trainline
- State DRS Facilities
- CTA Stations

Populations Totals*
- 0-201
- 201-400
- 401-600
- 601-800
- 801-1000

Community Area Names

*Totals based on 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3 year estimates
What is Culturally Appropriate Outreach?
Ten Broad-Based Outreach Mechanisms

Cultural Brokering Training/Professional Development

Building Community Collaboration and Partnerships

Recruitment and Workforce Diversity

Strengthening Language and Linguistic Capacities

Mobilize Coalitions and Task Forces

Ethnic Media Outreach

Develop Grassroots Leadership

Data Collection, Research and Evaluation

Incorporate Cultural and Linguistic Service Delivery

Promoting Advocacy/Empowerment
What is ADOPT?

Formed in 2010 with funding by;
American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (2009)
&
Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
Purpose of ADOPT

Systems change and capacity building initiative:

• Support Chicago-based Asian Americans with disabilities (AAWDs) gain meaningful access and participation to the state vocational rehabilitation (VR) system through culturally and linguistically relevant outreach efforts.
Study Methods

• Literature review
• Analysis of key elements of outreach
• Collection of Local Practices and Models
• Interviews with Asians Americans with Disabilities
• Focus Groups
  • DRS Providers
  • Asian Providers
    • Informal Question to 2/25 agencies:
      Do you know what DRS is?
• Secondary Analysis of Existing VR Data
ADOPT’s Key Partners
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

• 40 Local Asian agencies serve as gateways to AAWDs
• Listing of CBOs, faith-based organizations (FBOs), ethnic media, ethnic chambers, and multi-lingual psychiatrists/psychologists
• CBOs can serve as referral portals and job placement sites

AHS - Enrolled ? clients, between ? approved by DRS.

CMAA - Received ? clients, ? of whom remain active in the job counseling and placement services program for persons with disability
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

10 Translated VR Factsheets
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