

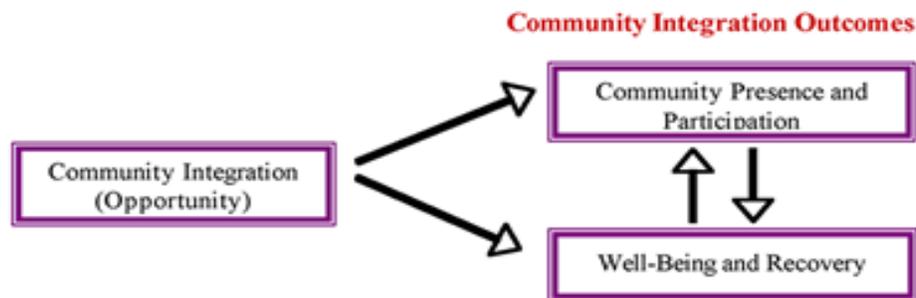
## What is Community Integration?

Community Integration is the opportunity to live in the community and be valued for one's uniqueness and abilities, like everyone else. (Salzer, 2006) \*.

Community integration encompasses:

- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Health Status
- Leisure/Recreation
- Spirituality/Religion
- Citizenship and Civic Engagement
- Valued Social Roles (e.g., marriage, parenting)
- Peer Support
- Self-Determination

Community integration (or, the opportunity to live like everyone else) should result in community presence and participation of people with psychiatric disabilities similar to that of all others without a disability label. \* (Salzer, et al)



## Why should I promote Community Integration?

- Community Integration provides a road map to recovery by creating an environment that facilitates individual well-being.
- Community Integration is the right of all people. Below are some of the legal and policy foundations for community integration:
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) - Title II: requires governments to give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all programs, services, and activities
  - Department of Justice "Integration Regulation": services, programs, and activities must be delivered in a way that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with non-disabled people to the fullest extent possible
  - Supreme Court Olmstead decision (1999): unnecessary institutionalization is a form of discrimination prohibited by the ADA
  - Bush Executive Order (2001): requires federal agencies to work with states to ensure community integration

## What is Community Integration? (continued)

### How can I promote Community Integration?

- Identify barriers to community integration and target obstacles that prevent people from being full members of their communities
- Provide supports which bring about meaningful changes in the lives of people with psychiatric disabilities (i.e. – Supported Education, Supported Employment, Self-Help Groups, Parenting Classes, etc.)
- Expand the range of opportunities for people who have mental illnesses to participate in their communities as active, equal members

### How can the UPENN Collaborative Help?

The UPENN Collaborative faculty are available to provide technical assistance and consultation on the following topics:

- Community Integration Framework and Principles
- Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Community Integration and Recovery
- Increasing the Utilization of Mainstream Supports and Resources
- Promoting community Integration in Specific Life Domains
- Building and Maintaining Provider Competencies and Skills

Please contact Katy Kaplan ([katykap@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:katykap@mail.med.upenn.edu) or 215-746-6713) for more information about the technical assistance and consultation available from the University of Pennsylvania Collaborative on Community Integration.

\*Salzer, M.S. (2006). Introduction. In M.S. Salzer (ed.), *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Skills in Practice: A CPRP Preparation and Skills Workbook*. Columbia, MD.: United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association.