**USING PHOTOVOICE TO EXPLORE DAY PROGRAM EXPERIENCES OF ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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**Objectives**: It is important for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to have opportunities to inform/design the services they receive. To provide the highest quality person-directed programming, developmental service agencies could benefit from increased understanding of the experiences of supported individuals in structured, day program activities. This study had two main objectives: to explore the perspectives of adults with IDD on their participation in a day program gardening group; and to evaluate the feasibility of using PhotoVoice as an accessible means to obtain consumer feedback about day program activities.

**Methods:** This study involved 6 men with IDD between 24 to 65 years of age, representing a range in functional mobility, communication, and adaptive skills. PhotoVoice, a participatory action research approach, was the methodology used for this project. Participants were provided cameras, training, and ongoing support to facilitate photo-taking during their involvement in a gardening program. Interviews were later conducted using the photos to elicit discussions about the participants’ experiences. Data was transcribed and coded using thematic analysis. Member-checking was completed through a focus group to confirm initial themes.

**Results:** Themes revealed participant experiences related to both the gardening program and the feasibility of the PhotoVoice methods that were utilized. Participants identified several sources of meaning from their gardening group experiences including: having opportunities to socialize, feeling autonomy and pride, having a sense of responsibility, and being able to see tangible results. They also identified key facilitators that supported their participation as having independence, accessibility, personal skills, and support from others. Environmental constraints and physical abilities were identified as the main barriers to participation. PhotoVoice was found to be a feasible and accessible strategy to obtain person-centered program feedback.

**Discussion/Conclusions**: Adults with IDD have important and unique perspectives on their activity engagement and must be recognized as primary stakeholders in program development. This approach provides an opportunity to authentically and feasibly capture individual perspectives.

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