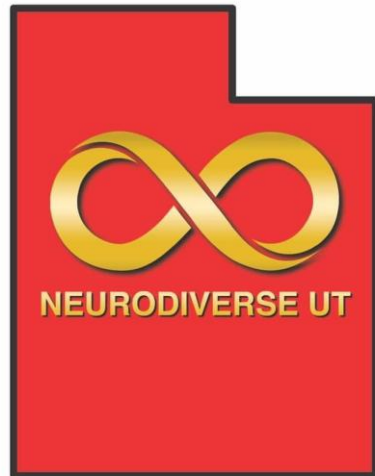


Autonomy and Interdependence

Their Impacts on Disability Advocacy

Intro

- ▶ I am an Autistic Mental Health Consultant and Educator.
- ▶ I started Neurodiverse UT my campaign to push for Neurodivergent affirming care and community in the state of Utah.
- ▶ My background is in wildlife education
- ▶ After becoming chronically ill I switched my focus to disability and mental health.



Objectives

- ▶ Define Autonomy
- ▶ Define Interdependence
- ▶ Explain why Autonomy and Interdependence are important concepts
- ▶ Explain how they work together and how they conflict.
- ▶ Explain why policymakers need to think of interdependence.

Disability Rights Model

- ▶ Focuses on Individual Rights and Independence
 - ▶ Encourages everyone to work*
- ▶ Works within existing systems
- ▶ Examples
 - ▶ ADA
 - ▶ Section 504



Disability Justice Model

- ▶ 10 principles developed by the late Patty Berne and Sins Invalid.
- ▶ Focuses on collective liberation
- ▶ Is intersectional
- ▶ Transforms and replaces current systems into something better.
- ▶ Recognizes that not everyone can work.
- ▶ Recognizes that everyone has inherent worth.



Autonomy

- ▶ I have the final say on decisions impacting my body and my life.



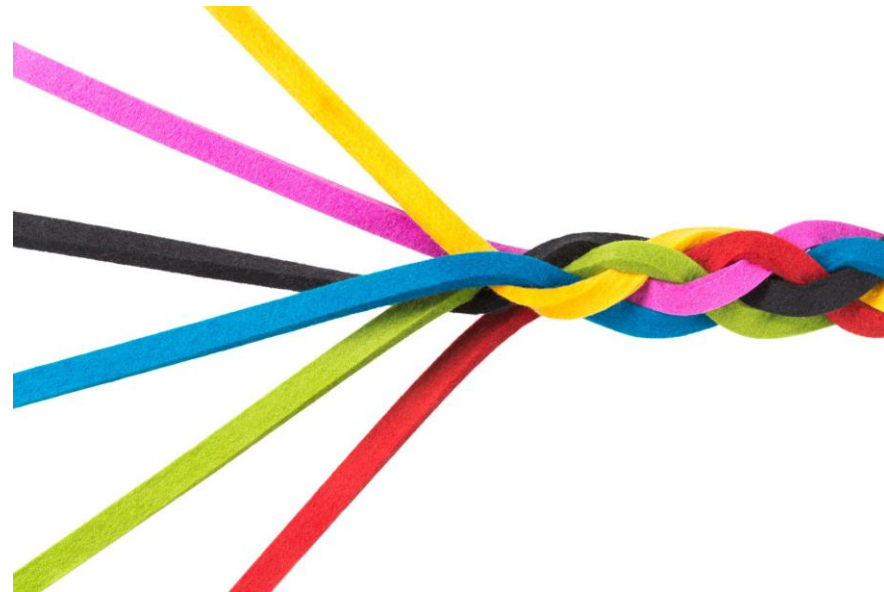
Independence

- ▶ I can do things by myself without help from others.
 - ▶ The definition I'm using is the one I'm most familiar with.
 - ▶ (In a disability context it has the same meaning as autonomy)



Interdependence

- ▶ “Interdependence acknowledges that our survival is bound up together, that we are interconnected and what you do impacts others.”
- ▶ We work together to meet each other's needs.



Interdependence

- ▶ Humans are an interdependent species.
- ▶ We are only able to thrive because we receive help from others.
- ▶ Recognizes the needs and abilities of others.



Autonomy and Interdependence

How They Work Together And How They Can Conflict

Working Together

- ▶ I can use my autonomy to choose how to contribute to community.
- ▶ Interdependence recognizes we all have autonomy and we all have a part to play in meeting everyone's needs.



Conflict

- ▶ COVID 19
- ▶ In the USA, more than 1 million people died and more than 20 million people have long covid.
- ▶ People refusing to vaccinate and mask leaves many disabled people vulnerable.



In Policy

Specific

- ▶ Supported Decision Making
- ▶ Access to communication
 - ▶ AAC
 - ▶ See Communication First
- ▶ Funding for HCBS
 - ▶ Thriving wages for care workers.

Broad

- ▶ Universal healthcare
- ▶ Universal Higher Education
 - ▶ College and trade schools

Sources

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