

INDEPENDENT LIVING AND TRADITIONAL PARADIGMS

This chart compares traditional approaches to medical and vocational rehabilitation services with the consumer-driven approach employed by independent living.

	MEDICAL MODEL & REHABILITATION PARADIGM	INDEPENDENT LIVING PARADIGM
Definition of problem	Physical or mental impairment; Lack of vocational skill (in the VR system)	Dependence upon professionals, Family members and others; Hostile attitudes and Environments
Focus of problem	In the individual (individual Needs to be “fixed”)	In the environment; in the Medical and/or rehabilitation process itself
Solution to the problem	Professional intervention; treatment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. barrier removal 2. advocacy 3. self-help 4. peer role models and counseling 5. consumer control over 6. options and services
Social role	Individual with a disability is a “patient” or “client”	Individual with a disability is a “consumer” or “user” of services and products
Desired outcomes	Maximum self-care for “ADL”); gainful employment in the VR system	Independence through control over ACCEPTABLE options for every day living in an integrated community

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