

National Academies of Science Engineering & Medicine

Optimizing Care Systems for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

A New Vision for Models of Care

John A. Kitzhaber, MD

December 14, 2021

Elements of System Transformation

1. Give yourself permission to imagine
2. Be very clear about your goal
3. Avoid putting people into categories
4. Do not underestimate either the importance of the community – or the difficulty in building true community engagement and empowerment

If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't need to worry about the answers.

Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*

The World Health Organization definition of Health

A state of complete physical, mental and emotional well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity

Having a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible is a basic human right



Photograph Provided by Northwest Down Syndrome Association (NWDSA)

Eleanor Bailey with Governor John Kitzhaber



Photograph Provided by Northwest Down Syndrome Association (NWDSA)

Eleanor Bailey on the day she graduated from High School

The Greatest Challenge in Creating a Health System

The need for a fundamentally different community-based delivery system and a fundamentally different community-based workforce

We cannot change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails and always reach our destination