



Effectively Reaching out to People with Disabilities by Understanding the Wounds Caused by Society

Jeff & Kathi McNair California Baptist University

Social Role Valorization • Based upon work by **Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger** • Grew out of “**Normalization**” • Applies to people who have been devalued, particularly people with disabilities

4 action thrusts (Wolfensberger)

1. **Prevention** of devaluation and resultant wounds
2. **Reversal** of devaluation and the negative effects of past wounds
3. **Minimization** of devaluation and of wounding
4. **Compensating** for continuing devaluation and wounding

“Collective unconsciousness can be so vast that even the most global societal policies may be undeclared, unexplicated, unacknowledged, and even denied. Thus for many people to all work toward a bad thing requires no deliberate or conscious conspiracy. While this is well-known by social scientists, most citizens are not aware of how they themselves can be totally unconsciously acting out undeclared, large-scale, societal policies in their own daily lives.”

Wolfensberger, 2007

Wolfensberger’s 18 Wound Categories

1. Wound 1: Bodily impairment
2. Wound 2: Functional impairment
3. Wound 3: Relegation to low social status, considered deviant
4. Wound 4: Attitude of rejection from those not facing same challenge of disability
5. Wound 5: Placed into one or more historic deviancy roles
6. Wound 6: Symbolic stigmatizing, "marking"
7. Wound 7: Being multiply jeopardized or scapegoated...blaming the victim
8. Wound 8: Distancing from other people, usually through segregation or congregation
9. Wound 9: Absence or loss of natural, freely given relationships & substitution with artificial/boughten ones
10. Wound 10: Loss of control over one’s own life, one’s autonomy & freedom
11. Wound 11: Discontinuity with the physical environment and objects "physical discontinuation"
12. Wound 12: Social and relationship discontinuity & even abandonment
13. Wound 13: Deindividualization "mortification" reducing humanness
14. Wound 14: Involuntary material poverty, material/financial exploitation
15. Wound 15: Impoverishment of experiences typical of the “valued world”
16. Wound 16: Exclusion from knowledge and participation in higher-order value systems (eg. religion) that give meaning and direction to life and provide community
17. Wound 17: Having one's life "wasted“ ...mindsets contributing to life wasting
18. Wound 18: Being the object of brutalization, killing thoughts & deathmaking

Deviancy Roles

- *Non-human (pre-human, no longer human, sub human)*
- *Menace or object of dread*
- *Waste material garbage, discard*
- *Trivium, not taken seriously, object of ridicule*
- *Object of pity, “suffering” or victim*
- *Charity recipient*
- *Child, eternally, once again*
- *Sick or diseased “medicalization of daily life”*
- *Death related roles, dying, already dead, as good as dead, should be dead, should never have lived*