



What is “MAPS”?

MAPS or “McGill Action Planning System” (sometimes also referred to as “Making Action Plans”) is a strategy developed by Marsha Forest, Jack Pearpoint, Judith Snow, and Evelyn Lusthaus that uses a *person-centered planning process* and group facilitation techniques to gather information and then to develop a plan of action for a focus person.

Forest, Snow, & Pearpoint, 1994; Inclusion Press

MAPS is a Planning Process

MAPS brings together key players in the focus person’s life to create a “roadmap” for working toward and achieving the dreams and goals of the focus individual and his/her family.



The MAPS Framework

MAPS has an *established framework of questions* that are used by a *facilitator* to guide the team/group through the process of examining:

- Where the focus person currently is and how s/he got there,
- Where the focus person wants to go and what the goals are, and
- How the team will work together to help the focus person reach these goals.

The MAPS Questions

- What is the focus person's history/story?
- What are the dreams?
- What are the nightmares?
- Who is the focus person?
- What are the focus person's preferences, strengths, gifts & talents?
- What does the focus person need?
- What is the plan of action?

1997, Forest, O'Brien, Pearpoint, Snow, Inclusion Press

More about MAPS...



- The MAPS questions are designed to help the group better understand the focus person and his strengths and preferences, in order to develop a snapshot of this person and possibilities for the future.
- By investigating dreams and nightmares MAPS can help a diverse team of people *collaborate* to align their understanding of the focus person and the person/family's vision, purposes and goals for the future.

So what else is *different* about *MAPS* and other *Person-Centered Planning Processes*?



MAPS: A Strength-Based Approach

- This process differs from many others because in it participants focus on what the focus person *can* do, instead of dwelling on weaknesses/deficits.
- This is also different than an IEP meeting, but information generated during MAPS can be used to make additions to an IEP.

