



Deinstitutionalization Toolkit: **CASE STUDIES – inDEPTH**

Case Study: Individual Experiences

This section of the Deinstitutionalization Toolkit: Case Studies: **inDEPTH** explores the experiences of individuals directly affected by the deinstitutionalization process. These voices and reflections are of eight people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) who are most affected by the move from state institutions to the community.

The Deinstitutionalization Toolkit: Case Studies: **inBRIEF** is an introduction that provides information about the methodology, key questions, topics, and discussion threads used in the evaluation of two states that are at different stages of the deinstitutionalization process. The Deinstitutionalization Toolkit: Case Studies: **inDETAIL** reveals the experiences of the closure process from the perspective of advocates and leaders involved in closing institutions and building community support systems in Oregon and Georgia.

- CASE STUDIES – **inBRIEF**
- CASE STUDIES – **inDETAIL**

Reflections: Individual Voices

Interviews with Former Residents of Institutions in Oregon and Georgia

Methodology

As a part of the case study work in Oregon and Georgia, individuals who were residents of institutions and are now living in the community were interviewed. In Oregon, individuals interviewed were former residents of Fairview and had lived in the community for a significant period of time. In Georgia, the individuals interviewed were former residents of Southwestern State Hospital, Rose Haven Unit, in Thomasville, Georgia, and had only recently been released to begin their lives in the community.

The interviews in Oregon were conducted by Becky Thrash and Carol Loop, staff members of the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities. The interviews in Georgia were conducted by Ellen Piekalkiewicz of the Daniels & Associates research team.



Highlights

Oregon

In Oregon, five people were interviewed. All of them were living in the community, four in group living situations with other people with disabilities and 24/7 staff, and one living independently in an apartment. All were enjoying their living situation and took pleasure in simple activities in the community—going out to eat, shopping, going to a pet store—having the freedom to pursue their own interests.

Four of the five people were working or involved in sheltered employment of day programs run by three different providers, with one retired after years of working in two separate jobs, ending her work life as a line supervisor at St. Vincent De Paul's.

Georgia

In Georgia, three people were interviewed, two of whom were recently discharged from Southwestern State Hospital, Rose Haven Unit, Thomasville, Georgia, and the other who is residing in a group home whose ownership was recently transferred from Southwestern State Hospital to the community provider in Thomasville, Georgia. Southwestern State Hospital was one of Thomas County's largest employers, with more than 800 employees. During the last several years, state hospitals in Georgia that serve people with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses have been plagued with allegations of abuse, neglect, and substandard medical care that contributed to more than 100 deaths under suspicious circumstances since 2002.

All of the three interviewees are currently living in the community in group living situations with other individuals with disabilities and 24/7 staff. They are enjoying their living situation and are participating in simple activities in the community—working, going out to eat, going bowling, playing ball outside, and having their individual rooms. Staff reports that the former residents led very structured lives at the state hospital and even in the group home run by the state hospital. Staff is trying to change the regimented aspect of their lives, but long-held habits are hard to change. Most people are still waking up very early, around 5:30 a.m., and still want to go to sleep by 8 p.m. Staff reports that all the residents were on a strict 1,500 daily allowance of calories at the state hospital. Now there is much more freedom in what they eat, and staff is



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concerned with some weight gain issues. The interviewees are involved in sheltered employment of day programs, and two of three are working in the community as well.

Interviews

We have included the interviews in their entirety so the individual voices of these former residents and their stories can be heard and seen in the context of their experiences both as residents of an institution and as members of a community.



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Oregon: Interview 1

Deinstitutionalization: Unfinished Business

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The National Council on Disability has asked Daniels and Associates to talk with people with disabilities about their experiences—living in institutions and then living in the community. Your answers to these questions will help people all over the country to understand these issues better and we hope that this information will encourage states to close all institutions and provide quality living situations for people with disabilities in the community.

Thank you for agreeing to talk with us.

Questions: (Please try to capture the individual's actual words so we can use them as quotations whenever possible. Note: we will not identify the individual's name.)

Personal Information

Charlie* remembers living in Fairview from the time he was very little. He is approximately 60 years old now. He appears to have mild cognitive disabilities and uses a wheelchair. He communicates well. He lives in a three-bedroom home with two other gentlemen, one of whom has been a good friend for many, many years. The home is in a nice neighborhood. It is clear that they have decorated it themselves with many personal items and pictures. There is live-in staff that rotates throughout the week. Additional staff is available during the day. Charlie spends time in a sheltered workshop/day program. He liked making money to go shopping. He appeared to have no complaints about his life. He was not uncomfortable about answering questions. He liked to talk about going out into the community. He likes watching people at malls, restaurants, and parks. He likes to go camping.

*Name changed to protect privacy.



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Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

"Yes."

What was the name of the institution?

"Fairview."

How long did you live there?

"Mike [his housemate] and I lived there when we were young."

(Staff: 40+ years; Charlie was placed there as a young boy.)

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

"They would take my picture and then I would get ice cream and pop."

(Staff: Annually residents' pictures were taken and put into their records. Charlie likes to have his picture taken even now, and he always requests ice cream and two cans of pop.)

Housing Arrangements

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

Are you living independently?

"No."

Do you live with family members?

"No."

Do you share a home with other individuals?

(Lives with two other housemates, who also lived at Fairview.)

Do they have disabilities also?

"Yes."



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Is there staff to help you there?

(Staff is there 24/7.)

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.

What do you like about your where you live?

"I help with dishes [in the kitchen]. Watching TV in here."

(He points to the television in front of him, in the living room.)

What would you like to change about where you live?

"I like my house."

Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

"John takes me with him. We go places."

(Staff: His friend John comes quarterly. They go see the lady at the pet shop and go out to eat and other activities).

Do you get to go out and "do things" in the community?

"They take me downtown and I get me something."

(Staff: He likes buying arts and crafts, coloring books, and supplies. He likes the color red. When he picked out a recliner at the store, it had to be red.)

What are your favorite things to do?

"Go on picnics. Watch children play on the jungle gym at the playground."

(Staff: He likes watching cars go by and especially watching people.)

Employment

Are you working? If you are working, tell us a little about your job?

"I put nails on racks. I have four different jobs."

(He was showing that he does things with his hand. Gesturing, moving his hand back and forth.)



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Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

"Yes, it's either a sheltered workshop or a day program called Day Break."

Do you have assistance on the job—like a job coach or other aids?

"There is staff at Day Break."

What do you like about your job?

"I get money when I work."

What would you like to change about your job?



Oregon: Interview 2

Personal Information

Alice* is approximately 50+ years old. Alice is very verbal and likes to engage with people. She lives in a home with two other individuals that has rotating staff 24 hours (with awake staff 24 hours) and has a live-in. Alice has no teeth. Interviewers note that teeth were often removed if the individual bit people. We have no information whether this was true for Alice. She made it very clear that her experiences at Fairview were very bad and that she didn't really want to discuss it because the memories upset her.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

"Yes, from the age of 12."

What was the name of the institution?

"Fairview."

(Gaines & McGruder cottage and others. Gaines was focused on very aggressive or self-abusive individuals who required one-on-one staffing. McGruder was for aggressive women. When she mentioned these names she became very agitated.)

How long did you live there?

"Age 12 until I got out."

(She was relocated from Fairview in the late 1990s.)

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

"I didn't like it there at all. Don't want to talk about. Don't want to discuss it. It was bad. Bad. Nobody should be there."

(She started rubbing her face.)



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Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

(She didn't want to talk about living there.)

"I was placed there after I threw my brother out a window and pushed my sister down the stairs."

(She didn't attend school while she was there.)

Housing Arrangements

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

"I have my own bathroom and the big bedroom."

Are you living independently?

"No."

Do you live with family members?

"No."

Do you share a home with other individuals?

"Yes, I have two roommates."

Do they have disabilities also?

"Yes."

Is there staff to help you there?

"Yes."

(24/7 staff, very structured and stable. One staff member mentioned that as things have been more stable for Alice, less bad behavior has occurred).

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.

What do you like about your where you live?

"I like that I have the big bedroom."

(She seemed very happy about where she lives).



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What would you like to change about where you live?

"I would like to live closer to Mom."

(Her mother lives in Portland. It sounded as if relationships with Mom and siblings are rather strained.)

Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

"I like working. I like to clean. I clean toilets and sinks. I answer phones and take messages. I like doing my job and I like when people say I have done a good job."

(Staff commented that she is very polite and professional on the phone.)

Do you get to go out and "do things" in the community?

"I like shopping for groceries. I like getting my hair colored."

(She participates in a weight loss program called TOPS. She was proud that she had lost weight.)

What are your favorite things to do?

"I like Blazers' [basketball] and Volcanoes' [baseball] games. I have a boyfriend. I have baseball cards. I like watching shows."

(She likes watching game shows. She sees her boyfriend occasionally)

Employment

Are you working?

"Yes."

If you are working, tell us a little about your job?

"I work at SRC."

Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

"Yes."



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Do you have assistance on the job— like a job coach or other aids?

“Staff is there to help.”

What do you like about your job?

“I clean floors, vacuum, clean toilets, answer phone, and take messages.”

What would you like to change about your job?

“Nothing.”



Oregon: Interview 3

Personal Information

Jimmy* gets very agitated when people don't understand him. He uses only a few words at a time. He gets frustrated when people ask him questions. When asked, he would look at his sister and say "Sissy, Sissy, Sissy." He lives in a very fancy house on a golf course with one other individual who experiences autism. He has the big bedroom with his own bathroom. There are glow-in-the-dark stars and walls. The house does not look as if the residents care or provide much input into the decorations. He loves his big-screen TV and old westerns. He has all the westerns memorized. He also watches the golf channel.

*Name changed to protect privacy

Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

(Yes.)

What was the name of the institution?

(Fairview.)

How long did you live there?

(Was placed there at the age of 20 and left at age of 48. He has been with current provider for 12 years.)

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

(His parents placed him there because they felt it was much more secure for him. He was a runner and they felt he needed a safe place to be.)

Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

(Very difficult for him. He was teased a lot, but not sure whether by residents or staff. The structure of staffing and residents was always changing. Very noisy. Situation didn't work well for him. He didn't sleep



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well at Fairview. He became very closed in. He would go home on weekends and sleep. He would cry when he knew it was time to go back. He had stomach issues and then surgery. They even tried him living with a roommate by themselves in an apartment on campus. That didn't work well at all. It was a disaster because he would run away.)

Housing Arrangements

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

(In a house.)

Are you living independently?

(No.)

Do you live with family members?

(He visits his sister's house every other weekend. He is very excited about going to visit his sister. He was planning on going with his sister after the interview and was anxious to get moving. Put on coat and hat.)

Do you share a home with other individuals?

(Only one other person.)

Do they have disabilities also?

(Yes.)

Is there staff to help you there?

(Staff 24/7, live-in staff rotate, very structured schedule.)

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.

What do you like about your where you live?

(He seems to like where he lives very much. He showed us his room. Likes to help make cookies and other goodies. He gave the interviewers cookies that he had made for them the day before.)

What would you like to change about where you live?

(Nothing.)



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Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

(He can visit other homes that the provider has. Likes one-on-one time with staff.)

Do you get to go out and “do things” in the community?

(He likes to go watch people line dancing at a local bar called the Silver Spur. Loves to go out to the casino and eat at the buffet, shopping (he repeated “buffet” several times). Going for a drive. He really enjoys it when he stays with his sister. He helps to get ingredients when she is cooking and gets a kick out of it when she forgets something.)

“Sissy goo got.”

What are your favorite things to do?

(Likes going with one of the staff to get hard candy at Dee Dee’s, a local deli.)

Employment

Are you working?

If you are working, tell us a little about your job?

(He is the “official” mailman at PCL. He sorts mail [color coded] and delivers mail to different homes. Delivers mail to the Court House from his provider.)

Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

(Yes, at PCL. Also does limited delivery to the Marion County Courthouse.)

Do you have assistance on the job—like a job coach or other aids?

(Staff.)



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What do you like about your job?

(He really enjoys delivering the mail. Has his route memorized. They are trying to incorporate a color-coded system; he's not too happy about some changes in the color coding.)

What would you like to change about your job?

(He would like to do this job every day. Doesn't like days off.)

(Jimmy's body language indicated strong agreement with this!)



Oregon: Interview 4

Personal Information

Tom* is a good friend of Billy's but has lived with Billy only a few months. They grew up together at the institution. Tom was quite anxious when talking about the institution. He has moved around a lot and was also concerned that the interviewers were going to move him again. Tom doesn't initiate conversation very often. For example, he doesn't voluntarily share when he hurts or feels ill, but will talk with a doctor when he gets to the office. He is about 60 and uses a walker. Tom is very detail oriented and likes things in a certain way. He gave a tour of his room. Everything is very orderly, and his *National Geographics* were stacked in order. At least one of the staff was someone that Tom knew in Fairview and seemed to like a lot.

*Name changed to protect privacy

Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

"Yes."

(Most of his life was spent in an institution. He made it very clear that where he is living today is where he wants to stay. He was concerned that talking about the institution meant having to go back to the institution.)

What was the name of the institution?

"Fairview."

How long did you live there?

"Not sure."

(Staff: 40-plus years.)

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

"I stay here." (He even seemed to come across as a little fearful or concerned.)



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(Did not like living at Fairview. He moved to Keizer, South Salem, Monmouth, and now here. He doesn't want to move from where he lives now.)

Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

"No. I like where I live now. I stay here." (He repeated this several times.)

Housing Arrangements

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

(Shares home with two other men.)

Are you living independently?

"No."

Do you live with family members?

"No."

Do you share a home with other individuals?

"Yes."

Do they have disabilities also?

"Yes."

Is there staff to help you there?

"Yes, staff does everything. I want to start helping in the kitchen."

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.

What do you like about your where you live?

"Like where I live. I stay here. Pictures, on the wall in my room."

(Tom showed us his room. On one wall in his room is a collage of pictures that he has taped up, from magazines. This collage is about 4 ft. across by 7 ft. high. We could tell that he continues to add to the collage until it gets so heavy that it falls down, then he starts over again. Each picture in the collage is connected to other pictures. For example, he had pictures of Amy Winehouse, who died. Also, there were pictures of alcohol bottles



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and other items related to Amy Winehouse. The alcohol bottles represented the type of alcohol she drank.)

Asked him if he listened to her music.

"Yes, I do."

(Tom reads the *Statesman Journal* daily. He requested a copy of the document that we were interviewing him for when it is printed.)

(Staff: He keeps track of everyone's schedule, both staff and housemates. He knows when they are supposed to be there and will say so.)

What would you like to change about where you live?

"Like where I live."

(Staff: He doesn't tell them when he is sick or where it hurts.)

"I talk to my doctor."

(This is a great improvement when he can talk with his doctor about what is wrong.)

"The doctor talks to me not to staff."

Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

"Josh and Kelly's house, fried chicken."

(Staff: Josh was a staff member who previously worked with him. Josh and his family stay involved with Mike and take him out and to their home.)

Do you get to go out and "do things" in the community?

"Yes, shop for stuff. Go out to dinner."

What are your favorite things to do?

"Go to McDonalds. Like cartoons, but not ones on TV now."



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Employment

Are you working?

"Yes."

If you are working, tell us a little about your job?

"Day Break."

Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

"Yes."

Do you have assistance on the job—like a job coach or other aids?

"Yes."

What do you like about your job?

"Taking pictures out of magazines and coloring."

What would you like to change about your job?

"No like Day Break."



Oregon: Interview 5

Personal Information

Sharon* is 58 years old. She is living in a housing complex in a unit by herself. She lives with no support except a person who helps with finances and emails. Sharon is very independent. Her house is immaculate and she is very proud of it. She monitors who comes and goes in the complex and knows everyone. She appears to be very well liked. Sharon was married and had two children that she raised. She now has grandchildren.

*Name changed to protect privacy

Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

"Yes."

What was the name of the institution?

"Fairview."

How long did you live there?

"I was there from about the age of two until I was 18 and graduated there. I had encephalitis when I was very young. I think I was maybe one. Doctors told my parents that I wasn't expected to live. I didn't speak for about 200 days. Doctors didn't think I would ever talk. The doctors didn't know if I could even learn anything. They told my parents not to expect much."

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

"I didn't know any different when I was placed there. When I first left Fairview I was very sad, but I don't miss it at all anymore. I remember as a child going home by bus every other weekend to be with my parents. I moved in with my parents after I left Fairview. I helped take care of them as they grew older."



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Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

“As I got older I worked with the kids who were serviced through the Hearing & Speech area. I walked them to and from appointments and activities. I also walked the blind children. I didn’t get paid. I helped in the kitchen and helped to feed other patients.”

“I remember being in Special Olympics. In the cottages we could play inside or play outside with other kids. I remember going to the State Fair every year. I had lots of friends and had some special teachers. There was one teacher that was very encouraging to me. She made me feel very good about myself. We had to carry a colored card with us at all times. A green card meant you could go anywhere on campus. I left Fairview in 1973.”

“I would sometimes go to parties at an off campus house where there were young children.” (This was called Baby Louise’s Haven. It was started by a nurse from Fairview for infants and toddlers who would ultimately move to Fairview when they were older.)

(She showed us her certificates and photos that she saved. She still has her diploma when she graduated and her Awards Ceremony program.)

Housing Arrangements

(Sharon’s house is very homey and clearly decorated by Sharon. Lots of family photos, her cat, and lighthouse collection. She also has photos of friends and the friends’ family members because they are all close.)

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

“Apartment through HAP—Housing Assistance Program.”

Are you living independently?

“Yes.”

Do you live with family members?

“No.”

Do you share a home with other individuals?

“No.”



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Do they have disabilities also?

"No."

Is there staff to help you there?

"I have staff from my brokerage that helps me. Joan helps me check my email on Tuesdays."

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.

What do you like about your where you live?

"I very much like where I live."

What would you like to change about where you live?

"It is difficult to sit down in my bathtub, so I use a shower bench. I would like to have the type of tub you step into."

Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

"I can do anything I want. My friends are like family. I like helping the manager with the yard work and I help to keep the laundry room clean. I go to visit my grandkids in Northern California and relatives in Spokane, Washington."

Do you get to go out and "do things" in the community?

"I go to Weight Watchers and to visit some close friends often."

What are your favorite things to do?

"Cross stitch."

Employment

Are you working? If you are working, tell us a little about your job?

"I don't work anymore. I did work in a factory in Beaverton for 17 years making soaker hoses. I was on my feet for eight to 10 hours at a time. I also worked at St Vincent de Paul and worked up to a line supervisor."

(She cleans the homes of two friends and house-sits when they are gone. Another friend is very ill and Sharon checks on her daily. She rides the city bus.)



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Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

Do you have assistance on the job—like a job coach or other aids?

What do you like about your job?

What would you like to change about your job?



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Georgia: Interview 1

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Thank you for agreeing to talk with us.

Questions: (Please try to capture the individual's actual words so we can use them as quotations whenever possible. Note: we will not identify the individual's name.)

Personal Information

Carrie* lives in a group home, the ownership of which was been recently transferred from Southwestern State Hospital to Thomas Grady Service Center, the community provider in Thomasville, Georgia, that serves people with developmental disabilities. Carrie has four roommates with whom she has lived for many years. She was able to stay with the same roommates as ownership was transferred. She is approximately 40 years old now. In addition to cognitive issues, she appears to have a neurological disorder causing her hands to shake. She has her own bedroom, which she has decorated. There is live-in staff that rotates throughout the week, and Carrie spends time in a sheltered workshop/day program. She did not seem too interested in answering questions but was very verbal about the subjects she wanted to talk about.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

"No."

(Carrie lives in a group home that was previously owned and operated by the State of Georgia, through Southwestern State Hospital.)



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What was the name of the institution?

How long did you live there?

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

Housing Arrangements

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

Are you living independently?

"Yes, I have my own bedroom."

Do you live with family members?

"No, my Mom died and my Dad died of cancer."

(Staff: She has developed a sisterlike relationship with one of her roommates with the same name.)

Do you share a home with other individuals?

"I have four roommates."

Do they have disabilities also?

(Yes, it is a group home for individuals with disabilities.)

Is there staff to help you there?

"Yes, we have someone who is at the house and makes us breakfast and dinner and stays overnight."

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.



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What do you like about your where you live?

"My room is pretty. I like my room and watching TV. No strangers can come in the house. We eat dinner at the house but I do not help with dinner. Sometimes I make cookies and cupcakes. I love my roommates a lot."

What would you like to change about where you live?

"Nothing."

Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

"Every day I have a Dr. Pepper at 10 a.m. but sometimes they sell out because everyone loves it."

Do you get to go out and "do things" in the community?

"I come every day to the Training Center. I paint pictures. I play bingo and Candyland. Kim who lives with us painted my nails red."

What are your favorite things to do?

"I don't swim but love to go to the swimming pool because it is hot."

Employment

Are you working? If you are working, tell us a little about your job?

"I want to work at Wal-Mart because my sister works there."

(Staff: She volunteers at the local elementary school, reading to children.)

Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

"No."

Do you have assistance on the job—like a job coach or other aids?

What do you like about your job?

What would you like to change about your job?



Georgia: Interview 2

Personal Information

Corey* is 53 years old. Corey likes to engage with people. He has severe balance problems and is prone to falling, so he wears a helmet. He also has a severe skin condition. He lives in a historic home in Thomasville with four other individuals and has 24/7 staff. Corey did not even reference the fact that he lived for a significant period of his life in Southwestern State Hospital, Rose Haven Unit.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

"No, I lived in Tifton, Georgia."

(Staff: He lived in Southwestern State Hospital since childhood and is originally from Tifton.)

What was the name of the institution?

How long did you live there?

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

(He did not want to talk about living there. Staff indicated that he has challenging behavioral issues and that they were warned by the state hospital staff and Corey's family that he could not live in the community. Staff reports that there have been no behavioral incidents now that Corey has moved out of the state hospital).



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Housing Arrangements

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

"I have my own bedroom."

Are you living independently?

"No."

Do you live with family members?

"No."

Do you share a home with other individuals?

"Yes, I have four roommates."

Do they have disabilities also?

"Yes."

Is there staff to help you there?

"Yes, Diane takes care of us."

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.

What do you like about your where you live?

"I have a TV in my room."

What would you like to change about where you live?

"I would like to mow grass."

Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

"I like to mow grass. My brothers and sisters are taking me out to dinner for my birthday on Friday. I want to go to Red Lobster."

Do you get to go out and "do things" in the community?

"No, I come to the Training Center every day and I like to play bingo. I like to go outside and take walks with my friends. I like the Police Department."



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What are your favorite things to do?

"Mow grass. I like watching shows."

Employment

Are you working?

"No."

Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

Do you have assistance on the job—like a job coach or other aids?

What do you like about your job?

What would you like to change about your job?



Georgia: Interview 3

Personal Information

George* is approximately 40 years old. He talks a lot but is very hard to understand. George does not seem to have additional medical problems. George pretends to cry when he does not want to do something like answer questions. George likes donuts and got a package of donuts for our interview. He was really intent on finishing them before we could talk.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

Did you live in an institution at some point in your life?

"Yes."

What was the name of the institution?

"Rose Haven."

How long did you live there?

General Experience

What was it like for you as a person with a disability to live in an institution and not in the community?

Do you have specific memories of a time in the institution which you think will help people understand what it was like for you?

"My Dad was very mean and he died. My Mom is in a home in Thomasville."

(He seems to understand that his mother was not able to take care of him at home.)

Housing Arrangements

What type of housing arrangement do you have?

"I live in a house. I have my own room but I did not get to chose the color my room was painted. It is white."



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Are you living independently?

"No I live with four roommates."

Do you live with family members?

"I have brother and sisters and they visit me."

Do you share a home with other individuals?

Do they have disabilities also?

"Yes, they are like me."

Is there staff to help you there?

"Yes, there is staff to help us and they take me to see my Mom in the home."

If none of these describe the place where you live, please tell us about it.

What do you like about your where you live?

"I like donuts. I like to play ball."

What would you like to change about where you live?

"I want to live in Florida with my brother."

Community Life

What is the thing you enjoy most about your life in the community?

"I like to play ball and go bowling."

Do you get to go out and "do things" in the community?

"Bowling."

What are your favorite things to do?

"I like to go see Mom."

Employment

Are you working?

"I work bagging groceries three times per week."



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(Staff: He works once per month and is very popular at work. He works every day in the sheltered workshop.)

Are you working at a job where most of the other individuals are also people with disabilities?

"No."

Do you have assistance on the job—like a job coach or other aids?

"No."

What do you like about your job?

"I like seeing all the people at the grocery store. I like to have money."

What would you like to change about your job?

"He would like to work more at the grocery store. He does not like days off."