

Agree/Disagree: Staff and Resident (Client/Participant/Patient) Relations

I'm going to read a statement a couple of times. If you agree with the statement, move to the right side of the room. If you disagree, please move to the left . . . We will discuss them all later. Pay attention to the wording of each statement, and decide if the statement is true for you!

1. Staff should never have an outside friendship with a Participant or *their* family . . .
2. I would not ever let a Participant know where I live . . .
3. I like some Participants better than others . . .
4. Hugging is sometimes okay between staff and Participants . . .
5. If I have a My Space or Facebook account, some Participants are okay for me to "Friend" . . .
6. Sometimes a Participant comes in and I already know *them* or *their* family from the outside. . .
7. Shaking hands is the preferred way to have physical contact with a Participant . . .
8. I don't let Participants talk about my family . . .
9. I have seen some staff members get too close to a particular Participant . . .
10. We shouldn't even have to talk about this sort of thing . . .
11. If I see someone a former Participant while shopping, I should try to avoid *them*. .
12. Sometimes I am confused about how to act when a Participant is messing with me . . .
13. Common sense will lead you in almost every staff and client situation . . .
14. I can often see when a staff member is about to make a poor decision before it happens . . .
15. It's OK for me to discuss my weekend plans with a co-worker in front of Participants...

Facilitator:

- Notice which questions are more evenly divided, and which questions there is almost universal agreement.
- Ask the group which questions they could see both sides of.
- Ask the group about any question where they found themselves in the minority. What guided their decision? What did they think about the many people on the other side of the room?
- Pick an evenly balanced question. Who feels strongly about it?
- What might happen if you changed an "always" to "sometimes," or the other way around?
- Would some of the questions be different if you worked in a female (*male*) facility?
- Would some of your answers be different if you worked in a group home?
- If you were trying to explain this exercise to a co-worker who needs this information – is there a question stands out that you would want to explain?
- Are there other questions about staff-to-Participant behaviors that you think would add to this exercise?