

# Ask Me!

## **POWER SUMMARY**



### **What's the Ask Me!™ Survey?**

Ask Me! is all about putting people first by listening and acting on the voices of the consumers we serve. Throughout Maryland, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has funded and implemented the unique Ask Me! Survey in partnership with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, The Arc of Maryland, and the self-advocacy group People On the Go. **Ask Me! interviewers who have disabilities ask other people with disabilities about their quality of life using questions developed by self advocates.** The people surveyed are Marylanders with developmental disabilities who receive DDA funded supports from community providers serving 10 or more people.

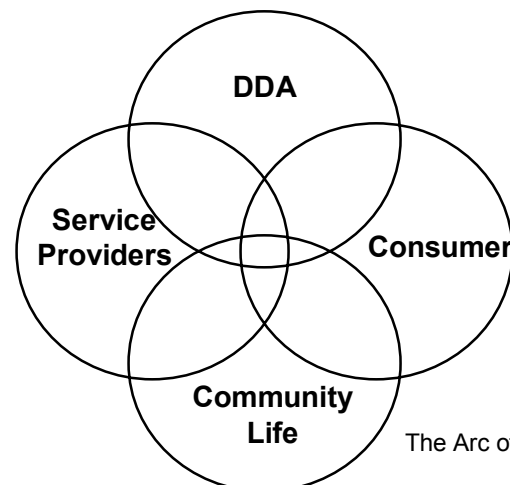
Since our agency's overall purpose – like most service providers – is to enhance the quality of life of the consumers we serve, **the Ask Me! Survey results provide exciting, valuable insights for us ...** insights we turn into action by recognizing what's working well and improving what needs work.

Three-quarters of the people surveyed answered Ask Me! questions for themselves, with one-fourth answering through “proxies” from another person. Survey questions fall into **eight “domains” that research has found are vital factors that affect how consumers with developmental disabilities view their quality of life.** You can see the eight domains and how our agency performed in each of them in the attached results. Statewide results for all service providers are also shown.

Several times over the past seven years – and for several years to come – a survey report shows statewide results. Individual reports are also produced for each service provider. Data collection for the latest Ask Me! Survey report, called FY (Fiscal Year) 2004, is now being finalized; however, [AGENCY NAME] has already received preliminary results. **It includes tremendously valuable information we can learn from based on our consumers' responses** about what impacts their quality of life.

Agency services are one facet of a person's life. **A variety of factors influence how our consumers see their overall quality of life:**

Because the Ask Me! Survey questions cover a wide range of topics, the results offer an important picture of our consumers' views.



The Arc of Maryland  
9/05

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Some things that affect their quality of life are within our control; others less so. We need to challenge ourselves to make sure we make the best possible use of the Ask Me! Survey data, identifying ways to make what we do even better.

A report from Bonham Research is issued each year (around November) with statewide Ask Me! results, individual survey data for each service provider and an in-depth analysis of the results. But even if we don't have the report, that doesn't mean we have to wait. **The Ask Me! results we have in hand right now are ripe for action!**

For more details and background about Ask Me! please visit [www.thearcmd.org/Programs/AskMe/ask\\_me.htm](http://www.thearcmd.org/Programs/AskMe/ask_me.htm).

### **The Scoop: Our Agency's Ask Me! Results**

*[In the following sections, you can add information specific to your agency and communicate what you want your internal audience(s) to do based on this Power Summary.]*

#### **Our Ask Me! Results:**

*[Several easy to understand graphs are provided to you for this section. They show your agency's latest results, your prior years for comparison and statewide results.]*

#### **What Do The Results Mean For Us?**

*[Use information from your Action Worksheet to complete this section.]*

#### **What We're Already Doing – And Plan To Do – Based on What Consumers Told Us Through Ask Me!**

*[Use information from your Action Worksheet to complete this section.]*