

# SoFAB Launch

September 12<sup>th</sup> 2012.

SFCoP

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# SFCOP Representation over the years

- Academic – and Leadership UCD
  - Farmers Groups, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association.
  - Interested / Pilot Individual Farmers
  - Depts. Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht; Agriculture Food and Marine
  - Teagasc (Agriculture and Food Development Authority)
  - HSE (Statutory Health and Social Care Commissioning)
  - Leader Programme / Local Partnership Bodies
  - Voluntary Sector - Care Providers Agencies (Circa 80% of 'Provision') representing people who use support services
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- (SoFAB – A great opportunity to learn and evolve directly with those choosing and availing of supports)

# Policy and Practice Context

- People's preferred choice is to live 'ordinary lives' and avail of supports in the familiar settings of community life
- How do we know this?
- National and International consultative processes in evolving new policy tell us this.
- Practice reflective of this direction is what people are choosing more of in all facets of 'ordinary community'.
- S.F. is a natural fit as an opportunity of choice to offer people in '*ordinary rural communities*'
- New in terms of with whom and where supports happen
- Means new partners and relationships into the future
- Progress being made in area of Capacity Legislation which will support personal empowerment and choice.

# New Thinking and Models in Agriculture and Food ?

- Times of Change – Times of Opportunity
- (Our Citizens with ‘disability’ need new opportunity.)
- ‘Rural Cooperation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Unique opportunities for Farm Families – Teagasc ICOS summer school Aug 2012.
- Went to learn more about Co-Operatives in terms of structure, governance, operation
- 2012 – U.N. International year of Cooperatives.

# A Congruence of Values and Thoughts!

- “Agriculture of the Middle”
- A Sustainable model to keep farming in ‘Farm Families’; ‘youthful’; and providing what the consumer is looking for.
- Farming and new innovative food products are about “Values” not just value.
- Consumers looking to connect what they eat and use to it’s origins of People, Place and its unique identity / characteristics ‘Ring of Kerry Lamb’

# What are these “Values” leading AoTM in the U.S.A.?

- People Identity – “The Farm Family”
- Place Identity- e.g. Armagh Brambleys
- Farming and Agriculture are about Relationships!
- New Product Valorisation
- “Any farm can produce a commodity; it takes a Community to produce a New AoTM Product”

# The key values in our Social Care sector

- Are about the Person
- Are about Choice
- Are about Relationships
- Are about Independence and Interdependence.
- Are about Community
- Are about “Social Role Valorisation” (Wolfensberger 1983)- Valid, Valued, Rewarded.

# The most important question is not the How but the What:~

- Is **What** we are doing right, is it what people want! If it is we can always figure out the *How*. (Jerr Boschee Dublin 2010 Winsent Intereg, Institute Of Social Entrepreneurship U.S.)
- People are pretty clear in telling us what they want more of. We are learning in figuring out the how to support in ordinary settings.
- Strong synergies in thought on working from values in where Social Care and Aotm is going



# Leading the Change on *How to*

- Muirlosa Foundation. Working with HSE to move people from Congregate to Community. A values based recruitment campaign!
- Next step to recruit 20 Families as new partners in day, respite, residential support
- Genio Trust. June 2012 innovation round for new school leavers. Innovations must be 'of community' and within a Consortia.

# Others Partners Actively Engaged

- Camphill – Both parts of Island
- Brothers of Charity, Roscommon – Waterford
- St. Raphaels Kildare SJOG
- CCDP- Carlow County Development Partnership
- A cohort of interested Farmers/Farm Families

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Inspirational Change Leaders: All the Par-  
Olympians 2012

# Pat Mc'

- An early Pioneer
- Made his choices
- Led his change
- Choose the level of support he wanted
- Become a true member of the farming community of North Co. Dublin
- A story to be gathered and shared
- Died Spring 2012. (R.I.P.)