



The Future Begins *Now*

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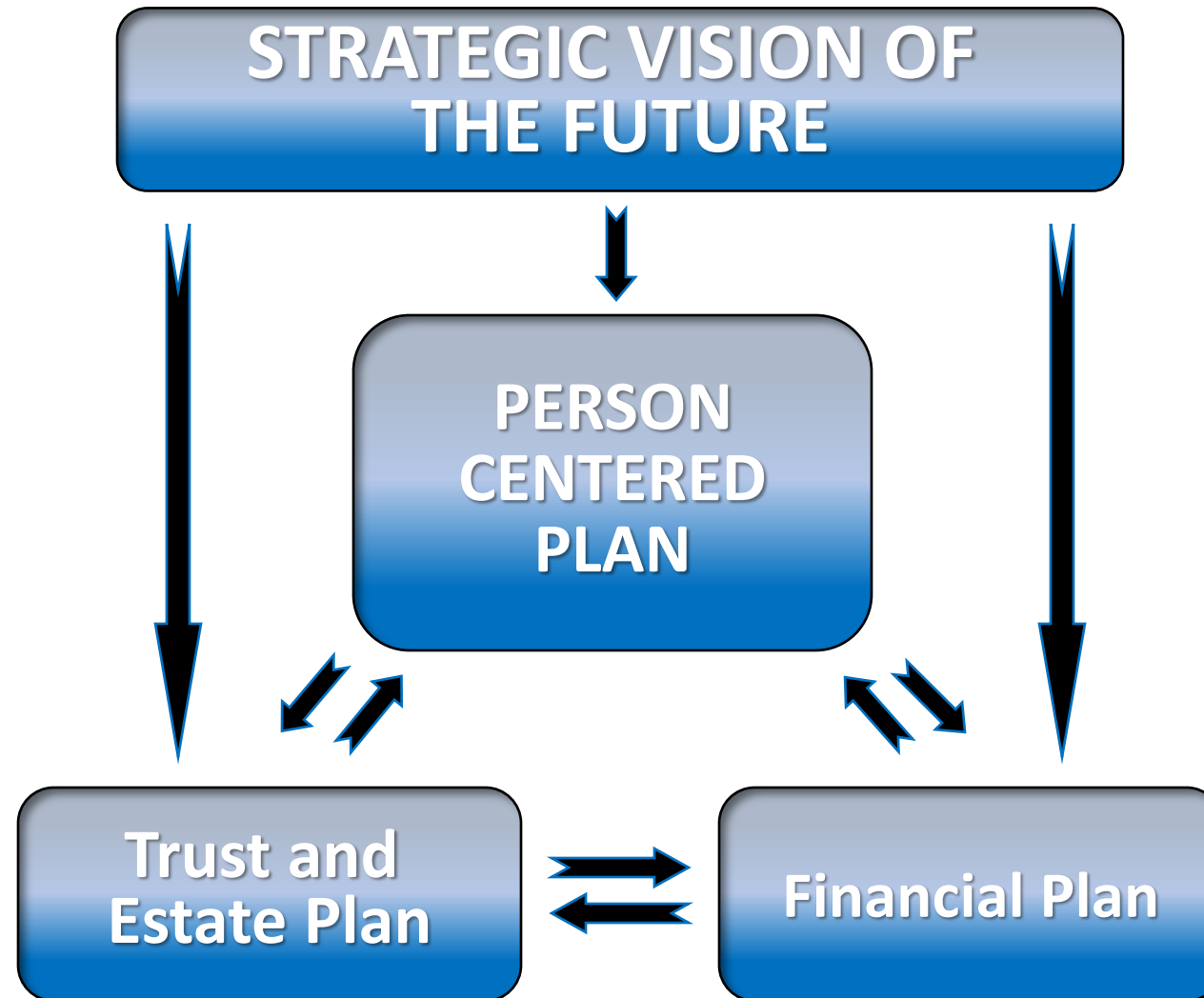
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Agenda

- Creating a Strategic Vision for the Future
- General Assumptions: Special Needs Planning and Legacy Planning
- Integrating Essential Elements of Both Approaches
- Examples



Comparative Assumptions About Planning

Special Needs Planning General Assumptions

- Focuses on distributions of property upon death
- Centered on development of supplemental needs trusts
- Heavy emphasis on maximizing receipt of government benefits
- Plan is dormant until passing of both parents

Legacy Planning General Assumptions

- Focuses on creating a vision during your life
- Values, lessons learned, vision is evolving and documented for future use
- Starts with a personal centered plan
- Self-determination is essential
- Building and implementing the plan begins NOW

Special Needs Planning + Legacy Planning = BUILDING A LIFE PLAN

- Planning starts with a single step
- If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there
- Don't try to figure it out all by yourself – use others who can help
- Embrace the concept that change is inevitable and unknowable – assume the plan will change over time
- Use your network of family, supporters and friends in the development and implementation of the plan
- Clear expectations are important
- Integration of subject matter experts is great approach – team effort

Essential Elements Special Needs Plan

- A third party “inheritance” trust to fund the legacy plan upon the passing of parent(s) as part of an overall estate plan of the parent(s).
- Identification of key persons to serve in important roles:
 - Trustee
 - Members of Trust Advisory Committee
 - Trust Protector
 - Representative Payee
 - Person centered planner
 - Investment advisor
 - Guardian or decision-making supporters

Essential Features of Legacy Planning

- Starts during the lifetime of the parents
- Person-centered approach which honors and supports self-determination
- Highly collaborative
- Constantly evolving
- Anticipates challenges and builds capacity to weather the unexpected
- Financial planning is key to success

Bob's Story

- Regular social gatherings with family, friends and supporters
- Diverse experience and skills
- Grows over time
- No written plan, developed incrementally, informal understandings
- Incorporated into Bob's special needs trust
- Upon Bob's passing, group continues – mostly for social engagement, advocacy and monitoring

Building Clara's Home

- Clara wanted a home to live with friends from her network (i.e. Special Olympics, local arts/cultural activities, and school friends)
- Parents built a home adjacent to their home
- Combination of AFC, Section 8 housing voucher, SSA income, SNAP and fuel assistance supports
- 4 friends - common interests, age and abilities
- Strong presence of involved families
- Home is integrated into the estate plan of Clara's parents.

Thank You



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