Supportive Housing Options for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Community Meeting
CSH is a touchstone for new ideas and best practices and an influential advocate for supportive housing.
Maximizing Public Resources
Improving Lives
Our mission is to strengthen the supportive housing industry, to enable the increased development of supportive housing, and to support non-profit organizations to develop the capacity for providing permanent supportive housing.
SHPA is an IL statewide membership association of non-profit providers of supportive housing, and we specialize in:

- Advocacy,
- Education,
- Training, and
- Technical assistance
Why are we here?

We are funded by a grant from the **Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities** to help communities create new supportive housing opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This will require

- Raising awareness of resources,
- Advocacy to ensure the DD system is positioned to take advantage of resources, and the
- Willingness of providers, family members, and self advocates to push for what this population needs.
Topics Covered

- Consumer Choice
- Supportive Housing
- New Opportunities
- Next Steps
Consumer Choice
Housing Preferences

- What may be important to people with disabilities in selecting a housing unit:
  - Proximity to school or work
  - Accessibility & near services
  - Near neighborhoods they know
  - Pets allowed
  - Storage space
  - Laundry, parking
  - Safe neighborhood with access to friends
Community Integration

- **Units are located in within safe neighborhoods with close proximity to:**
  - Transportation
  - Employment opportunities
  - Services
  - Shopping, recreation and socialization.

- **Staff supports tenants in developing and strengthening connections to their community.**
Supportive Housing
What is Supportive Housing?
Defining Supportive Housing

1. Targets households with barriers
2. Engages tenants in voluntary services
3. Provides tenants with leases
4. Is Affordable
5. Coordinates among key partners
6. Connects tenants with community
Variety of Supportive Housing Types

Scattered Site
- Single Family Homes
- Apartments

Small Scale Single Site
- Rehab or New Construction
  - 4 units total

Mixed-Tenancy
- Rehab or New Construction
Supportive Housing is NOT:

- Treatment
- Transitional
- Licensed community care
Determining the Model

- **The Goal is:**
  - To put the person in charge of making as many decisions as possible
  - Maximize choices
  - Decrease to the greatest extent possible the segregation between people who have disabilities and the rest of the community

- Separate but equal is no longer our goal.
Dimensions of Quality

Dimensions of

QUALITY
Supportive Housing

CSH
New Opportunities
“We want Illinois to create a disability service system where supports and services are controlled by us – the individuals who receive them. We want opportunities. We want freedom. We want choices.”

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Position Statement
The current CILA system was designed for group homes.

It was NOT designed for individuals to select affordable or subsidized apartments in the community and access the necessary level of care, tailored to their needs.

We need to change the CILA system to account for supportive housing as a viable option.
Supportive Housing/Systems Change

- Should individual apartments need to be licensed?
- Should a community integrated rate exist that is between 15 hours per week and 168 hours per week (24/7)?
- If a person is in a subsidized unit, should they only receive $50 of their SSI check?
- What other issues do we need to think about?
How do we change the system?

- CSH is the national expert on supportive housing
- SHPA is a top notch IL advocacy organization
- Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
- DD System & the Ligas Consent Decree & Olmstead
- Important to take advantage of the new resources
- We believe adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities should have access to their own apartment instead of hoping for less than 7 roommates
Who is Olmstead and why do we care?
Olmstead

- Americans with Disabilities Act: requires state and local governments to deliver services in the least restrictive, integrated, community based settings
- Olmstead v. L.C., 1999, Supreme Court ruled that unnecessary confinement for persons with mental disabilities is a form of discrimination
- Impacts both public service systems and privately operated services that receive public funding must comply
- Olmstead is about choice, and as such choice plays a central role in fixing violations
Olmstead

- States are obligated to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities who choose to live in integrated and least restrictive community-based settings
- Obligation to modify policies and practices to avoid discrimination for persons with disabilities
- Creating massive need for increased number of affordable housing units in the community
- States or entities (private) who fail to comply can be sued by private plaintiffs or the U.S. Department of Justice
Illinois Olmstead Cases

- **Williams**: Related to people with mental illnesses who reside in Institutes for Mental Diseases (IMD’s)

- **Colbert**: Related to people who currently live in nursing homes in Cook County

- **Ligas**: Related to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are in large congregate settings of nine people or greater or at risk of this

- **9 Additional Pending Cases**
Ligas Class Members

(1) Adult individuals in IL with developmental disabilities who
- Qualify for Medicaid Waiver services,
- Reside in ICFs/DD with nine or more residents, and
- Request to receive Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting AND

(2) Adult individuals in IL with developmental disabilities who
- Qualify for Medicaid Waiver services
- Reside in a Family Home, and
- Are in need of Community-Based Services or placement in a Community-Based Setting, and one of these two options.
Principles of Ligas

- **Person-Centered Services**

- **Portability** – Funds are not locked into specific service models

- **Free Choice of Provider** – Class Member can freely select among qualified providers and can readily change when dissatisfied with provider performance. (Required in Medicaid)

- **Flexibility** – Services and supports can be customized around the particular needs and preferences of the individual.
Affordable Existing or New Housing

- **Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities**
  - The Illinois Housing Development Authority was awarded 12 million dollars
  - 825 apartments will be made affordable for people with special needs, and units will target Ligas, Williams, and Colbert class members along with SODC closures
  - An additional 500 units were leveraged through Public Housing Authorities in Rockford, Cook County, and Chicago
The State Referral Network links households with housing opportunities that are integrated into the community.

The network partners include the (1) Governor’s Office, (2) Healthcare and Family Services, (3) Department of Human Services, (4) Department on Aging, and the (5) Illinois Housing Development Authority.
Next Steps
The Supportive Housing Institute brings teams together to develop, manage, and provide supportive services for new supportive housing.

This upcoming Institute will focus specifically on generating new units of supportive housing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Teams do not have to be complete to apply.
Topics will include

- Project planning/selecting a housing model
- Designing and delivering services
- Building community support
- Coordinating property management and supportive services
- Budgeting
- Fair housing, leasing, and tenant selection
- Challenges in the first year,
- And so much more!
A number of models can work:

- Public Money
  - Small scale multi-family
  - Integrated housing
- Private Money
  - With Family Support

Advocacy works when it is statewide!

- We would love to see Institute teams come from throughout the state. Join us!
If you are interested in putting together a team and require any assistance with the application, we will gladly help you!

If you know of a service provider, developer, and/or property manager who we should engage on this topic, let us know!
Housing is the beginning, not the end.
Moving Forward

- **Institute**
  - We want you to activate your community to create a supportive housing project (or several!)
- **Learn the language of supportive housing** (we will translate, free of charge until you do)
- **Invite your friends to join our mailing list**
  - Providers, family members, self-advocates, etc.
- **Help us create supportive housing models** that will work for adults who wish to be integrated into the community
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