



CIL-NET Presents...

***Assisting Individuals to Find Affordable, Accessible,
Integrated Housing***

Overview

August 7, 2012

9:00-9:45 A.M.

Presenters:

Ann Denton & Pat Tucker

Welcome

This two day training provides an opportunity to learn skills and master the basic knowledge needed to help people transition into housing.

We'll be talking about everything from supporting choice to fair housing – affordability to making the move. We'll focus on the role of "housing specialist."

Who We Are

Pat Tucker

**More than 20 years
experience in housing**



Ann Denton

**Former case manager and
supportive housing
provider**



Introductions

- Who are you?
- What is your role?
- What are you hoping for from this class?

Overview

Supporting someone's transition from a nursing home or other institution to their own place is a complex task.



Overview, cont'd.

People need the opportunity to consider their choices realistically and with hope; people need resources for housing and services; people may need help to see how to make their choices real; people need help finding housing; people may need help maintaining their housing.



Overview, cont'd. 2

Having a home is a universal human need.

Without a place to call home, people with disabilities have trouble recovering or maintaining their health, becoming self-sufficient, and reclaiming valued roles in their families and communities.

Community Integration for People with Disabilities

Community integration for people with disabilities is not just a concept or an idea or a goal or a theory – it is the law!

In every state, people with disabilities are leaving institutions to live in the community – with the same opportunities as others to live, work and play.



Community Integration

Real community integration means living in places typical for adults in our communities – houses, apartments – with access to transportation and amenities.

Community Integration, cont'd.

The best housing programs assist people with disabilities to live in the community, alongside people who do not have disabilities. The best housing programs also provide access to the support services that are needed and desired by the tenant in order to retain housing.

Effective Housing Approaches

Effective housing approaches are based on the idea that people with disabilities should have the same rights and opportunities as other people and direct their own lives – without unnecessary or unwanted interference from health or other support organizations.



Rights and Opportunities

People with disabilities:

- Have the same rights and opportunities as all citizens to choose, get and live in integrated housing;
- Have the right to receive, direct or refuse their own support services; and
- Should not be required to participate in specific support services to get or keep housing.

Components of Effective Housing Approaches



Effective housing approaches for people with disabilities are based on choice. Other crucial components of good housing approaches include:

- Housing and supports are separate
- Flexible, voluntary supports are available
- The housing is decent, safe and affordable
- Housing is integrated

What Does Transition Take?

Making a transition from institutional living takes skilled assistance – a housing specialist.

This is someone who helps the person explore options and make choices, and who is expert on finding housing, organizing services, and completing a successful transition.

What Does Transition Take? cont'd.

- Knowledge of public policy
- Knowledge of housing concepts and housing types
- Skills and tools to explore and support choice
- Practical assistance

A little later today, we'll talk more about how to be an effective housing specialist.

Housing Specialists

Housing Specialists

A housing specialist's job is to help people move from institutional settings to regular, integrated housing.

It takes a special person – establishing a relationship that includes trust and an ongoing commitment to independent living principles is essential.

A successful housing specialist:

- Focuses on the person, not on disability
- Is adept at recognizing strengths in the people they are assisting
- Is committed to the person's right to make their own choices
- Understands that supporting self-determination is more than cheerleading

Successful housing specialist

- Hope
- Reality
- Respect
- Encouragement

- Expertise!!

Housing Specialists: Approaches

<i>Housing Specialist Approach</i>	<i>Less Helpful Approach</i>
Person-focused	Problem-focused
Reinforces self-determination	"We know what is best"
Respect	Disrespect
Hope	Discouragement
Careful Listening	Giving answers and solutions

For more information

Contact:

- Ann Denton
adenton@ahpnet.com

- Pat Tucker
ptucker@ahpnet.com

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