

HOUSING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

DISCUSSION WITH THE COALITION FOR WHOLE PERSON SUPPORTS



THE PEOPLE

- OPWDD serves 36,000 people in Certified Housing*
 - “Certified” is not a “Good Housekeeping” seal
- OPWDD serves another 54,000 adults in services other than housing*
- Housing is one of the main Social Determinants of Health
- Current I/DD prevalence conservatively 1.07%** , NY State Adult population 14.87MM***
 - ∴ 159,000, so – 105,000 more people
 - Not including people with less acuity but nonetheless who need support
 - “People are Strange”****

*Figures from OPWDD 2025 Annual Report+

**NIH,

***NYS DOH

**** “The Doors”

MONEY MONEY MONEY*

- Average cost of certified housing \$164,000, per person, per annum.
- 60% of OPWDD budget
- Non-Certified demonstrably costs less**
- The people living in Non certified have the same acuity as people living in Certified***

- ABBA
- **Housing Navigation Pilot Project CDD 2022
- ***OPWDD Data book 2022

WHAT WE ALL WANT

- We all want to use best practices!
- As setting size increases, quality outcomes go down and undesirable outcomes, such as loneliness, fear and injury, go up.
 - In decreasing order, in settings owned or leased by people with I/DD,
 - in their family homes, in shared living arrangements
 - and in small provider operated homes.

It's not just a housing crisis, it's a Home crisis

BEST PRACTICES

- People with I/DD themselves report overwhelmingly that they want to live in their own homes or apartments and do not want to live in homes or apartments controlled by providers.
- Their voices align with the research findings. CQL reports that the least achieved of its 21 outcomes are those that measure choice. These outcomes are even less achieved as the size of residential settings increases. - CQL found that “people with I/DD in provider homes are less likely to have community, relationship, and choice outcomes compared to people in a number of other settings...” Choice and quality are positively correlated.

BEST PRACTICES

- Separate Housing & Services
- Money Follows the Person
- Planning
- Person Centeredness and Social Capital
- Financial Sustainability
- Transparency
- Diversity of need
- Housing tailored to the person



ARE WE PURSUING BEST PRACTICES?

- 4,000 + people with an ISPM score of 1 in Supervised IRAs.
- 3 shift DSP dependent model is failing
- Inexorable demographics reduce labor pool
- CRO Emergency placement, especially behavioral
- Complexity of Non-certified vs Certified
 - At home
 - In the Community
 - In smaller group homes

SO, WHAT TO DO? WE HAVE WAYS FORWARD

- Recognize where we are and that we need to change
- “Recommendation that the Commissioner of OPWDD convene a statewide Task Force to review the historical record and develop a Housing Policy and Plan of Services that sets forth the services, supports, and best practices that will allow people with developmental disabilities the means to explore and access “the most integrated and least restrictive housing options,” including a route for people to access housing navigation services” *

Recommendation of the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council January 6th 2026



EXISTING BEST PRACTICES WE CAN ENHANCE

“SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY”*

- Housing Navigation
- Restore Individual budgeting to people in Certified Housing.
 - Money Follows the Person
- Deal with the NPA issue
- Increase ISH from .15% of budget to 1.5%
- Amend SPP 14 to include Housing
- Live In Caregiver
- Family Care
- Housing Subsidy
- Self-Direction budgeting and cash flow – (remember ISS?)
- Agency Supported Self-Direction (5(d (iv)))
- Repurpose existing property (1(e)) & (7)

*Henry David Thoreau



FORGE PARTNERSHIPS

PRIVATE

Landlords
Developers
Realtors
Families

PUBLIC

Public Housing Agencies, and
• Consolidated Plans
MOPWD et al,
County DD & MH
Electeds

Regional Housing Collaboratives



RESOLVE

- Separate Property & Services
- Implement in depth Person Centered Planning
- Money Follows the Person
- Develop non congregate DSP support model. Complex people need individual solutions, not vacant beds (8)
- Build service matrices to address Caregiver aging.
 - “One role” to rule them all is *not* the answer
 - Access professional services
 - Fund Circles

“NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED”*

- Institutionalism fails the people we support
- The “Would I want to live there?” test
- “Would I want my own child to live there?”
- Don’t lose sight of the person because of the need to get a result.

RESOURCES, NEW YORK HAS THE BEST!

- The New York Housing Resource Center <https://www.nyhrc.org/> (3 (a)(i))

Your Guide to Housing

The New York Housing Resource Center offers three essential resources that work together to help you understand your housing options and plan for your future. Together they form Your Guide to Housing. Check out this collection to discover foundational information to start your housing journey!

Your Guide to Housing 3 KEY RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR HOUSING JOURNEY Watch later Share

Housing Journey Podcast
Season 1

Housing Resource Guide

Companion Piece

Watch on YouTube