Community Residential Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

(Artwork by Ivanova Smith In Memory of Tony Hall, who passed away last week from COVID, pictured in the blue cap)

Community Residential Services are vital to people with developmental disabilities (DD). Currently, 90% of people with DD who are eligible for services with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) live with their parents or a family member. But of the remaining clients:

- 1% (557) live in Residential Habilitation Centers (daily cost between $855 to $1,027),
- 1% (186) live in State Operated Living Alternatives (daily cost between $694 to $1,081),
- 6% (2,954) live in Community Residential (daily cost between $81 and $516 for adults - $250 to $731 for children),
- 2% are homeless.

Community Residential includes:

- Supported living (4,571 adults),
- Adult Family Homes (1,543 adults),
- DDA Group Homes (239 adults),
- State Operated Living Alternatives – SOLA (186 adults)
- Assisted Living (100 adults), and
- Licensed Staffed Residential/Foster Care (94 children)

Please put money into community residential settings, where people with DD want to live. It’s time to join many other states and plan the closure of our outdated RHCs.

Please Ensure Funding for Supported Living and Adult Family Homes

Data provided by DSHS/DDA October 2020
Contact The Arc of Washington for more information (888) 754-8798
Community Residential Services

SAIL believes the goal of residential services is to apply high standards of health, safety and respect to help people with developmental disabilities (DD) so they can thrive at home and in the community. This week we are talking about Residential Services.

Fair Living Wage for Direct Support Professionals (DSP)

Supported living providers have been on the front line of this pandemic, taking care of their clients even when they get COVID. Self-advocates, family members and others join to let legislators know how important living in the community is and ask them to ensure that providers of these supports are paid a fair living wage. There is currently a huge inequity as DSPs for Supported Living do exactly the same care tasks as state employees in State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA), yet receive much lower wages. Adult Family Homes, Companion Homes and Assisted Living are also community settings struggling during this pandemic.

Fund Community, NOT State Institutions

Self-Advocates want to live in the community! We don’t want to feel isolated in hospitals or state institutions! Currently, people who move from an RHC (Residential Habilitation Centers) are placed in Supported Living or State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA), community settings that are badly needed, yet housing for them is unavailable. Self Advocates want support staff to help us with our everyday living tasks in inclusive environments like SOLAs, AFH, Supported Living, or a different model we have yet to create.

Shut Them Down!

Self-advocates have formed a new coalition called Shut Them Down! Our goal is to eliminate RHCs and have the housing and staff available in the community for us to live as independently as possible. RHCs are outdated and falling apart. It has been proven that even those with the most significant disabilities, even with skilled nursing needs, can and do live in community settings.

Ruckelshaus Report

A task force was put together in 2019 to look at the future of RHCs and the community, but there were NO people with DD were in that group, NONE! They were deciding our future without our input! Their report can be found at ESHB 1109. Though many good recommendations came from that report, the worst one was to spend $120 million on a new nursing facility on the grounds of Fircrest! That is $1 Million per bed, just to build the facility and does not include any operating costs! People in the current nursing facility can be served better and less expensive for the state in their local community. Families in Spokane don’t want to send their loved one to Seattle, where they could never see them.

The recent follow-up report can be found here: ESSB 6419. SB 5268 was drafted to start work on these recommendations. We have met with the sponsors and support what they are doing. The nursing home at Fircrest is not part of the bill. The funding for the nursing home is not in this bill, it is proposed in the Capital Budget and we vehemently oppose that funding. If COVID has taught us anything, people in these large congregate settings are more likely to get the disease and more likely to die from it.

Housing Trust Fund : DD Set-aside

Every biennium, funding in the Capital Budget is designated for various groups in the Housing Trust Fund. The money is used to remodel housing or build new homes. There is a category that ensures people with DD can access homes in the community, but the Governor put NOTHING in the DD Set-aside. We cannot let this be! Please fund the DD Set-aside to create badly needed housing for people with developmental disabilities in the community!

Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) is a coalition of more than 200 individuals with developmental disabilities who are interested in shaping public policy in Washington State. For more information about SAIL:
sail@arcwa.org or 1.888.754.8798, ext 3

YES! on SB 5284
Eliminate sub-minimum wage certificates.

NO! on HB 1080/SB 5083
Don’t build a 120 bed facility at Fircrest. Add $10 million to the Housing Trust Fund Set-aside.

YES! on SB 5268
Transform services for people with DD.

YES! On HB 1218
Ensure families have 24 access to loved ones in residential settings.

YES! On SB 5213
Clarify the authority/role of the DD Ombuds.
Supported Living:
Providing Services During COVID-19

Serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their home community is a long-standing top priority for Washington. Supported Living providers (Community Residential Services) are the primary provider of these services in our state. Over 21 million service hours are delivered annually for approximately 4,600 clients.

The health and safety of our clients and staff is our top priority

Supported Living providers have continued to serve our clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting our clients, who have challenging behaviors with the added stress of the pandemic, is extremely difficult now. Our staff must try to keep our clients from being scared, angry, upset, or reactive in the face of potential infection. Social distancing and isolation (when required) is challenging for anyone, but particularly with clients wanting to engage with friends, family members, and housemates but not understanding why they can’t.

Supported Living is facing unprecedented costs as a result of COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 COVID-19 Related Expenditures</th>
<th>Average cost per agency*</th>
<th>Per client average*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPE and Disinfection &amp; Cleaning Supplies</td>
<td>$29,308</td>
<td>$494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other equipment &amp; modifications</td>
<td>$29,686</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard pay for staff</td>
<td>$529,531</td>
<td>$8,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other personnel and COVID-19 expenses</td>
<td>$109,310</td>
<td>$1,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total COVID-19 Expenses</td>
<td>$697,835</td>
<td>$11,755</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 cases are greatly impacting Supported Living providers, but these protective measures are keeping positivity rates lower than other long-term care settings

Any cuts to Supported Living funding would be devastating to the clients that we serve, especially while numbers are increasing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Client COVID-19 positive cases</th>
<th>Client COVID-19 positivity %</th>
<th>Staff COVID-19 positive cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs)</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Residential settings</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>1,285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding must be appropriated throughout this ongoing crisis, as well as funding a Vendor Rate increase to meet minimum wage increases and stabilize services when we come out of this crisis:

**2021-23 Operating Budget Request:**

- **Continue Enhanced COVID-19 Funding:**
  $3.35M GF-S Per Month

- **2% rate increase January 2022 to account for inflation:** $11.1 M GF-S for 2021-23 Biennium

- **2% rate increase January 2023 to account for inflation:** $3.9 M GF-S for 2021-23 Biennum
Supported Living continues to lose ground with Minimum Wage and State-Operated programs

Services & Costs
✓ Community Residential – 4,571 people served (86.1% of those served) Average cost per client day = $410.05
✓ SOLA’s – 199 people served (3.7% of those served) Average cost per client day = $844.98
✓ RHC’s – 539 people served (10.2% of those served) Average cost per client day = $1,099.49

SOLA programs are 106% more expensive, while RHC’s are 168% more expensive than Supported Living

Entry Level Wages and the Impact on Turnover
☐ Community Residential = $13.89 per hour
☐ SOLA = $16.98 per hour

SOLA wages are 22.2% higher than Community Residential, which experienced turnover around 50% for the fifth consecutive year (50.5% in 2019)

Vacancy Rate (in positions)
✓ Direct Support Staff = 14.4% - Highest rate of open direct support positions in over a decade!
  ○ As a result, about 1 out of 7 direct support hours are filled with staff working and paid overtime

A Decade of Underfunding: Washington & Seattle Minimum Wage Mandates compared to Average Starting Wage for Supported Living Direct Support Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Statewide Minimum Wage</th>
<th>Statewide average entry wage</th>
<th>Statewide % Difference</th>
<th>Statewide Self-Sufficiency **</th>
<th>Diff. from DSP Wage</th>
<th>Seattle Minimum Wage</th>
<th>Seattle DSP avg. entry wage</th>
<th>Seattle % Diff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
<td>$13.89</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>$17.42</td>
<td>(25.4%)</td>
<td>$16.39</td>
<td>$14.52</td>
<td>(11.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$12.85</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>$15.23</td>
<td>(17%)</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>$13.60</td>
<td>(15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
<td>$12.24</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>$14.36</td>
<td>(16%)</td>
<td>$15.45</td>
<td>$13.04</td>
<td>(18.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$11.34</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>$14.06</td>
<td>(24%)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$11.91</td>
<td>(26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$9.47</td>
<td>$10.77</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>$11.05</td>
<td>(16%)</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>$11.23</td>
<td>(15.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$9.47</td>
<td>$10.41</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>$10.13</td>
<td>(11%)</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$10.83</td>
<td>(1.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$9.32</td>
<td>$10.26</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td>(16%)</td>
<td>$9.32</td>
<td>$10.73</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$9.19</td>
<td>$10.12</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td>(11%)</td>
<td>$9.19</td>
<td>$10.60</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$9.04</td>
<td>$9.75</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>$9.04</td>
<td>(8%)</td>
<td>$9.04</td>
<td>$9.98</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$8.67</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>$8.90</td>
<td>(12%)</td>
<td>$8.67</td>
<td>$10.63</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$8.55</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>$8.55</td>
<td>(12%)</td>
<td>$8.55</td>
<td>$10.56</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$8.55</td>
<td>$9.98</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>$8.91</td>
<td>(10.7%)</td>
<td>$8.55</td>
<td>$10.60</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$8.07</td>
<td>$9.98</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>$8.07</td>
<td>(8.1%)</td>
<td>$8.07</td>
<td>$10.22</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State 2020 by Diana M Pearce, PhD, Director of Center for Women’s Welfare at the University of Washington School of Social Work in collaboration with the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County

CRSA: Legislative Chairs — Scott Livengood (206) 284-9130, livengood@alphasls.org and Randy Hauck (509) 966-1998, rhauck@community-living.org, and Lobbyist—Melissa Johnson (360) 280-6429, melissa@bogardjohnson.com

Visit us online at www.CRSA-WA.org and on Facebook
Protect Adult Family Homes

DSHS has proposed eligibility changes that would eliminate all services for about 300 individuals with ID/DD living in an Adult Family Home. Those people would lose both their home and their services on the same day. DSHS also proposed rate cuts to AFH providers.

THREATS:

- Individuals will become homeless
- Caregivers will leave for other opportunities
- Adult Family Homes will close

Adult Family Homes (AFH) are the only housing model available to individuals on the Basic Plus waiver. Most individuals living in AFHs have aging parents who are no longer able to provide 24/7 care for their sons and daughters. If individuals with I/DD lose their eligibility for living an AFH, they would return to elderly parents without in-home services. If their parents are not living, where will they go? There are no other options.

Currently there are 1710 individuals with I/DD living in Adult Family Homes. The vast majority of AFHs serve elderly residents, with only 54 designed to serve adults with I/DD serving 324 individuals. The availability of this housing model has been shrinking over the past 5 years with fewer homes providing services specifically for this population. In King County alone, that number has gone from 21 to 12, representing a decrease of 43% and a loss of 54 beds. Compare that to 12,000 adults with I/DD who need housing.

During the recession, Adult Family Home took significant rate cuts. It has just been in the last couple of years that the rates have recovered. Cutting rates will further decrease the number of AFHs for people with I/DD and cause upheaval for DDA clients who need stability.

Adult Family Homes provide a critical role in housing solutions for adults with moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities. Adult Family Homes are affordable for individuals who are very low income and are cost effective for the state. We must assure that this important option is protected.

REQUESTS

- Don’t change the eligibility for waiver services or Community First Choice.
- Don’t lower the rate for AFHs

Washington is 41st in the nations for serving people with I/DD. We must do better. There is not enough housing for people with ID/DD. We cannot afford to lose more.

People with ID/DD are counting on you to protect their home and their services.

Vicki Isett, Community Homes
Leo Finnegan, Life Enrichment Options
Craig Frederickson, Frederickson AFH
Bob Wheeler, Olympic Neighbors

Contact: Cathy Murahashi, Community Homes, Education and Outreach Manager  cathy@community-homes.org