

Framing the Problem: Challenges and Opportunities in Disability Housing and Social Services

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Virginia's Path to a Person-Centered System

- Virginia has implemented a person centered approach to services for individuals with developmental disabilities
 - Waiver regulations now require PC practices
 - Implemented a universal PC assessment for everyone in the ID waiver and training centers
 - Begun initiatives to promote employment as a more viable option for individuals with DD

Virginia's Path to a Recovery-Oriented System

- Virginia is promoting a recovery-oriented approach to services for individuals with behavioral health disabilities
 - Sharing the same person-centered values
 - Supportive Housing, Supported Employment
- The Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision mandates community inclusion and a move away from segregated “disability-only” housing (“mini-institutions”).

Virginia's Path to a Community- Integrated System

- **Where have we come from-**
 - institutional bias, institutional investment
 - most housing is “disability-only” housing
 - service provider controls the housing
- **Recently in Virginia-**
 - 08-10 biennium budget saw \$28 of \$66 million originally allocated for state ID facilities redirected to community

Challenges to Overcome

- **People with disabilities want to live in their own homes, yet-**
 - Avg. 1 BR Fair Market Rent in Va = \$887
 - 30% of SSI monthly income = \$202
 - Auxiliary Grants help fill the gap, but only in ALFs and a small number of Adult Foster Care homes
 - Medicaid funds cannot be used to support operating costs of community housing
 - Consider a community living supplement
- **Plan to separate (de-couple) affordable housing options from necessary services**

A Plan for the Future

- **Development of state policies and plans**
- **2009 Report on Investment Models and Best Practices (315 Z Study)**
 - State agency partnerships for leadership (DBHDS, VHDA, DHCD)
 - Development of local coalitions to develop housing and services
 - Leverage affordable housing finance capital and private investor resources
 - Provide training and technical assistance to human service agencies on housing resource availability and prioritization
- **2010 DBHDS State Board Policy on Housing and Supports - Principles**
 - Provide choice of affordable and accessible housing options
 - In integrated settings throughout the community
 - With appropriate, flexible, accessible, and effective support services made available

- 2010 DBHDS State Board Policy on Housing and Supports - Direction
 - CSBs shall assist individuals whom they serve to obtain or retain housing in their home communities
 - Have joint written agreements with public housing agencies
 - Assist in preparing local comprehensive plans to include housing needs of ID, DD, BH populations
 - DBHDS and CSBs work with public housing agencies, local governments, private developers, and other stakeholders to maximize federal, state, and local resources for the development of affordable housing and appropriate supports.

Governor's Housing Policy Framework Executive Order 10 (2010)

Ensure that a range of housing options can be provided to meet the housing needs of a dynamic and changing population

- balance between homeownership and rental options,
- housing options for special needs populations,
- match existing subsidies with areas of housing need
- increase emphasis on fair housing

Increase capacity to address the needs of homeless Virginians

- reduction of chronic homelessness
- continued viability of the safety net of shelters and services
- investing in transitional and permanent supportive housing

DBHDS “*Creating Opportunities*” Plan

- Help implement the housing policy in Governor’s Executive Order 10 and create a range of housing opportunities
- Communicate the updated State Board Policy on Housing Supports
- Participate with the VHDA, DHCD, and Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) in the development of a state housing policies and plans
- Establish strategic investment priorities with VHDA, DHCD, and DMAS to organize and align federal, state, local, and private housing [and service] resources
- Develop housing options that are separate or decoupled from provision of traditional residential services and provide greater mobility and flexibility for individuals
- Establish clear outcome expectations for stable housing