From: Porter, Crystal - DHS Program Manager
Cc: J.J. Tomash, Courtney Foss, Amy Packer
Bcc: Advisory Council members
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 9:02:00 AM

Forwarded from Lauren for Council member review ahead of upcoming meetings. Included below is the housing report mentioned in Lauren’s update.

“Report from Lauren on recent meetings.

**Mental Health:** I participated in the Behavioral Health Task Force, Public Testimony, ID/D community. I spoke about my concerns with my son and the problems we experienced in getting help. I also mentioned being aware of the START model and had the highest opinion of the model based on the information I’d read on their website. I’ve been contacted by a Task Force member and Professor Pediatrics and Psychiatry, at University of Colorado School of Medicine. More on this after she and I make contact.

**Housing:** Below is the press release on the Housing Report inspired by Desiree Kameka and community members working with Developmental Pathways, Douglas/Arapahoe Counties and city of Aurora. There’s a link to the full report.

I am a member and continue to participate in the newly created **Inclusive Housing Coalition**. I’ll be on a task force within the coalition to both encourage self-advocates, family members and community members to tell their stories around housing needs, and also to brainstorm ways folks with ID/D can understand and participate in the housing they want and need. This is pretty exciting. *Lauren*”

**Report Sheds New Light on Housing & Community Development for Residents with I/DD**

**Desiree Kameka**
**Director**
Autism Housing Network
Division of the Madison House Autism Foundation

**For Immediate Release**

**REPORT SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR RESIDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Centennial, CO – April 30, 2020 – Over 86,000 Coloradans have an intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD) and only 12% are currently accessing residential supports in any residential setting outside the family home. The clock is ticking on creating solutions as more than 12,000 family caregivers are over the age of 60. The urgent need for affordable, cognitively-accessible housing in addition to funding for diverse options of long-term support services cannot be understated.

Developmental Pathways partnered with the Autism Housing Network (AHN) to undertake a process called the Empowering Communities Initiative, providing essential training and data to understand how Developmental Pathways can best foster the emergence of opportunities for more housing and support service for their constituents in Douglas County, Arapahoe County and City of Aurora. Desiree Kameka, the Director of the AHN, provided training to members of the community followed by a needs assessment
survey and analysis.

"It is important to understand what people with I/DD and their families actually need and want in order to put together a plan of action," said Kameka. The results are now being taken to the local industry leadership and professional community. "The hope is to raise awareness that valuable neurodiverse residents are at risk of traumatic displacement due to lack of affordable, accessible housing and thus we need to ultimately increase access to housing opportunities so they can continue to be active participants in their community," said Kameka.

Key findings:

- Barriers to development of neuro-inclusive housing must be removed and incentives created to meet demand and prevent displacement.
- Individuals with I/DD and their families want to invest in a home for their future stability; they need support to navigate the challenges of succession, social security and Medicaid regulations to help make this happen.
- Individualized long-term support services are Medicaid funded. Barriers to access must be removed and diverse service delivery models fully funded; cuts have an enormous impact on people with I/DD.
- Intentional spaces and opportunities are needed to foster neurodiverse friendships and community connections beyond family members for increasing access to meaningful community inclusion and development of circles of natural support.

The final report includes recommendations to increase the available housing stock accessible to people with I/DD, initiatives to continue educating stakeholders on lifespan options and engage in advocacy efforts, increase access to more diverse long-term support services, and increase opportunities to foster neurodiverse relationships and other life skills.

View Full Report:

On Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 8:44 AM Porter, Crystal - DHS Program Manager <Crystal.Porter@denvergov.org> wrote:

Hello all! Thank you for your quick responses and flexibility. I hope many of you are able to attend. Attached is the agenda for the topic call, scheduled for Wednesday, June 10 from 6:30-7:30pm. If you are unable to attend, please send any additional thoughts or comments to J.J. and Courtney.