

TESTIMONY SIGN-UP
FOR

35850

TC 6:00pm - #1781 - Community Residential Siting

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO THE CITY COUNCIL,
PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW

NAME

ADDRESS & ZIP CODE

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Judith Mowry | 4032 SE Belmont 97214 |
| 2 | Jack Bilderback | 15 SE 199th AVE 97233 |
| 3 | John Bradley | 2350 NW Johnson 97210 |
| 4 | Andrew Eisman | 939 SE 17th 97214 |
| 5 | Tracee Larson | 2410 SE Taylor 97214 |
| 6 | Cynthia Ingebreton | 310 SW 4th Ste 430 97204 |
| 7 | Penelope Sanders | 1214 NE 73 97213 |
| 8 | Jim Wortham | 3232 SE 153rd 97236 |
| 9 | Cynthia Peek | 4736 SE 74th 97206 |
| 10 | Chris Johnson | 608 SE 18th 97214 |
| 11 | Alison Stall | 5540 NE Sandy Blvd 97213 |
| 12 | Neal Berez | 5415 SE Milwaukie, Portland 97202 |
| 13 | Jack Peek | 4136 SE 74th Pdx 97206 |
| 14 | Chris Johnson | 608 SE 18th 97214 |
| 15 | Jada Mae | |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |

Date: 12/15/99

Page 1 of

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| | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 18 | Jack Beck | 4736 SE 74 th 97206 |
| 19 | Judith ^{405A} Mae | 310 NW FLANDERS 97208 |
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6-6145
6-415-7130

Date: 12/15/99

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December 15, 1999

Mayor Vera Katz
City Commissioner Dan Saltzman
County Commissioner Diane Linn
County Commissioner Lisa Naito

RE: Community Residential Siting Proposals dated 12/1/99

Dear Mayor Katz, Commissioner Saltzman, Commissioner Linn, and Commissioner Naito:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the current version of the Community Residential Siting Proposals. Let me begin by stating that Network Behavioral HealthCare is a provider of housing for persons having mental illnesses and/or addictions recovery issues. These persons can be characterized as having extremely low incomes and complex histories that often include periods of institutionalization and/or incarceration. They require various amounts of professional support (from no supervision to 24 hour supervision) to maintain successful tenure in the community.

General

The Consolidated Plan establishes special needs housing as a high priority for the jurisdictions that participate in the Multnomah County Consortium. Proposals that relate to housing should be analyzed in the context of the Consolidated Plan, and this analysis should be articulated.

The proposals as written have the potential to work against that prioritization. Indeed, the proposals may have a disparate impact on special needs housing because the target populations are not well defined. Even proposals three and four, which specifically address post-incarceration facilities and alternatives to incarceration, do not adequately address how populations that have special needs and a criminal justice relationship will be considered.

Community Problem Solving Action Plan

Network supports the community problem solving proposal. We would like to see the proposal challenge the general assumption that "residential group homes" and "facilities", however these terms are defined, have problematic impacts in neighborhoods. The term "facilities" needs to be defined. Does this term refer to apartment buildings that house persons with special needs? Is the provision of support services a trigger for inclusion under this proposal? Is the sponsor of the housing the trigger for inclusion? As written the proposal seems to assume that all "facilities" and their residents are equally suspect of presenting problematic impacts – that tenants of apartment buildings for independent persons having mental illnesses present the same

potential impacts as residents of supervised group homes, etc. This is stereotyping that we believe Government should challenge, not support.

Neighborhood Information on Siting and Referral Process Action Plan

Network supports facilitated efforts to link citizens with providers for the purpose of sharing information. We are somewhat concerned that this proposal would create an agency of government that would maintain a data base that would be "as comprehensive as is practicable, ethically, and legally allowable." We feel that the public interest is served by collecting only as much information as is needed to clarify for citizens which provider and which governmental agency to call to get further information, and by keeping track of an organization's history of responsiveness to community concerns.

Good Neighbor Certification Process Action Plan

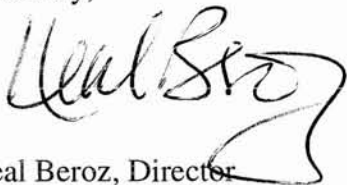
Network supports the intent of this proposal but has some reservations about the powers that appear to be granted to the citizen advisory committee. How will one assure that the committee includes expertise that is qualified to assess the adequacy of a provider's program plan? Is majority rule the proper mechanism for establishing suitability of a proposed facility? Who will determine if information requested by the committee is appropriate?

City Code Amendments

Network is not in favor of this proposal as currently described. Alternatives to incarceration and post-incarceration facilities are a growing concern to the community precisely because as a community we are getting "tougher" on lawbreakers. Persons with criminal justice involvement are a growing segment of our population. We must, as a community, make a place for persons who have been released from jails and prisons or who have been deemed suitable for community corrections. Facilities that provide housing to these individuals perform a valuable service in that they offer supervision to persons who would otherwise be dispersed and reside independently in the community. Government should encourage the development of such facilities by identifying zones in which these facilities would be allowed by right (preferably, in residential and multi-family zones, near appropriate services). To simply make alternatives to incarceration and post-incarceration facilities a conditional use is unacceptable – these residences must be an allowed use somewhere.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and for your attention to this difficult issue. Should you have questions, please contact me at 238-0769 x125.

Sincerely,



Neal Beroz, Director
Housing Development and Property Management

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

421 S.W. 6th Avenue
Suite 1100-A
Portland, Oregon 97204-1966

Memorandum**RECEIVED BY****DEC 15 1999****COMMISSIONER
DAN SALTZMAN**

To: Mayor Vera Katz, City of Portland
Commissioner Dan Saltzman, City of Portland ✓
Commissioner Diane Linn, Multnomah County
Commissioner Lisa Naito, Multnomah County

From: Diane Meisenhelter, Co-chair, Housing and Community Development Commission
Mike Silver, Co-chair, Housing and Community Development Commission

*MSM
by JS*

Date: December 15, 1999

Re: *Community Residential Siting Proposals dated 12/1/99*

The Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the revised Draft Community Residential Siting Proposals ("the Draft Proposals")¹. The *Consolidated Plan 1995-2000*, prepared by HCDC and duly adopted by the City of Portland and Multnomah County, recognizes that both jurisdictions are required to affirmatively further fair housing as a condition of receiving federal housing and community development funds. HCDC takes an active interest in siting issues, because poor siting policy can obstruct individuals from locating affordable, suitable housing in the neighborhood of their choice.

HCDC generally supports the Draft Proposals, but has some concerns, described below. If these concerns can be addressed, HCDC would be glad to give the Draft Proposals its enthusiastic endorsement.

Overall Concerns

HCDC believes that it is important that city and county officials take the lead in recognizing the important contribution made by group residential housing for people unable to live independently, and for those who need assistance making a transition into being responsible community members. All county residents benefit from the availability of group residential housing. Therefore, siting policy at the local level must foster the development of this type of housing.

¹ We are addressing our comments to the Draft Proposals issued 12/1/99, which appear to be identical to the Draft Proposals issued 9/1/99.



Clear language is essential to a good siting policy. Vague language can transform a sound policy into an unfair one, by broadening the situations where it may be applied beyond those for which it was intended. HCDC is concerned that the Draft Proposals do not use clear language to describe the covered housing or the covered populations. For example, the word “facilities” is used without definition. What makes a building a “facility”? Is it the “special needs” of the residents? Is it the menu of support services offered on site? Is it the sponsor of the building? Another example of vagueness in drafting may be found in the Draft Proposals relating to populations that will be receiving housing as part of an alternative to incarceration or post-incarceration. These proposals should state specifically whether persons on probation are covered.

Community Problem Solving Action Plan

HCDC supports community problem solving. However, HCDC thinks it is the duty of government to consider, on a case by case basis, whether a particular “residential group home” or “facility” will have problematic impact on the neighborhoods where it are sited. A blanket assumption that there will be a negative impact is an unfounded stereotype.

Neighborhood Information on Siting and Referral Process Action Plan

HCDC supports the concept of facilitated efforts to link citizens with providers for the purpose of sharing information. HCDC believes it is important to strike the appropriate balance between the concerns of the neighborhood and the right of privacy owed to residents of group housing. This proposal should also contain safeguards against releasing confidential information inappropriately.

Good Neighbor Certification Process

HCDC supports this proposal insofar as it fosters voluntary communication. HCDC supports the goal of public participation through the formation of a citizen advisory committee. However, recommendations of the advisory committee should receive scrutiny before they become public policy. For example, program adequacy should not be determined strictly by a lay group, without review by people qualified to assess the adequacy of a provider’s program plan. There is a real risk that a committee could devise standards that would, in effect, screen out all group residential housing.

City Code Amendments

HCDC has serious concerns about this proposal as currently described. Alternatives to incarceration and post-incarceration facilities are a growing concern to the community precisely because as a community we are getting “tougher” on lawbreakers. Persons with criminal justice involvement are a growing segment of our population. We must, as a community, make a place for persons who have been released from jails and prisons. The draft Needs

Assessment prepared by City and County staff as part of the Consolidated Plan 2000-2005 identifies persons with a criminal justice background as one of three groups at high risk of homelessness.

HCDC thinks the City should consider whether there ought to be certain zones where alternative-to-incarceration and post-incarceration facilities would be allowed by right.

HCDC again thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Proposals. If you have any questions, please contact our lead staff person, Beth Kaye, at 823-2393. She can tell you how to reach us directly.

**The
Arc**

of Multnomah County

*Advocating for individuals
with developmental disabilities
in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties*

December 14, 1999

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner of Public Affairs
1221 SW 4th Avenue Room 230
Portland OR 97204

RECEIVED BY

DEC 15 1999

**COMMISSIONER
DAN SALTZMAN**

Dear Commissioner Saltzman,

As you know, The Arc of Multnomah serves individuals with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy and core program services. One of the issues that we hear about with great frequency is the critical lack of appropriate housing in our community for people with special needs.

Siting of residential facilities has always been an issue of concern. The Arc maintains that individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities have the same rights to live in the community as anyone else. We also know the kind of discrimination our population faces when it comes to the siting of group homes, and even in obtaining rental units. Each case is individual and unique, of course, but The Arc maintains that our community is richer for its diversity and for the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

We wish to encourage your support of all persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities living in the community as a part of a fair housing process for all persons. We understand the need for positive community relations with neighbors wherever there is a residential facility sited, and we are in full support of a process to support those community relations.

We also support a process allowing for neighborhood notification, but we stress that such a process not impede the placement of community settings for people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. We feel very strongly that people with special needs have equal rights in housing as elsewhere, and we cannot support anything that supercedes those rights. Likewise, we support best practices in housing as in other community issues. We support only those residential programs of the highest quality for any citizens in our community.

In the event of differences with respect to siting residential facilities, we believe there should be a mechanism in place to resolve differences in a fair and equitable manner. If a program which has been sited creates dissention, there should be opportunity for open dialogue within neighborhoods.

Finally, we encourage streamlining the review process for siting of residential programs. A more well defined and less cumbersome process will benefit all citizens in need of housing programs, and ensure that everyone is heard and is fairly treated.

Sincerely,



Gretchen A. Yost
Executive Director



Dixon, Frank

Subject: FW: Social Service Siting

-----Original Message-----

From: Kimura, Arlene [mailto:KimuraA@nabisco.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 1999 1:24 PM

To: 'dsaltzman@ci.portland.or.us'

Cc: 'Lane, David '

Subject: Social Service Siting

Commission Saltzman, the Hazelwood Neighborhood Association supports the resolution before City Council on the social service sitings. We feel this is a very good first steps in resolving the very difficult issues that arise with housing those who have special needs within the larger community. Our concern is that the resulting solutions must be monitored and evaluated for effectiveness as an on-going process. Further work, we feel, needs to be done on issues of saturation and the siting of PSRB clients within the community. Your continued involvement and support of this very complex subject has been very helpful.

Thank you.

Dixon, Frank

From: Grumm, Matt
 Sent: Monday, December 13, 1999 8:31 AM
 To: Dixon, Frank; Saltzman, Dan
 Subject: FW: Siting Proposals Resolution

-----Original Message-----

From: Mnortie@aol.com [mailto:Mnortie@aol.com]
 Sent: Friday, December 10, 1999 4:17 PM
 To: dsaltzman@ci.portland.or.us
 Subject: Siting Proposals Resolution

Subj: Siting Proposals Resolution
 Date: 12/10/99
 From: M'Lou Christ

I will be unable to attend your discussion/hearing. Here are some of my thoughts for the record:

I am pleased the county and city are discussing this issue. However, I don't believe the 4 proposals achieve adequate/appropriate resolution.

I think generally, these 4 proposals add process to talk about residential sitings & try to work out agreements re operating them--but that's done now, mainly by District Office & ONI staff (via land use & crime prevention folks thru trainings & outreach & case management).

*I'm not sure there's enough new business re residential sitings to require additional staffers for more of that & I think such assistance should stay out in the neighborhoods, not locate downtown.

*Nor does it appear this version would do anything more to require pre-discussions or enforce any resultant agreements than occurs now.

The major problem for me (& the County's Central CBAC at last night's discussion) is that it does not address the overall problem --the one that has been mentioned for years & that Buckman neighborhood yelled loudly enough about to get this discussion started: Nobody knows how many various services are sited in neighborhoods now & there's no policy proposed to have local jurisdictions spread them around so that the burdens & benefits are evenly distributed.

*Requests for some bureau to map them & keep track of additions/changes have been ignored for years & is still not resolved here. (The usual excuse is that addresses of shelters can't be public knowledge; but all other services could be & probably even the part of town that shelters are in --or not yet available in--could be indicated). I would support funding to gather that info & set up a tracking system.

*Local governments could use carrots & sticks to get better distribution of all services--so those who need them can get them where they or family/friends are, yet that neighborhood would remain a "normal", balanced community--part of what those clients need around them as well as what those neighbors hope to keep.

The following are parts of the 2 emails I sent when the Oct. DRAFT came out (I can see no text changes in the Dec. DRAFT, but spacing does put some parts on different page #s):

1) to BAmes & Saltzman:

I think proposal #4 concerning City code amendments is a good idea. I realize it would be quite a bit of work--and politically sensitive, at that--but it offers the opportunity to affect/resolve some cases before they become issues or require correction.

RE "saturation" (paragraph 3 p.12). I think defining "saturation" and setting dispersal targets/process is key to resolving this issue.

I also think it's crucial that City and County policies be adopted to ensure that local jurisdictions do not provide funding or other forms of siting/operations support to agencies unless they meet dispersal targets & distance limitations. Providers' arguments of lowest-cost or area familiarity & connections cannot be routinely accepted as criteria for such siting policy waivers. It's government's role to acknowledge and avoid the long-term social & real costs of saturation, for clients as well as neighbors.

And, even though local jurisdictions cannot interfere with siting of programs protected under the Fair Housing Act (ie, must process permits), it does seem that local jurisdictions could withhold their financial assistance (related to purchase, construction/rehab & operation) in cases where providers do not make an effort to comply with saturation targets. Unless legal opinion is forceful to the contrary, I'd like to see that policy adopted too. And if legal opinion is forceful to the contrary, it seems that's an issue Rep. Blumenauer ought to fold in to his current efforts on this topic.

2) to DLane:

RE the Comm. Problem-Solving Action Plan:

Overall, it seems to just ensure that ONI-based mediation & problem-solving assistance & training will include siting situations. Am I reading that correctly?

Regarding its specifics (p.4):

#1 How is this different from existing ONI-based mediation services?

#3 seems already included in #1

#5 seems to be a part of Proposal #3, ie, get them to participate in Certification. Yes?

RE the NISR:

I can't find the "four-step action plan" referenced in the first sentence (p.5).

I concur with the goals--compiling & disseminating related info, providing referrals, advocating fair treatment, etc. These fit with current ONI workscope, just broaden it to make sure this hot topic is well covered.

Neither of these proposals address the "dispersal/saturation" issue. Could that, however, be part of the "best practices" research & the education efforts of NISR? I see that it is referenced in Prop. #4

Thank you,
M'Lou Christ
904 SE 13th

Community Development Network

35850



December 14, 1999

To: Office of Mayor Vera Katz
Office of City Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Office of County Commissioner Diane Linn
Office of County Commissioner Lisa Naito

Fr: Amanda McCloskey, CDN, 335-9884, fax 335-9862

Re: **Comments for December 15, 1999 6 p.m. Portland City Council Hearing on Community Residential Siting Proposals**

As we are unable to attend the Dec. 15 hearing, please accept this as our comments.

The Community Development Network (CDN) is an association of nonprofit housing developers in the Portland Metro Area. We have 25 voting members nonprofits, and 58 affiliate members, including financial institutions, local government and technical assistance providers. CDN members have produced about 5000 units of affordable housing, contributing to the livability and stability of Portland's neighborhoods for all of its residents.

Non-profits developing
affordable housing and
revitalizing neighborhoods

We have two main concerns that have been consistent throughout this entire, lengthy, "facilities siting" process:


- 1) The definition of "facilities" remains unclear. Proposals three and four clearly deal with only post-incarceration facilities. However, proposals one and two, which refer to "residential group homes and facilities" may very well include the work of CDN nonprofits, especially providers of "special needs" housing. If one or both of these proposals is adopted, clarification is needed about what kinds of projects will be covered.
- 2) It's our understanding that both proposals one and two, the Community Problem Solving Action Program and the Neighborhood Information on Siting and Referral Process Action Plan, would have advisory committees for those programs. We assume that a full range of stakeholders would be included on those advisory committees, but we'd like to it made explicit that providers of nonprofit housing would be involved in advising and evaluating any program which involves nonprofit housing facilities siting.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Memorandum

December 15, 1999

To: David Lane

From: Barbara Hart 

Subj.: Phone contact with Community Development Network (CDN)

As you requested, I contacted CDN to discuss with Amanda McCloskey the questions she raised in her 12/14 memo re the CRSP.

I spoke with Tasha Harmon. Amanda is out of the county.

1. We discussed examples of residential and social service facilities. I reviewed the successful work we have done to address affordable housing development issues (Boise / Housing Our Families) and that we look forward to assisting the CDN and individual community development corporations in situations where it will be beneficial to all involved.
2. I confirmed that an advisory committee would be formed that would have broad representation from stakeholder groups, countywide, and that we would encourage involvement from CDN and c.d. corporations.

She was pleased by the call and satisfied with the answers. CDN staff will not be able to attend either hearing.



310 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 430 • Portland, Oregon 97204
503/223-8295 • Toll Free 1-800/424-3247 (TDD) • Fax 503/223-3396

December 9, 1999

Mayor Vera Katz
Commissioner Jim Francesconi
Commissioner Charles Hales
Commissioner Dan Salzman
Commissioner Erik Sten
City of Portland
1550 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Chair Beverly Stein
Commissioner Serena Cruz
Commissioner Sharon Kelly
Commissioner Diane Linn
Commissioner Lisa Naito
Multnomah County
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 1500
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Katz:

Below are comments regarding the Community Residential Siting Proposals that will have a hearing before City Council on December 15 and the County Commission of December 16.

I write these comments as a spokesperson for the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, an organization that seeks to increase access to housing for all by fighting illegal housing discrimination. I also write as a member of the Housing and Community Development Commission. Both bodies are concerned about the impact of public policies on the availability of housing to people with special needs.¹

I would like to go on record as endorsing the first three proposals as long as safeguards prevent negative impacts on people with disabilities, families with children, and other vulnerable populations. However, I am concerned that all four proposals have the potential to limit the amount of housing available to people with special needs, and in particular to decrease availability of housing that provides supportive services. Therefore, I ask that the resolution include a statement that the City of Portland recognizes that housing for people with special needs is an

¹Specific populations that have been named at least once during this process include: people who have been involved with the criminal justice system, people with mental illness, people with developmental disabilities, people in recovery from drug or alcohol abuse, gang-affected youth, and victims of domestic violence. Not all participants have expressed concern about all of these populations. Discrimination based on disability or familial status is illegal under fair housing laws.


asset to our communities and meets an important housing need.

Enhanced communication is good for our communities. The Community Problem Solving Action Plan, the Neighborhood Information on Siting and Referral Process (NISR), and the Good Neighbor Certification Process address the need for processes that facilitate communication among providers, neighbors, and funders of this type of housing and provide accurate information. We are pleased that the first two proposals are voluntary for providers and residents, and that proposal three only applies to the residences defined in SB 1104. We are pleased that the proposal for NISR addresses our concern that some information can violate residents' right to privacy by creating an advisory group that will oversee legal and ethical guidelines, protocols, and "best practices" for giving out information. We appreciate that the Good Neighbor Certification Process is not "intended to create legally enforceable or appealable rights or obligations, but is intended to provide guidance to neighbors and providers on what is expected." We are pleased that the Community Problem Solving Program does not mediate hypothetical impacts, but uses a facilitation model in the pre-siting stages.

As stated above, I want to emphasize our concern that our city and county have enough appropriate housing to serve special needs populations. In testimony given to HCDC in its current work on the Five Year Comprehensive Plan, we have heard that the greatest affordable housing shortage is that for people at or below 30% of median income. We have also heard about many populations that need some type of support services to successfully maintain tenancy and avoid homelessness. Although group living is not ideal for everyone, it meets a very real need in our community. It would be counter-productive for our city and county to set up processes that impede development of such housing, particularly when we hear over and over that this type of housing offers residents the best chance to regain a productive lifestyle. For that reason, I am concerned about amending the zoning code is amended to require an "alternatives to incarceration/post-incarceration use category." If this fourth proposal goes forward, it is important that such a use be permitted outright in some residential zones.

I appreciate the opportunity the Fair Housing Council has had to voice concerns throughout this process. I am pleased that our elected officials strongly endorse fair housing. I am strongly believe that with care proposals one, two, and three can result in more and better opportunities for all members of our communities.

Sincerely,


Cynthia Ingebretson
Executive Director

Kershner, Cay

From: TODD Kathleen M [kathleen.m.todd@co.multnomah.or.us]
Sent: December 15, 1999 11:04 AM
To: 'Kershner, Cay'
Subject: RE: testimony

December 10, 1999

To: Chair Stein & County Commissioners
 Mayor Katz & City Commissioners
From: M'lou Christ
Re: Residential Siting Proposals

I will be unable to attend your discussion/hearing. Here are some of my thoughts for the record:

I am pleased the county and city are discussing this issue. However, I don't believe the 4 proposals achieve adequate/appropriate resolution. I think generally, these 4 proposals add process to talk about residential sitings & try to work out agreements re operating them-but that's done now, mainly by District Office & ONI staff (via land use & crime prevention folks thru trainings & outreach & case management). *I'm not sure there's enough new business re residential sitings to require additional staffers for more of that & I think such assistance should stay out in the neighborhoods, not locate downtown. *Nor does it appear this version would do anything more to require pre-discussions or enforce any resultant agreements than occurs now. The major problem for me (& the County's Central CBAC at last night's discussion) is that it does not address the overall problem-the one that has been mentioned for years & that Buckman neighborhood yelled loudly enough about to get this discussion started: Nobody knows how many various services are sited in neighborhoods now & there's no policy proposed to have local jurisdictions spread them around so that the burdens & benefits are evenly distributed.

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Certification. Yes?
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Thank you,
M'Lou Christ
904 SE 13th

-----Original Message-----

From: Kershner, Cay [<mailto:ckershner@ci.portland.or.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 1999 8:33 AM
To: 'TODD Kathleen M'
Subject: RE: testimony

Yes, I would like a copy for the record. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: TODD Kathleen M
[\[mailto:kathleen.m.todd@co.multnomah.or.us\]](mailto:kathleen.m.todd@co.multnomah.or.us)
Sent: December 14, 1999 1:31 PM
To: 'ckershner@ci.portland.or.us'
Subject: testimony

Do you accept written testimony via e-mail
... one of our

**The
Arc**

of Multnomah County

**Advocating for individuals
with developmental disabilities
in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties**

December 14, 1999

Gary Blackmer
Auditor of the City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue Room 140
Portland OR 97204

Dear Auditor Blackmer,

As you know, The Arc of Multnomah serves individuals with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy and core program services. One of the issues that we hear about with great frequency is the critical lack of appropriate housing in our community for people with special needs.

Siting of residential facilities has always been an issue of concern. The Arc maintains that individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities have the same rights to live in the community as anyone else. We also know the kind of discrimination our population faces when it comes to the siting of group homes, and even in obtaining rental units. Each case is individual and unique, of course, but The Arc maintains that our community is richer for its diversity and for the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

We wish to encourage your support of all persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities living in the community as a part of a fair housing process for all persons. We understand the need for positive community relations with neighbors wherever there is a residential facility sited, and we are in full support of a process to support those community relations.

We also support a process allowing for neighborhood notification, but we stress that such a process not impede the placement of community settings for people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. We feel very strongly that people with special needs have equal rights in housing as elsewhere, and we cannot support anything that supercedes those rights. Likewise, we support best practices in housing as in other community issues. We support only those residential programs of the highest quality for any citizens in our community.

In the event of differences with respect to siting residential facilities, we believe there should be a mechanism in place to resolve differences in a fair and equitable manner. If a program which has been sited creates dissention, there should be opportunity for open dialogue within neighborhoods.

Finally, we encourage streamlining the review process for siting of residential programs. A more well defined and less cumbersome process will benefit all citizens in need of housing programs, and ensure that everyone is heard and is fairly treated.

Sincerely,



Gretchen A. Yost
Executive Director



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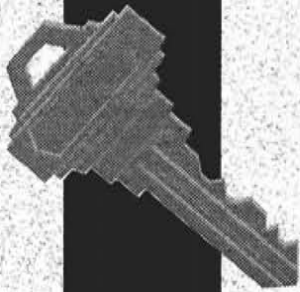
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Adele Ray Lewis, President



The Campaign to End The Waiting List



**Lara Pagni
22 years old
Waiting for housing, job
training, psychological services.
Now living in Nevada.**

Lara is breaking her parents' hearts. You see, the Pagnis knew that they faced the possibility of a 30-year wait if they put Lara on a waiting list for services in Oregon. They also knew that unless she received residential and vocational services, her future was very bleak.

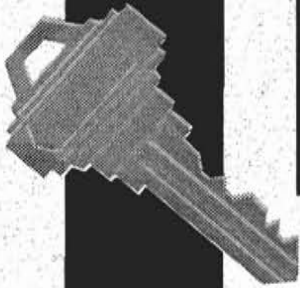
Mr. and Mrs. Pagni had to make a very difficult decision. They placed Lara in a private housing facility for people with mental retardation in Nevada. She also receives employment training there.

"This has caused a great deal of emotional trauma for Lara and for our family," Mrs. Pagni says. "We see her every two months, and the pain of separation is nearly unbearable. But even more unbearable would be to watch her languish in Oregon for want of necessary services, and to be afraid for her future."

2,380 individuals wait for services to help them with finding and keeping a job.

19 January 99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| | | | | | Rep. Mark Simmons New Years Day 1 | 2 |
| Rep. Ron Sunseri 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| U.S. Rep. Greg Walden 10 | 11 | Rep. Bruce Starr 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day 18 | 19 | Lara Pagni, Waiting 20 | Beth Ann Bourell, Waiting 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Rep. Jerry Krummel 31 | | | | | | The Arc |



The Campaign to End The Waiting List



**Michael Cogburn
34 years old
Waiting for a group home.**

Eva and Jack Cogburn, both in their 60s, are not getting any younger. Neither is Michael. At 34 years old, he continues to live with his parents, but they wonder how long they can continue to meet his needs themselves.

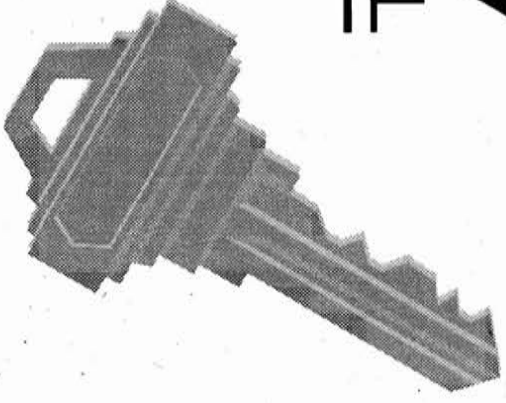
Michael has autism and needs to be in a group home or other residential setting. He and his parents have been waiting for 15 years, and they wonder if they will be forced to leave their home in Oregon to get adequate housing in another state for Michael.

"We have waited and waited for the state to take on some responsibility for Michael, but it seems as if no one cares," they said. "We judge a society by how it cares for the disabled and the old. Oregon doesn't rate very highly."

Almost 25% of the persons identified as primary caregivers of people with developmental disabilities are 65 years of age or older.

The Arc of Oregon Legislative Calendar is dedicated to the thousands of individuals throughout Oregon who have developmental disabilities and their families who continue to wait for services.

19



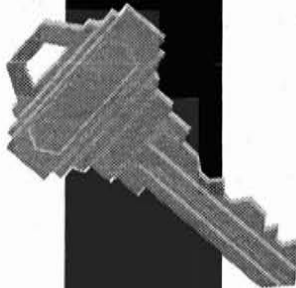
**Unlock the
Waiting
List!**

**T h e
Arc**

99

"When we see the long waiting list and the older people with disabilities being made to live at home without support, it is depressing. I have watched our daughter overcome many hurdles, only to be slapped back down as she nears the finish line. Let's give hope to ALL people."

Charlotte, mother of Christina, who is waiting for housing and support for independent living.



The Campaign to End The Waiting List



**Jeffrey Wynne
23 years old
Waiting 7 years for
residential services**

Life isn't too bad for Jeff. One of the lucky ones, he works and uses after-work services through The Arc of Washington County. He lives with his mother and brother, who maintain very tight schedules to make certain that someone is always home in the morning and evening when Jeff is there.

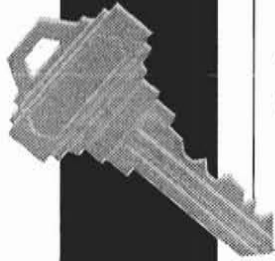
But there are no vacations and few evenings out for Jeff's family. They first must make arrangements for his care. This wears on the Wynne family, and Mrs. Wynne worries about her sons. "I feel that at times his brother loses patience with Jeff. His brother also feels frustrated that he can't get on with his own life because he is too often tied down with his brother. This manifests sometimes in a bad attitude towards Jeff and myself."

Jeff's care has become a day-to-day grind in which they never seem to make progress. "It would be wonderful for Jeff to be in a loving and safe environment with people his age - a place that would provide stimulation and challenges for growth."

2,913 people are waiting for residential services.

19 March 99

| | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--------|---|
| | sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| National Mental Retardation Awareness Month Oregon Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 Sen. Eileen Quibbe | 2 Sen. Eileen Quibbe | 3 | 4 Gov. John Kitzhaber | 5 | 6 |
| Angela Keim, Waiting | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Rep. Al King | 12 | 13 National Sabbath/Sunday Celebration |
| National Sabbath/Sunday Celebration | 14 | 15 | 16 Rep. Ryan Deckert St. Patrick's Day | 17 Rep. Ryan Deckert St. Patrick's Day | 18 WAITLIST RALLY Join us for Lunch in the Capitol! | 19 | 20 |
| | 21 Jeffrey Wynne, Waiting | 22 | 23 Sen. Bill Fisher | 24 | 25 Sen. Frank Shields | 26 | 27 |
| Palm Sunday | 28 | 29 | 30 Passover Begins at sunset | 31 | | | |



The Campaign to End The Waiting List

Caring for David, who has cerebral palsy, autism, orthopedic impairments, a central nervous system disorder, is legally blind and has seizures, is a full time round-the-clock job. There are no holidays, no vacations, no days off, and little semblance of a normal family life for the Allphins.

David's entire family has been providing care and advocacy for him at great personal sacrifice. His older siblings have shared the burden of caring for David, and in so doing missed out on many important aspects of normal childhood.

Today, serious health problems plague both David's mother, who has migraine headaches and high blood pressure, and his father, who has a heart condition.

For a few short years, the Allphins had the privilege of living in Alaska where services were available to them, and where David's mom was able to work outside the home. Returning to Oregon in 1997, however, meant a return to the waiting process for David.

David's family is struggling. "The stress of trying to care for David leaves no time for quality fun time spent with him," Mrs. Allphin says. "I just want for David to receive the services necessary to lead a quality, dignified and enriched life - like we all deserve."

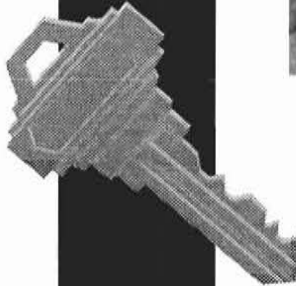


David Allphin
20 years old
Waiting for personal care, respite, community living services, relative foster care

Current funding strategies will remove no one from the waiting list.

19 April 99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley Easter Sunday Daylight Savings <i>Time Begins</i> | | | | Rep. Larry Wells | Good Friday | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | Sen. Verne Duncan | | U.S. Rep. David Wu | | | Sen. Veral Tarno |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Rep. Jackie Winters | 16 | 17 |
| | | | | | | Rep. Gary Hansen |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | Oregon Respite Care Awareness Day | 23 | 24 |
| | | Secretaries' Day | | | State Treasurer Jim Hill | |
| Rep. R. Tom Butler | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | Rep. Elaine M. Hopson The Arc of Oregon Convention, Eugene | 30 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | The Arc |



The Campaign to End The Waiting List



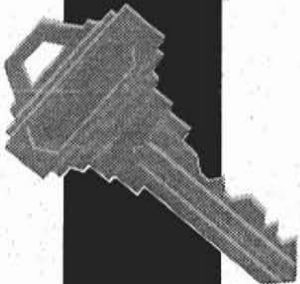
Arthur T. Harris
67 years old
Waiting for 12 years
Needs transportation, help
finding and keeping a job,
and other supports.

Arthur Harris, who is 67 years old, has mental retardation. Art attended Portland Community College where he received his certificate as a culinary assistant. Although Art's verbal skills are minimal, his attitude is very cheerful, and he is able to make himself understood. Art has had a number of food service jobs over the years, and currently works a few hours three days a week at the Red Robin restaurant in northeast Portland. Art's sister found the job for him, and she is also, at age 70, Art's primary caregiver.

In fact, Glenda is everything to Art. They live together in her home, and she is constantly seeking recreational opportunities for him, and has devoted much of her life to caring for him. Because of his sister's devotion, Art has a good life. She makes certain all his needs are met. That doesn't leave much time for Glenda to have a life of her own, though.

What will happen if Glenda is no longer able to care for Art? Will there be a residential placement for him?

340 individuals on the waiting list are 50 years of age or older.



The Campaign to End The Waiting List

Helen can work. She has proven how capable she is. Despite having Down Syndrome and few communication skills, Helen worked at Kaiser Permanente for nine years doing filing and other clerical tasks. Then a year and a half ago Helen lost her job.

When she was only 17 years old, Helen's mother, Susan, placed her on a waiting list for a group home. For 16 years Helen has dreamed of living on her own like other young women her age. Her mom dreams about it, too, knowing it is in the best interest of both of them for Helen to be an active, contributing member of society.

Will they wait for another 16 years? Susan hopes not, for that would take her beyond retirement. Helen needs a home and a job, today.



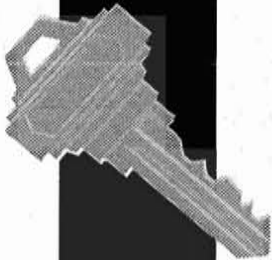
Helen Rosemarie Healy
33 years old
Waiting for residential
and vocational services

1,380 individuals waiting for services are between the ages of 30 and 49. Many live at home with aging parents.

19 June 99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|---------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | Sen. Lee Beyer | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | | | | Sen. Tom Hartung | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Flag Day | | | | | Sen. Peter Courtney | |
| Fathers' Day | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | Sen. Kate Brown | | Sec. of State Phil Keisling | | Supt. Public Instruction Stan Bunn | 26 |
| <i>Statewide Developmental Disabilities In-Service, Corvallis</i> | | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| | Rep. Lynn Snodgrass | | | | | |

The
Arc



The Campaign to End The Waiting List



**Christopher W. Kircher
28 years old
Waiting for day services,
respite care**

Frances Kircher worries about her son who has Down Syndrome. Since Chris graduated from high school, he spends his time watching television all night and sleeping all day. Not much of an existence for a young man who could be active and productive given the chance.

Caring for Chris is a challenge for Frances, who was in a jobs program at one time, but she worried that no one would care for her son like she does if she left him each day to go to work.

Plagued by behavioral problems, Chris is a good person, but sometimes difficult to get along with. His mother gets out rarely, because Chris is just too hard for her to manage in public. A relative takes her out once a month to shop for groceries and other household necessities.

"I don't think some people realize a person needs a little time of their own to do things," Mrs. Kircher says, "or to shop for special occasions like Christmas." Chris has two brothers and one sister, and when the time comes, their mom wants one of them to take him.

Is that the solution? Or must Christopher continue to wait for appropriate services?

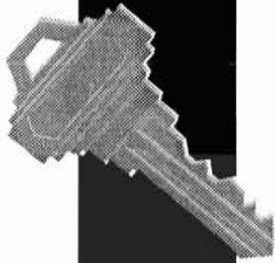
2,109 people have been waiting for services for more than 4 years, some as long as 20 years!

July

19

99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|--------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| | | | | Canada Day | | |
| Sen. Lenn Hannon <i>Independence Day</i> | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | | | Rep. Carl Wilson | Sen. Neil Bryant | | |
| | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | | | | | | |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | | | | | | |
| Rep. Bob Montgomery | 25 | Americans with Disabilities Act passed into law 1990 | | | | |
| | | Rep. Anita Rasmussen Sen. Cliff Trow | 27 | 28 | Andy Owens, Waiting | 30 |
| | | 26 | | | | |
| | 31 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | The Arc |



The Campaign to End The Waiting List



**Kristine Jacobsen
17 years old
Waiting for vocational
training, day activities**

A student at Tillamook High School, Kristine is doing well for now. She lives with her mom, and works about three hours a week at Marie Mills Center, where she is gaining skills she and her mom hope will be useful to her in the future.

At this time, however, there are few job opportunities on the north end of Tillamook County. Her mother is concerned for Kristine's future, for after high school there will be even fewer services for young adults like Kristine. "It would be ideal to have a job trainer to help set up work in local businesses," Gladys Jacobsen says, "or create work for the summer months."

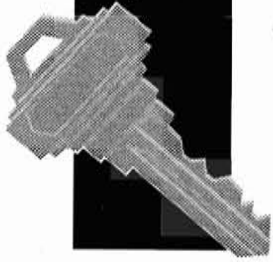
Of course, Kristine will need other assistance such as residential services in the future, as well. How long will that wait be?

3,880 people have their names on formal waiting lists. As many or more are not on any formal lists, yet they, too, are waiting for services.

19 August 99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--------|--|---------|---|----------------------------|--|----------|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| | | | | | Rep. Judy Uherbelau Sen. Susan Castillo | 2 |
| | 1 <i>Helen Rosemarie Healy, Waiting</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 Rep. Jim Hill | 5 Sen. David Nelson | 6 |
| | 8 | 9 | 10 <i>Kristine Jacobsen, Waiting</i> | 11 | 12 Rep. Randall Edwards | 13 |
| | 15 Sen. Rick Metsger | 16 | 17 U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer | 18 Rep. Deborah Kafoury | 19 | 20 |
| | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | 29 Rep. Randy Leonard | 30 | 31 | | | |

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Arc



The Campaign to End The Waiting List



**Angela Keim
23 years old
Waiting for residential
and vocational services
and transportation**

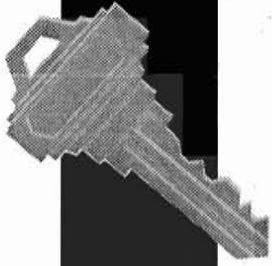
Angela has been on the waiting list since she was in high school ... but waiting for what? Because Angela has a supportive family, and because there is always someone with emergent need, her position on the waiting list has changed very little in the last six years.

Angela's parents know that the longer a person waits, the more they lose. When Angela graduated from high school she was fresh and ready. But waiting breeds apathy, self-esteem dwindles, and finally television characters become friends.

Angela currently receives no services. After a five-year wait, she does have a job, but that is only once piece of the pie. Although her parents have the flexibility to provide transportation for her, Angela needs to be independent, she needs to be the best she can be. Her mom understands this well. "She needs to be able to continue to grow," Mom says. "And she's not alone. There are hundreds of people in Oregon just like Angela."

Individuals like Angela deserve to live in an environment that meets their needs and provides them with a safe haven from this harsh world.

1.900 individuals on the waiting list are between the ages of 19 and 29.



The Campaign to End The Waiting list



James Thomas
23 years old
Waiting for residential
services

Ralph and Jean Thomas are both getting on in years. They are concerned about what will happen to their grandson, James, without them. James is medically fragile and needs a lot of stimulation to be happy and to stay alive.

For now, James thrives on having many persons involved in his life, and he craves exercise and other activities. Without that stimulation, James lies in bed and vegetates, pooling secretions into his lungs which could result in pneumonia, a condition which could easily take his life.

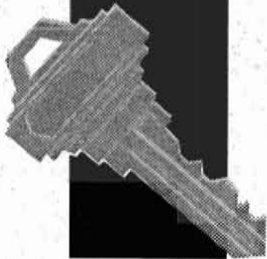
The Thomases don't want that to happen - not to James nor to any other medically fragile individuals. When they pass on, they want Jim to be in housing in Washington County, not somewhere else in the state. They want him near his advocates and they want him to have a range of activities.

Both 70 years of age, the Thomases hope they can "outwait" the waiting list. There are 220 names ahead of them.

2,220 people on the waiting list receive no support services at all.

19 October 99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--|---|--|-----------|---|---|----------------------|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| | | | | | Sen. Joan Dukes Sen. Charles Starr 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Columbus Day | 12 | 13 | 14 | Rep. Jo Ann Bowman 15 | 16 |
| | | Rep. Steve Harper Rep. Kurt Schrader Rep. Lane Shetterly Rep. Jim Welsh Christopher Kircher, waiting 19 | 20 | The Arc National Convention, Nashville TN | | |
| Sen. Gary George 17 | Rep. William E. Morrisette 18 | 19 | 21 | 22 | Comm. of Labor Jack Roberts 23 | |
| Rep. Jeff Merkley 24 | Attorney General Hardy Myers 25 | Rep. Floyd Prozanski 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Halloween Daylight Savings Time Ends 31 | | | | | | T h e Arc |



The Campaign to End The Waiting List

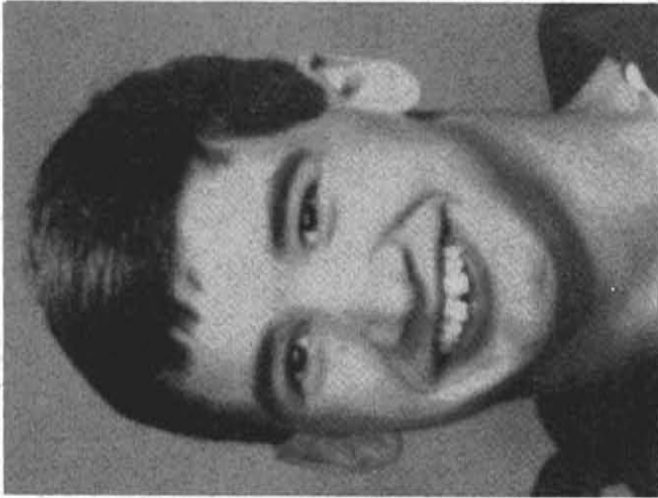
Families are what makes this world a stronger and better place to live in. No one knows that better than the Owens family.

Andy was born a perfectly normal child. At 22 months of age, he had a near drowning accident and went from being a perfect child to one who requires 24-hour care, tube feedings and diapering. Andy's mom says that none of us know what life has in store for us. She sure knows that!

Cynthia and David Owens know they are among the more fortunate ones. Andy has a computer, and they know they are lucky to live in a time when technology can improve their son's life. "What joy it brought to us," Cynthia said, "to hear Andy's computer voice talk to us after hearing nothing for 12 years!"

Still, they feel that all the years they have cared for their son have taken a toll on their family. "If we were to give our son to a foster family, they would receive help from the state to care for him. We would like the same kind of support."

They know, too, that the divorce rate is much higher in families like theirs. Respite care and help with medical costs not covered by insurance would make all the difference in keeping families together.

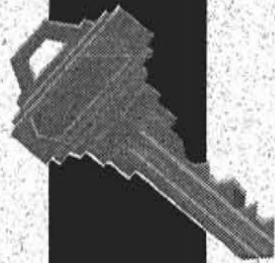


**Andy Owens
18 years old
Waiting for family
support, respite care,
health care needs**

2,061 individuals and families wait for family support services.

19 November 99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|----------|----------------|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday | |
| | | 1 <i>Election Day</i> | 2 Rep. Jason A. Atkinson Rep. Lynn Lundquist | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 <i>Veterans' Day</i> | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | 15 Rep. Rob Patridge | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | |
| 21 | 22 Rep. Dan Gardner | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Thanksgiving</i> | 26 Rep. Diane Rosenbaum Rep. Kevin L. Mannix | 27 | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | The Arc |



The Campaign to End The Waiting List

Brenda has been out of high school for 12 years. Finally, last year, her family began receiving 20 hours of personal care a month to assist with Brenda's daily needs.

Since her high school graduation, Brenda has lived with her parents, who provide all of her care. Because there has been no day program to keep her occupied, Brenda has regressed in many areas, losing most of the skills she gained while in school.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have finally given up on an out-of-home placement for their daughter. Already they have waited so long. "We just want Brenda to have somewhere to go, even a few days a week."

Must the Andersons, and so many other families like them, settle for so little?



**Brenda Anderson
33 years old
Waiting 20 years
for residential
services and
day program**

Waiting sucks!

ECHO PRINTING

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The Arc of Oregon 1999 Calendar

Designed by Judy Kearney

The
Arc
of Multnomah County

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Research by Cynthia Lee Owens



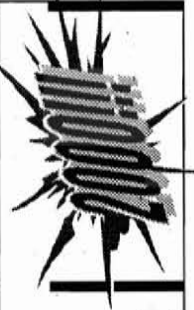
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19 December 99

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----------------------|--------|---------|--|---------------------|--|--|
| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
| The Arc | | | Dec. 1, 1908 Fairview Training Center opened its doors in Salem to accept its first patients | | Sen. Ginny Burdick Hanukkah Begins at sunset | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Rep. Bill Witt 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | Sen. John Lim 23 | 24 | Rep. Ken Strobeck Christmas 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | Rep. Terry Thompson 29 | 30 | 31 |  |

Rights, Responsibilities, and Obligations. Once a friendship is established, it is assumed that friends can make certain demands of each other and be assured of a response. Nondisabled friends talked about the obligations that they had assumed for their friend with a disability, such as teacher, mentor, caretaker, or protector. The friends with disabilities assumed certain responsibilities in maintaining the relationship such as keeping in touch or suggesting possible activities.

Feelings, from Companionship to Intimacy. All of the friends held feelings of affection for each other, expressed through their interactions with each other.

Freely Chosen and Given. Friends choose each other. It is this voluntary aspect of friendship that is regarded as the "amazing and wonderful" part of the relationship.

Private and Exclusive Nature. Within the boundaries of each friendship is a private relationship that is inaccessible to others. The friends have a history and an understanding of their connection to each other that separates this from all of their other relationships.

What can families and service providers do to enhance opportunities for friendships?

People can establish friendships with each other, but it is not possible to force friendships upon others. It is possible to create opportunities for people with and without disabilities to meet and share time with each other in ways that encourage friendships to take root and flourish. Families and service providers can do different things to make such opportunities available.

Families can:

Work for the total inclusion of their son or daughter into the regular school system. In addition to being physically present, students with disabilities need adequate supports to enable them to fully participate in classroom and school activities. Parents can also ensure that their child with a disability takes part in a variety of integrated recreation and leisure activities after school hours. A consistent physical presence in each others' lives helps lead to friendships between children with and without disabilities.

Ensure social participation. How people with disabilities are supported within integrated settings is important. Students need to be enabled to participate as much as possible, and to do so in ways acceptable to other people. People without disabilities need the opportunity to meet their counterparts with disabilities as peers, not as objects of tutoring or volunteer service.

Involve and trust others. All parents feel protective toward their children. While there may be differences in how independent people can become, parents can come to believe that there are people in the community who would, if given the opportunity, enjoy and welcome a friendship with their son or daughter.

Service providers can:

Reduce barriers to friendship. The way in which support services are provided to people with disabilities and their families can enhance or reduce the opportunities for friendships to develop. Segregated programs dramatically lessen the chances for contact between people with and without disabilities.

Even in integrated settings, students with disabilities may not be able to take part in extracurricular activities (e.g., choir, clubs, sports) because of lack of transportation from school.

When efforts are made to bring people with and without disabilities together, the people without disabilities are often treated as volunteers responsible to the teacher or program coordinator rather than as peers.

Encourage people who seem to like one another to pursue friendships. Service providers can review practices, such as curfews, lack of privacy and so on, which limit opportunities for people to meet and form friendships with each other.

With an awareness of and commitment to facilitating friendships between people with and without disabilities, all people can have the opportunity to form relationships which allow them to live life more fully.

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The Importance of Friendships Between People With and Without Mental Retardation

by Zana Marie Lutfiyya, Center on Human Policy

Why are friendships between people with and without disabilities important?

Friends are important for several reasons. They support each other emotionally, are willing to see things from the other's point of view and provide assistance and feedback when needed. Friends choose each other and remain close through good times and times of crisis. They provide companionship for community and school activities and help each other enjoy new experiences and appreciate life more fully. Friendships between people with and without disabilities usually enrich the lives of both.

When should friendships begin?

If people with mental retardation are to form friendships and be a part of society as adults, these relationships must develop during childhood. Classmates and neighbors will grow into adult coworkers and friends later in life.

Therefore, integrated classrooms and recreational activities are important. In these settings, children with and without disabilities get to meet each other and form relationships. Unfortunately, many parents have found that even though their children are integrated in school, they have few nondisabled friends.

What makes the development of relationships difficult?

Many individuals with disabilities interact primarily with their family, the people who take care of or provide services to them, and others in the programs in which they participate. These relationships can clearly be significant and should be encouraged. However, outside of family members, people may have no freely given and chosen relationships.

Generally, many people with disabilities face certain disadvantages in meeting and getting to know others.

Opportunity. Many people with disabilities have limited opportunities to take part in activities where they can meet peers. This may be due to physical segregation or being placed in a role as "client" or "special education student." Services may restrict people's chances to get together, through program or funder rules, curfews, transportation restrictions, and other limitations. Whatever the reason, people with disabilities frequently become cut off and isolated from others.

Support. Relationships between people with and without disabilities are not formed by simply grouping people together. Some individuals need assistance with fitting into certain settings and activities. Others may need someone to facilitate their involvement or to

interpret for them. Without supports, some people with and without disabilities may never have the opportunity to know each other.

Continuity. While most people enjoy meeting new people, they are sustained by those they have known over time. The continuity of relationships over the years is an important source of security, comfort and self-worth. Many people with disabilities do not have continuous relationships. Instead, they may leave their families, be moved from one program to another and have to adjust to staff people who come and go.

What are some of the ways to facilitate personal relationships between people with and without disabilities?

It takes effort to help people establish connections. Described below are some of the ways this has been tried:

"Bridge-Building." Facilitators who initiate, support and maintain new relationships are called bridge-builders, as they "...build bridges and guide people into new relationships, new places, and new opportunities in life" (Mount, et al., 1988). Bridge-builders involve people with disabilities in existing groups or with specific individuals.

Circles of Friends or Circles of Support. Groups of people who "meet on a regular basis to help a person with a disability accomplish certain personal visions or goals" (Perske, 1988). Circle members try to open doors to new opportunities, including establishing new relationships.

Citizen Advocacy. Recruited and supported by an independent citizen advocacy office, a citizen advocate voluntarily represents the interests of a person with a disability as if the interests were the advocate's own. Citizen advocates may take on one or several roles (e.g., friend, ally, mentor, protector), and some of these may last for life.

There are different ways that personal relationships between people with and without disabilities may be encouraged. Perhaps more important than the specific method is the supporting, connecting role of one or more people (family members, staff members, friends, neighbors, etc.) who can spend time and energy for this purpose.

What are some important dimensions of friendship?

Genuine friendships between people with and without disabilities do exist. While each friendship is unique, there are some shared ideas and expectations about what friendship means. According to a recent study of pairs of friends (Lutfiyya, 1990), these meanings include:

Mutuality. The people defined their relationship as a friendship and themselves as friends. Although they acknowledge differences between themselves, they clearly found a sense of mutuality in the friendship. Mutuality was expressed in the giving and receiving of practical assistance and emotional support, and enjoyment of each other's company.



COMMUNITY LIVING

What is community living?

Community-living refers to the programs, services and other supports that enable children and adults with mental retardation and related disabilities to live much the same way that people without disabilities live. For children, this usually means living with their family in their own home and in their own communities. For adults, it usually means having opportunities and supports to live independently, or as independently as possible, in their own home or apartment, or perhaps in a small group home.

Community living may also include a variety of other supports and services. For example, a family that is caring for a child with mental retardation may need occasional respite services so that they can take a break from caregiving or attend to other needs. Or, an adult living in a small group home may require help finding a job through an employment program.

What types of community services are available?

Community services can take a number of different forms. Community programs in which adults with mental retardation live are usually called supported living or small group home programs.

- **Supported living:** Usually individuals living in homes or apartments of their own. The person may live alone or *choose* to live with a roommate versus being *placed* with others. Supported living often involves partnerships between individuals with disabilities, their families and professionals in making decisions about where and how the person wishes to live. Focus is on giving utmost attention to the desires of the person with a disability in how he or she would like to live, and to support the individual in having control over choices of lifestyle. People in supported living may need little or no services from professionals, or they may need 24-hour personal care. The kind and amount of supports are tailored to the individual's needs.
- **Small group homes:** Small group homes are living environments where six or fewer individuals live, usually with 24-hour staff support. In 1996, Prouty & Lakin found that an average of 3.8 people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities lived in each residential setting in the U.S. The average number was 22.5 people in 1977, and so has continued to drop over the past 19 years.

Community services also include other non-residential types of services that support adults in their own homes, supplement services to individuals who live in the community and support families in keeping their child with a disability at home. These include, but are not limited to:

- crisis intervention services: on-call support to assist in dealing with crisis situations;

- respite care: temporary relief for full-time, at-home care providers;
- other family support services: states offer a variety of services, from cash subsidies to families so they can purchase their own services, to transportation that enables families to get to services;
- service coordination (case management): professionals that serve as coordinators or "brokers" between services, assisting families and individuals with accessing and benefiting from various programs; and,
- employment programs: services which help adults with mental retardation find jobs.

How much care/support do people with mental retardation need?

Mental retardation affects each individual differently. While some may need 24-hour care, others are able to live independently or with minimal supports. That is why it is so important for individuals and families to be able to choose flexible programs and services that best meet their needs.

Why is it so important for people with mental retardation to be able to live in their own homes and/or communities?

Study after study has shown that community living enables people with disabilities to live happier, healthier and more productive lives. Giving people a real sense of home and community, along with a feeling of independence, can go a long way to contributing to their sense of self-worth and well being. In many cases, community support enables people to live with or near their families. This is particularly important to maintaining a more stable and comforting environment.

Do people with mental retardation have the power to make decisions about institutionalization versus community living? Do their families decide? The state?

People with mental retardation and/or their families are, in theory, free to decide what type of living situation they desire and is best for them. Adults with mental retardation, not under guardianship, are legally responsible for making decisions about and agreeing to participate in certain programs. In some cases, the state may involuntarily commit someone with mental retardation to a program if there is a life-threatening, emergency or similar situation. A family or individual's choice about certain community services is often severely hampered by the lack of availability of community programs in many states. If the services and supports an individual needs are not available, these options suddenly become very few.

Aren't there some people with mental retardation so severe that institutions provide the only real viable option?

Absolutely not. As with anything else, the degree of care needed varies from person to person. Some people with mental retardation manage very well on their own with minimal supports, while others may require 24-hour care. Many communities that are committed to not relegating people with mental retardation to institutions have found that people with the most significant disabilities can safely and happily reside in community, noninstitutional settings. There are community options to meet the needs of all individuals.

What are the economic benefits of community living alternatives?

Community support can save taxpayers a substantial amount of money. In 1996, the average annual cost for a person in a community setting served under the Home and Community Based Services program (flexible Medicaid funding) was \$24,783. The annual average cost per resident in large, state-run institutions in 1996 averaged \$92,345 (Prouty & Lakin, 1997).

Won't increased funding for community programs and supports mean bigger government and higher spending?

Not at all. In fact, just the opposite is true. Community living programs represent an alternative to institutionalization, not an added expense. Further, community alternatives generally save money by providing more cost-effective care. And since the whole point of community support is allowing people with mental retardation to live more independently, either with their families or in small homes, it actually requires fewer state resources.

What about those states that have closed their institutions? How has it affected services for people with mental retardation?

Of the four New England states that have closed institutions, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have reduced the size of their waiting lists; Rhode Island has no waiting list. In Connecticut and Massachusetts, states that maintain institutions, the waiting list has increased in numbers.

What are some of the trends that affect the availability and use of community services?

There are several trends that affect the availability and use of community services. Many of these trends inter-relate in how they impact individuals with mental retardation and their families.

Perhaps the most significant trend is the increasing waiting list for community services. Hayden (1992) found an estimated 186,000 people in the U.S. waiting for residential, employment and other services. As states either cap or cutback the number and kinds of services, more and more individuals end up on long waiting lists for necessary services. Many individuals with mental retardation do not receive the full array of services they need to increase their independence, and

there are many who still reside with their families and receive no services whatsoever.

The number of adults with mental retardation still residing with their parents, especially aging parents or parent, is another area of concern. Many parents provide some or all care for an adult son or daughter with mental retardation, but these families increasingly recognize the need to plan for the time when the parents can no longer provide care. As these families begin to explore community residential and other services, they are finding waiting lists for services, sometimes up to several years long. Compounding this problem is the fact that some of these families do not even have access to a support system for providing information and assistance. A recent study in New York found that many of these families are neither in the aging service system or the mental retardation/developmental disabilities service system.

Deinstitutionalization of people with mental retardation has been an extremely positive trend. However, this trend has also increased the need for community services to serve individuals with mental retardation and their families. Many states are not allowing funds to "follow" individuals from institutions to the community. Thus, costly institutions continue to exist while states struggle with funding quality community services.

Dramatic changes in how the service-delivery system for people with mental retardation operates is having a major impact. States are experimenting with service delivery measures -- often referred to as "managed care" -- in an effort to reduce costs for health and long-term care. While managed care and other systemic changes have the potential to reduce costs and improve the quality and quantity of services, the speed and degree at which states are changing systems may create service gaps or result in less than optimal services for some or all people with mental retardation.

Resources

The Arc's *Supported Living Resource List* contains information on books, fact sheets, videos and organizations on supported living and other aspects of community living. For a free copy, send your request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: The Arc of the United States, 500 East Border St., Suite 300, Arlington, Texas 76010. Information on community living and other topics on mental retardation can also be located on The Arc's World Wide Web site at: <http://TheArc.org/welcome.html>

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Note: Many of the above questions and answers have been adapted from The Arc of Illinois' "Campaign for Community Living Fact Sheet."



Respite Care

offers parents who live with and care for a person with a developmental disability access to trained caregivers who provide temporary short-term relief care in private homes or in centers.

Pilot Parents

is a peer support program which matches trained parent volunteers with other parents of children with similar, newly diagnosed disabilities. Activities within the program include Sibshops, an informal group for children whose siblings have disabilities, and Accepting a Difference, a counseling-type workshop which offers parents practical help in dealing with feelings and emotions.

Friend to Friend

is a citizen advocacy program which trains volunteers and matches them in one-on-one friendships with individuals who have a developmental disability. Each friendship is unique, and enhances the lives of both people involved.

EXPLORE

supports and encourages individuals with mental retardation or developmental disabilities to make informed choices regarding personal life goals. Based on the principles of self determination, the EXPLORE program incorporates a variety of group meetings and activities in the community.

Skill Training

helps young adults develop the day-to-day life skills they need to live independently in the community, to be successful in their jobs, and to develop a fulfilling personal and social life.

Program Services

Adult Case Coordination

serves adults living independently in the community who require assistance with life management skills from a case coordinator.

Family Advocacy

works with families in which one or both parents have a cognitive disability and require ongoing support to raise their children.

Guardianship Advocacy and Planning Services (GAPS)

provides temporary advocacy assistance to individuals in need, as well as family future planning information. Volunteers make up a GAPS team, which serves children and adults in crisis or without family support who need guardianship.

Information and Referral

provides individuals, families and professionals a resource for specific information on disability issues and offers referrals to appropriate programs and professionals in the metropolitan Portland area.

The Arc of Multnomah County
 619 SW 11th Avenue, Suite 234
 Portland, OR 97205-2692
www.thearcmult.org

Voice 503-223-7279 Fax 503-223-1488



Resolution No:

Accept the Community Residential Siting Proposals (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the City of Portland declared with the adoption of *Future Focus* in October 1991 that it welcomes and respects the individuality, unique talents and contributions of all people regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, or financial ability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland declared with the adoption of *Future Focus* in October 1991 that it values a city of healthy, vigorous neighborhoods where residents participate in community life and feel a sense of belonging and involvement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland on December 16, 1998 adopted the *Comprehensive Plan Housing Policy* including a Policy of Fair Housing to ensure freedom of choice in housing type, tenure and neighborhood for all, regardless of race, color, age, gender, familial status, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, source of income, or disability; and

WHEREAS, the *Comprehensive Plan Housing Policy* has an objective of reducing barriers to the siting of housing for the elderly or people with disabilities at residential locations throughout the city that have access to needed social services and transit while recognizing that different populations have different needs to promote the Policy of Fair Housing; and

WHEREAS, the *Comprehensive Plan Housing Policy* has an objective of promoting good neighbor relationships between housing developers and their neighbors to promote neighborhood stability; and

WHEREAS, citizens, neighborhood associations, providers and agencies now have issues, questions, and concerns related to siting and operations of residential group homes and facilities; and

WHEREAS, citizens want to be involved in the siting of facilities in their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, citizens, neighborhoods associations, providers, and agencies desire ways to discuss issues related to residential group homes and facilities; and

WHEREAS, citizens in Portland and Multnomah County have expressed their frustration with the processes by which residential group homes and facilities are sited; and

WHEREAS, citizens want information shared in advance about residential siting of facilities in their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, good neighbor plans among citizens, neighborhood associations, agencies, and providers are important to increase the livability in Portland and Multnomah County; and

WHEREAS, citizens and providers want to understand, support, advocate for, and respect the needs of residential clients; and

WHEREAS, neighbors and providers all desire to establish positions of trust and openness around the siting of residential facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland and Multnomah County will continue to abide by the letter and spirit of the Federal Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all other pertinent laws and regulations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council joins with colleagues from Multnomah County to develop a Community Residential Siting Program, as described in the document entitled "Community Residential Siting Proposals" dated December 1, 1999, to provide a continuum of coordinated information and problem solving services in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement to:

- help citizens in Portland and Multnomah County, neighborhood associations, providers, and agencies discuss questions, issues, and concerns and mediate problems related to existing of proposed siting of residential group homes and facilities; and
- develop a process to provide neighborhood information on siting and referral coordinated through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement which will provide information, develop legal and ethical guidelines, protocols, and "best practices," and advocate for fair treatment of all citizens, develop networks of county, city, and state agency contacts, providers, advocates, and neighborhood associations; and
- Implement a good neighbor certification process applicable to the siting of post-incarceration residential facilities. This is a process review by ONI, not a legally binding license, designed to implement and supplement recent siting requirements of state law by promoting best practices and encouraging early, cooperative communication between neighborhoods and prospective program providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council supports the initiation of a planning process to consider a new Zoning Code use category for "alternative to incarceration/post-incarceration facilities" and that the process will include community and stakeholder input, including definition of any new use category and the establishment of any conditional use criteria.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
 Prepared by Ruth Benson
 Office of Neighborhood Involvement
 Approved by Council:

ADOPTED

DEC 15 1999

GARY BLACKMER
 Auditor of the City of Portland

By:

Burt Olson Deputy

RESOLUTION NO.

35850

Title

Accept the Community Residential Siting Proposals (Resolution)

| | |
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| INTRODUCED BY | DATE FILED: DEC 10 1999 |
| Mayor Vera Katz Commissioner Dan Saltzman | Gary Blackmer Auditor of the City of Portland |
| NOTED BY COMMISSIONER | By: <u><i>Gary Kershner</i></u> Deputy |
| Affairs Saltzman <i>Don Saltzman</i> | For Meeting of: _____ |
| Finance and Administration <i>VK</i> | ACTION TAKEN: |
| Safety | |
| Utilities | |
| Works | |
| BUREAU APPROVAL | |
| Bureau: <i>OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT</i> | |
| Prepared by _____ Date 12/08/99 | |
| Ruth Benson | |
| Budget Impact Review: | |
| Completed _____ Not Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Bureau Head: | |

| AGENDA | | FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA | COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: | |
|---------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | YEAS | NAYS |
| Consent | December 15 th 6:00 Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Francesconi | Francesconi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| NOTED BY | | Hales | Hales | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| City Attorney | | Saltzman | Saltzman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| City Auditor | | Sten | Sten | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| City Engineer | | Katz | Katz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | |