



Disability Rights

FLORIDA

Residential Options for People with Disabilities

Assisted Living Workgroup
8/8/2011

Advocacy. Equality. Dignity.

Integrated Settings

- Located in mainstream communities;
- Access to activities and opportunities at times, frequencies and with persons of own choosing;
- Afford choices in daily life activities and
- Interaction with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible.



Segregated Settings

- Populated exclusively or primarily by persons with disabilities;
- Regimented daily activities, lack of privacy, policies that limit personal autonomy and management of personal activities of daily living or
- Providing daytime activities primarily with others with disabilities



Interviews with LMH ALF Residents

- Residents could not describe other available living options
- Residents have very little privacy, lack of choice of roommates
- Residents have no opportunities to improve independent living skills
- Residents have varying degrees of engagement in community
- Residents mentioned language barriers to communication



Options & Informed Choice

- LMH ALFs as part of a continuum of residential options
- Informed choice about options includes info on integrated settings, visits to settings and meetings with residents who are successful in a variety of integrated settings.



Discharges from State Mental Health Treatment Facilities

- By default, current discharge practice includes trans-institutionalization of people with mental illnesses into segregated settings.
- 2005-2010, 1577 discharges to ALF with 56.64% from SFSH



Recommendations

- Develop an accurate count of people with mental illnesses with SSI/Medicaid/OSS who reside in LMH ALFs.
- Move money from DCF institutional budgets to follow the people being discharged into integrated residential options.
- Allow OSS money now used in facility settings to follow the person into integrated settings.
- Permit AHCA to use the Money Follows the Person grant it was awarded.
- Stop sweeping the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.



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