



Lunch & Learn Webinar: Personal Experiences with Supported Living

Presenters:

Lars Johnson, Supported Living Director, FIRST
Janet Price-Ferrell, Executive Director, FIRST

This webinar is being sponsored by the NCCDD and North Carolina Money Follows the Person Project (NC MFP), a Medicaid project that assists Medicaid-eligible North Carolinians who live in inpatient facilities to move into their own homes and communities with supports.



SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN THEIR OWN LIFE, IN A HOME THEY CHOSE WITH ACTIVITIES THEY CHOSE

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Key Points

Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities will have the KEY to their homes and lives.

Use of technology and best practice are critical components.



Goal of My FIRST Key

FIRST supports individuals who live in segregated settings transition into community settings where the individuals will live in a home, with tenant rights, and if they choose, a roommate that THEY have selected.



We say Key Holder not...

- Client
- Participant
- Person with disability
- Consumer
- Member



Models around the country

Hope House- Hampton, Virginia – Lynne Seagle-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWfoorKjEPw>

Wildwood Programs, New York – Anne Murphy -
<https://www.wildwood.edu/index.php>

Innovative Services Inc, Wisconsin – Rick Bahr-www.isiinc.org

The Charles Lea Center, Greenville, SC – Laconda Moore-www.charleslea.org

Neighbours Inc, New Jersey – Sandy Cooper-www.neighbours-inc.com





FIRST started My FIRST Key in 2017 with the mission and vision to give individuals with developmental disabilities the best quality of life in the community just like we all want for our family members. By using an array of Innovation services and person centered planning, life in the community is possible.

To provide this possibility for every person each service or support provided by our teams, caregivers, family members or friends must rely upon someone utilizing their own talents, resources, energies and ideas for improvement. Fulfilling our mission depends on shared visions, a never-ending pursuit of quality and a team of qualified individuals who never doubt that thoughtful, committed people can change lives for the better.

If you think that this is the life that you want for your family member, FIRST and My FIRST Key staff are very excited to talk to you. Everyone needs are different so every individual we support will have a different plan, no cookie cutter programs at FIRST.



- This is a HUGE undertaking and mind shift. External factors that will impact the success are support or lack thereof from the community, individuals and their families.

- As a parent run organization, we know the fears of many parents about safety but strongly feel that persons with disabilities should be allowed to live a real life. That does not mean living in the bubble of a provider world.



Struggles

Affordable Housing
Finding Roommates/Support staff
Friends
Personal Decisions
(Institutional/Parental/Staff vs Informed Decision Making)

Positives

Person centered Planning
Community Support Staff
Key Holder involved with making choices for homes, support staff, furniture
Supportive Landlords
Supportive Families



What makes your home a home?



AF- Age 20

- Lived in residential settings across NC including Riddle Center, Murdock and Broughton
- Lived in foster homes and AFL's
- Diagnosed with a variety of disabilities



J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center

AF- The process has made the present worthwhile.

- Looked at various home options and chose the one she wanted after looking at them in person.
- Signed the rental lease herself
- Picked out her own furniture including the red microwave, blackout curtains, sectional couch and the gray curtains in the living room and kitchen.



AF's Home

AF is

- Experiencing Supportive Living for the first time
- Experiencing making her own choices for the first time
- Experiencing what it means to be a 20 year old living in Asheville



Downtown Asheville

AF also wants.....

- A boyfriend
- Hang out downtown Asheville at night
- Visit with her family
- Stay by herself in her own home
- To choose who spends time with her

Signing lease for new home



AC- 21 year old with autism

- Graduated from high school
- Living with his parents and wanted to live somewhere else
- Parents assisted him in finding a place to live and finding a roommate



Question: Logistics & Liability

- How do you get leases for individuals and roommates?
- Have there been any liability issues or concerns?



Questions: Service Definition



- Have there be any modifications to the service definition to make it clearer?

Questions: Fit & Philosophy

- Do you see supported living as a model that will work for an adult with ID once the parents/guardians have passed.
- What are the ideal members to be referred for these services, as well as members who are not ideal candidates? What level of independence does an individual need to already have to qualify for Supported Living?



Thank you for attending our webinar!

Please take a minute to complete our survey that will be sent out via e-mail today

A copy of this archived webinar and PowerPoint presentation will be available at the NCCDD website at

<https://nccdd.org/supported-living-making-the-difference.html>