



**MINUTES
TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
HOUSING NEEDS OF
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED
COMMUNITY FORUM
January 21, 2014**

Irvine Civic Center
One Civic Center Plaza,
Council Chamber
Irvine, California

CALL TO ORDER

The Community Forum for the Task Force to Review Housing Needs of Developmentally Disabled was called to order on January 21, 2014 at 6:08 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at the Irvine Civic Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California.

ROLL CALL

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| PRESENT: | CHAIR | CHRISTINA SHEA |
| | VICE CHAIR | BETH KROM |
| | MEMBER | CAROL CLAYMAN |
| | MEMBER | FRAN GUSTIN |
| | MEMBER | PAUL HARVEY |
| | MEMBER | ANTHONY KUO |
| | MEMBER | JANIS WHITE |
| ABSENT: | MEMBER | NANCY DONNELLY |
| | MEMBER | MICHAEL LEBLANC |

Also present were Eric Tolles, Director of Community Development; Mark Asturias, Housing Manager; Kim Radding, Administrative Secretary.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Shea offered opening remarks thanking the public for their participation to provide information that will assist the Task Force to better understand the housing needs of the developmentally disabled community. Chair Shea explained the information gathering format of the Forum, advising that the Task Force members would be taking notes throughout speaker comments and the forum was being audio and video taped.

A brief introduction of each Task Force member was provided.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following members of the public spoke: Sue Johnson; Cheryl S. Cohen; Marilyn Harvey; Gretchen Cassady; Nick Brown; Polly Musch; Sandi Thornton; Cecile Whiting; James D. Herbert; Lisa Campbell; Meena Chockalingam; Joseph Singh; Melissa Cory; Rosalind Bradley; Dan Stone; James Shin; and, Trudy Kao

Speakers, which included family members, shared personal experience and insights into the special needs of the developmentally disabled and provided suggestions for housing that would best serve them. Comments included:

- Would like to see support for the creation of housing that will remain affordable in perpetuity to allow developmentally disabled individuals to benefit from living together as a community, even after their parents are deceased.
- Housing options should also support the spectrum of abilities of the developmentally disabled and should include single rooms, shared rooms, dining facilities, community rooms and accommodations to provide for aging in place.
- Housing should be designed to emphasize and encourage a community living concept.
- Section 8 housing vouchers: A traditional housing model to provide affordable housing requires the use of a Section 8 housing voucher; however, the waiting list is now several years and it is difficult to find an apartment in Irvine with a rent rate low enough to qualify within the parameters of the Section 8 program. When qualifying affordable apartments become available they are located throughout the City and this can be very isolating to individuals with developmental disabilities and provides too little opportunity for social interaction.

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- Suggestions of housing site models were presented, which included:
 - A community-oriented housing concept “Co-Housing.” Examples of design can be seen in a mobile home park in Tustin; a modular design with a highly desirable curb appeal is the modular village located on Lido Island in Newport; a 48 unit quadrangle style hotel with a restaurant that was acquired and rehabilitated to provide single room occupancy housing with communal dining and a community room for individuals with developmental disabilities, which is supported with HUD certificates to allow persons that do not have a HUD certificate to live there at a low cost rent.
 - The Glennwood House in Laguna Beach, which is a former hotel that has been transformed to house 50 young adults with a wide range of developmental disabilities. The site offers shared rooms, single rooms, a dining center, community center and a nurse on staff to dispense medication.
 - Housing sites that operate with a partnership of services provided by the Regional Center of Orange County are the Vista Del Rio (40 units) in Costa Mesa, and two foreclosed properties (a four-plex and an eight-plex) purchased by Community Housing Resources in Anaheim.
 - Misericordia campus located in Chicago supports aging in place and provides a broad spectrum of housing to persons with developmental disabilities. The housing design accommodates periods of recovery from hospitalization and allows a resident to move within the campus as their needs change with age.
- Irvine provides a broad spectrum of supportive services to senior citizens through an accrual of services from state, city and federal sources. Senior centers provide low cost healthy meals, adaptive gym classes, social activities, enrichment classes and an opportunity to be a community together. The developmentally disabled community can thrive in a similar environment.
- Reports developed by the Urban Land Institute can be used as an outline for planning, finance, services, and design goals.
- Irvine Unified School District provides an adult transition program to teach individuals with developmental disabilities skills to gain independence, self-advocacy, and how to become viable members of the Irvine

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community. The students become contributing members of the community in local jobs and develop a sense of belonging in the community. The next step is to provide affordable housing opportunities that will allow these individuals to remain in Irvine where they have familiar surroundings.

- Parents of children with developmental disabilities age, becoming both physically and financially unable to continue to provide the necessary level of care and housing for their children. Options are needed for care and housing for the children once the parents are no longer able to do so.
- The *White Paper* produced in 2009 by the Association of Regional Center Agencies provides an analysis of practices and programs for providing housing for people with developmental disabilities.
- Legislation is needed to provide tax incentives to encourage private developers of group housing to come to the City of Irvine.
- The possibility of partnering with the University of Irvine could be explored. There may also be opportunities to involve undergraduate students, such as those in the nursing school, as a resource to provide services within a local housing project.

TASK FORCE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Shea adjourned the meeting, by consensus, at 7:45 p.m.

Date Approved: 3/22/2014 
Chair Christina Shea