Housing Advocacy & Services: Creating Order Out of Chaos

Presented by:
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Audrey Jones, ATI, Architectural Barrier Program Coordinator
Introduction

Aaron serves as Consumer & Systems Advocacy Coordinator for Access to Independence. Aaron coordinates local, state, and national advocacy activities on issues related to housing, education, employment, and peer mentoring.

Audrey serves as Architectural Barrier Programs Coordinator for Access to Independence. Audrey provides primary coordination and program support in the implementation of architectural barrier removal services through several funding sources.
Access to Independence

ATI is a family friendly organization. We provide services to all people with disabilities, their family, friends, service providers, and caregivers. We collaborate with 40 ILCs and cover approximately 20 counties in NYS. Our goal is to maintain consumer-driven, community-based services for individuals to live independently in the most integrated setting.
Primary Objectives

Interactive Activity: Leave with a complete Community Action Plan for Housing Advocacy & Services
Learning Objectives

• Know how to coordinate a Housing Roundtable
• Know how to build and maintain collaborative partnerships with housing stakeholders
• Know how to develop an effective Architectural Barrier Program (ABP)
• Know how to identify and pursue grant opportunities for housing, environmental modifications, and assistive technology
Housing Chaos!

• What exists in your community?
  – Lack of adequate housing to meet variety of needs
  – Silos of services
  – Lack of communication
  – Lack of planning

• Where do we start?
Case Study

Cortland County currently has:

– A Housing Consortium that meets quarterly
– Cortland Counts – An ongoing cross-sector statistical analysis and community report
– Partnerships & Communication

What we lack:

– An up-to-date Consolidated Plan
– All the necessary players
Housing Roundtable & Benefits

Mission: The Housing Roundtable is dedicated to improving the quality of life and community health through the preservation and development of safe, adequate and appropriate housing choices for all residents.

• Help identify community housing needs
• A place to share ideas and gain feedback
• Bridge to collaboration
• A foundation for action planning
Identify Stakeholders

- Housing Service Providers
- Human Service Providers
- Landlords
- Developers
- Public Housing Authorities
- Municipal and County Government officials
- Utility Advocacy Services
- Homeowners and tenants
- Neighborhood groups
- the general community
Create an Agenda

• Get to know each other
• Share information
• Consolidated Plan?
• Needs Assessment?
• Brainstorm!
• Action Plan
• Future Meetings

**Housing Consortium**
November 7, 2012 – 8am -10am
Port Watson Mini-Conference Center

I. Welcome and Introductions, Chad Underwood

II. Housing Track Updates, Jackie Carlton

III. 2-1-1 Cortland Information & Referral, Ashley Jones and Janette Frankenbury

IV. Identification of Unmet Needs, Ann Hotchkiss

V. Next Steps, Chad Underwood
Outreach

• Create a spreadsheet with name, address, phone, and email
• Create a flyer for the event that will catch people’s attention
• Convert flyer and agenda into PDF format
• Email Blast!
• Make phone calls to key stakeholders
• Ensure the space you have available is suitable
Your First Housing Roundtable

- Facilitation
- Presentation
- Stay on Track
- What gaps exist?
- Who is missing?
- What to do next?

**HOUSING ROUNDTABLE**

**What:** Quarterly meeting of Cortland County Housing Consortium

**When:** Wednesday, August 28, 2013 (8:00 – 10:00 am)

**Where:** Main Street SUNY Cortland - Room 203
9 Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045

**Who:** Cortland County Legislators, City of Cortland Common Council Members, Municipal Leaders across the County, Housing Providers, Human Service Agencies, Homeowners, Renters, Developers,

Discussion topics will include:
- Updates on Cortland Counts Housing Track
- Updates from Consortium Members
- Special Presentation on Continuum of Care

For more information, please contact Aaron T. Baier, ATI Consumer & Systems Advocacy Coordinator, by telephone: 607-753-7363, or by email: abaier@aticortland.org.

Refreshments will be provided.
Best Practices

• Build partnerships and relationships
• Step-up and Step-back!
• Stay organized
• Follow-up, Follow-through
Questions?
Architectural Barrier Programs (ABP)
Filling One Community’s Unmet Needs
Case Study

Kulas Family:

- 2 Children with Spinal-Muscular Atrophy
- 1/10,000 births per year
- Progressive and genetic
- All aspects of life and home are affected
Evolution of ABP...

1998 – ATI Incorporated as not-for-profit
2001 – ATI became 36th ILC in NYS
2002 – Secured John Ben Snow grant for Ramps
2002-2006 – Workied with a Volunteer Mission and utilized a stock of temporary ramps to meet community needs.
2006 – Access to Home
2006 - 2013 ABP Funding

2006 – Access to Home, NYSHCR
2008 – Developmental Disabilities Service Organization (DDSO)
2008 – Accessibility Construction Services (ACS)
   – Fee-for-Service
2008 - J.M. McDonald Grant
2009 – Medicaid Waiver Programs
Build Capacity to Provide ABP

• Diverse Funding (state, local, fee-for-service)

• Staffing
  – Knowledge & Experience
  – Skill sets to meet regulations

• Referrals from public and staff
Maintain Expertise

• Communication with Consumers
• Competent Contractors
• Insured: Worker’s Compensation & Liability
• Federal and local code enforcement
• Building Permits
• Safety
Maintain Relationships

• Community
• Contractors
• Service Providers
• Consumers
Project Management

• Assessment and Scope of Work
• Contractors Meeting and Bidding
• Communication with Contractor & Family
• Building Permits and Materials
• Ensure consumers livability during work
• Oversight and Inspections
• Knowledge of Construction
Quality Assurance

• “Before” Photos
• Mid-work Inspection (depends on length)
• Final Inspection / Walk-Through
• “After” Photos
• Sign-off on project / Final Report
Troubleshooting – Case Study

• Code Enforcement
• Consumer Discrepancies
• Timeframe of Completion
Best Practices

- Quality of Contractors
- Organization
- Consumer-Driven
- Management of Finances
Questions?
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