

Direct Connection

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



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The HOME Team – Springfield Missouri Housing Team

The Springfield HOME (Housing Options Must Expand) Team, a diverse and active group in the Springfield area, strives towards its mission – to develop quality, affordable, and accessible housing for people with disabilities in safe locations where they can access support services, transportation, employment, and recreation throughout their lifespan.

Karen Burnell Ruff, Public Policy Advocate for Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) in Springfield, Missouri, and formerly, the Community Living Coordinator at the Springfield Office, was a founding partner in the development of the Springfield “HOME” team that brings together professionals and individuals to design and advocate for the future of housing in the community. Jason Elmore, who succeeded Karen as the Community Living Coordinator at the Springfield Regional Office, continues to work closely with Karen and the HOME Team to continue its ongoing mission.

Currently the broadly diverse group includes representatives from affordable housing agencies and developers, an architect, a general contractor, representatives from the City of Springfield and Southwest Center for Independent Living, a veteran, a DD provider, an advocacy specialist, an occupational therapist, and community members.

The HOME Team focuses on expanding community awareness and providing education and resources to community leaders and the general public. In the last year, the HOME Team distributed information about Universal Design at a home builder and home remodel exposition put on by the Home Builders Association (HBA) of Springfield. The HBA of Springfield also invited the HOME Team to submit articles for their newsletter which is distributed to all the HBA members. Additionally, the Springfield HOME Team has had a visit from a state representative, received a grant to purchase a monitor for training and presentations, and started a Facebook page to reach more people.

The HOME Team hopes that Springfield will spur the trend of requiring more livable communities with housing options that do not discriminate by design. Though this will be an ongoing effort, the Springfield HOME Team is fortunate to have many like-minded individuals who are actively participating to make that vision a reality.

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**CONNECTING WITH THE
DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

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Disabilities

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Housing Conference Reflects Change and Challenges

ATTENDEES DISCUSS OUT-OF-THE-BOX AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS



Dan Emmanuel delivers the keynote speech.

On June 3, 2016, the Community Caring Council of Cape Girardeau hosted “A Home for Everyone” Conference at Southeast Missouri State University. The conference was sponsored by both the Community Caring Council and MoHousing (Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation). Hosting the event was Kay Azuma, Community Caring Council, and Wayne Crawford, Executive Director of MoHousing. Persons from numerous entities came together to listen to keynote speaker, Dan Emmanuel, MSW, Research Analyst for the National Low Income Housing Coalition based in Washington, DC. He presented statistics and insight about low income housing shortages in the region.

Wayne Crawford shared his knowledge of housing needs across the State of Missouri. He presented information about housing successes that have developed across the state since the inception of a partnership with the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities. In unique collaborations across the state, several homes have been developed and built for individuals in the state who have developmental disabilities.

These individuals may have other challenges including very low incomes, mental health support needs, physical health needs, and/or other needs. The collaborations included the individuals needing appropriate and affordable housing, their family and friends, many state and private social service agencies, private and public builders/developers, local city/town representatives, bankers, and others.

Mr. Crawford also presented information about the universal design concept specifically mentioning the increased need for this type of housing for many individuals across the state and nation, including for those with disabilities and those who are aging in place. Breakout sessions were presented by local developer, Chad Hartle, of RCH Development and Joyce Operle, SEMO Alliance for Disability Independence. Mr. Hartle shared information about how he develops housing projects, and he and Ms. Operle discussed the partnership they have connecting individuals with specific needs (with the assistance of the Missouri Money Follows the Person program) to appropriate housing he has helped develop and build.



Cindy Lange discusses housing teams.

Karen Burnell Ruff, Public Policy Advocate from the Southwest Center for Independent Living, Jason Elmore, Community Living Coordinator for the Springfield Regional Office, and Cindy Lange, Community Living Coordinator for the Sikeston Regional Office presented information about how to develop more robust and diverse housing teams in the region.





Home Modifications

Home modifications are defined as those physical adaptations, required by the recipient's plan of care, which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the individual, or which enable the individual to function with greater independence in the community and without which the recipient would require institutionalization.

Individuals may be eligible for up to \$7,500 per year in funding for home modifications if they participate in a Home and Community Based Waiver.

A Home Modification Resource Guide has been developed to assist Support Coordinators, families, and providers through the home modification process. The Guide, along with a Flow Chart, Frequently Asked Questions, and an Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Worksheet are available on the Division's webpage at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/staff.html>.

Community Living Coordinators

Community Living Coordinators are located at each Regional and Satellite Office. Community Living Coordinators provide technical assistance regarding affordable universally designed housing and other community living matters to individuals, families, providers, and support coordinators. Contact information for Community Living Coordinators can be found on DD's website: <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/communitylivingcoordinator.pdf>

Universal Design Training

Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation (MoHousing) was invited to participate in a Universal Design Training put on in conjunction with West Central Independent Living Solutions (WILS) in Warrensburg, Missouri. The training, which was held June 14, 2016, was a free, half-day seminar that provided valuable information concerning the utilization and benefits of Universal Design for homes and communities. In addition to MoHousing and WILS, the training was a collaborative effort between the University of Central Missouri, MODDC, and DMH-DD.

Wayne Crawford, Executive Director of MoHousing, provided the training, which included information specifically tailored to the needs of the community and surrounding area as well as general information about Universal Design. The training was attended by designers, developers, builders/contractors, remodelers, housing agency staff, advocates, social workers, non-profit housing organizations, public officials, health professionals, and other related disciplines.

“Think it over, think it under.”

—A.A. Milne, Winne-the-Pooh



Use of National Core Indicators in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Continuous Quality Improvement

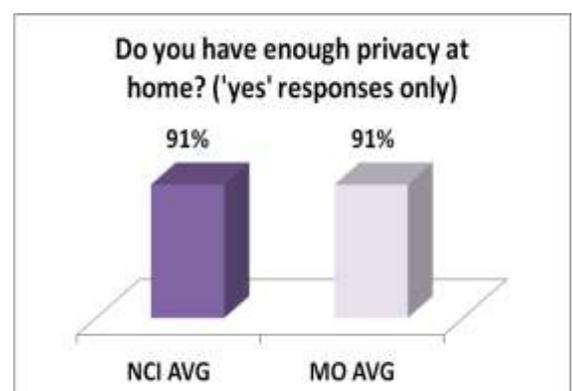
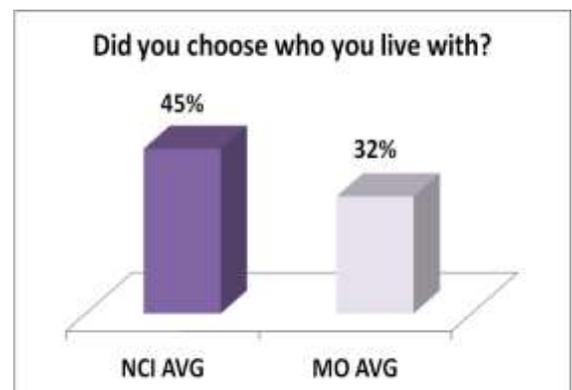
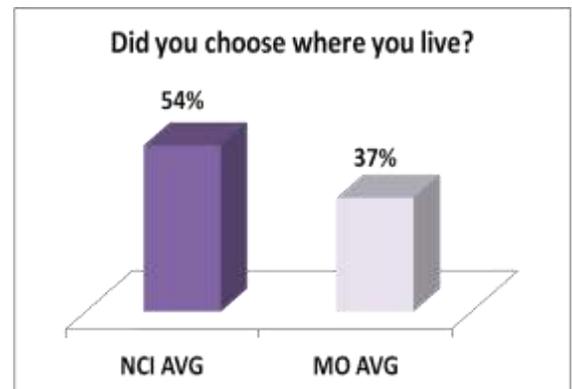
National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HRSI). NCI supports NASDDDS member agencies in gathering a standard set of performance and outcome measures that can be used to track their own performance over time, compare results across states, and establish national benchmarks.

An important focus of NCI is the gathering of information directly from service recipients through a variety of surveys. Each year, staff members at the Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) administer the Adult Consumer Survey (ACS) to a random sample of individuals 18 and over receiving at least one service in addition to case management. Interviewers meet with individuals to ask questions about where they live and work, the kinds of choices they make, the activities they participate in within their communities, their relationships with friends and family, and their health and well-being.

NCI data, aligned with new Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) requirements, are used to promote continuous quality improvement within the Division of Developmental Disabilities; the data complement information obtained from administrative data sources, inform remediation strategies, and provide a roadmap to system improvement activities.

Ensuring that individuals are educated about their options regarding residential settings is an important part of the transition process and is required by the HCBS rule. The newly developed *Community Transitions Manual* provides guidance and tools to help with this process. Individuals can use the *Housemate Survey Tool* to indicate their preferences regarding potential housemates. Transition teams use information on the Housemate Survey when considering the compatibility of prospective housemates, and they arrange visits so individuals can make informed choices regarding potential new settings and housemates. To view the *Community Transitions Manual* and *Housemate Survey Tool*, click on:

<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/manuals/docs/communitytransitionmanual.pdf>.



The graphs above show how Missouri compared to other states participating in the National Core Indicators (NCI) project on questions pertaining to choice and privacy in 2014-15.



Community Calendar

July 27 – 29, 2016 – Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE) Summit 2016
Courtyard Marriott, 3301 Lemone Industrial Boulevard, Columbia, MO 65201
For more information and to register, visit: <http://apsemo.org/>

August 21 – 23, 2016 – Real Voices Real Choices Conference
Tan-Tar-A Resort and Conference Center, 494 Tan-Tar-A Drive, Osage Beach, MO 65065
For more information, visit: <http://dmh.mo.gov/constituentservices/docs/RealVoicesFlyer16-lightened.pdf>

September 22 - 23 – 11th Annual Thompson Center Autism Conference
Doubletree St. Louis Hotel, 16625 Swingley Ridge Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017
For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.muconf.missouri.edu/autismconf/>

October 20 – 21, 2016 – 2016 Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services (MACDDS) Annual Conference, Tan-Tar-A Resort and Conference Center, 494 Tan-Tar-A Drive, Osage Beach, MO 65065
For more information, visit: <http://macdds.org/>

November 30 – December 2, 2016 – 2016 TASH Conference
St. Louis Union Station Hotel, 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103
For more information and to register, visit: <https://2016tashconference.sched.org/info>

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



Improving lives THROUGH
supports and services
THAT FOSTER self-determination.

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Fostering Self-determination



Supporting Families



Facilitating Individualized Services and Supports



Developing Accessible Housing



Promoting Employment First

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH