



NEWS

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Independent Living Association Kicks-Off
Promoting Quality Housing Options in San Diego County

San Diego, CA – November 6, 2012 – Community Health Improvement Partners held a kick-off event this past weekend, Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3, 2012 to launch the first ever Independent Living Association (ILA).

Independent Living owners, residents, families and community health workers joined together to celebrate a new era for Independent Livings at the ILA Kick-Off, featuring a full day of education for Independent Living owners and a community BBQ.

According to Jane Fyer, a local Independent Living owner and mental health advocate, “This [the ILA] is a tremendous opportunity for San Diego to focus on one of our most vulnerable populations and empower Independent Living owners to raise the quality of these important housing options.”

Independent Livings are privately-owned homes which provide housing for adults with mental illness and others who may benefit from the fellowship of a shared housing environment. The state of housing options for persons living with mental illness in San Diego County has been identified as a gap in services by consumers, family members and mental health providers. Providing stable and supportive housing is one of the most effective ways to decrease over utilization of emergency departments and hospital recidivism rates, and to encourage recovery. The ILA supports Independent Living owners, residents and the community through promoting high quality Independent Livings in San Diego County. This ground-breaking project is the first of its kind to organize and promote Independent Livings, and is designed as a model for other communities across the nation.

Fyer notes, “We [Independent Living owners] are in a tough business. We help some of the most vulnerable San Diegans and offer them a home where they can focus on their own health and recovery. However, there is no information or resources to help us manage our business and provide care for our residents.”

The ILA will offer resources to its members that will encourage engagement in a model similar to the Better Business Bureau (BBB). In addition to training and education for owners, the ILA provides services and resources for Independent Living residents and the community, and an easy-to-navigate online directory highlighting quality Independent Livings in San Diego County. The ILA Directory will be available in January 2013.

The ILA is facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners (www.sdchip.org) and funded by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency’s Behavioral Health Services Innovation Program funded by the Mental Health Services Act.



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