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NEWS

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Independent Living Facilities Project Launched
Promoting Quality Housing Options in San Diego County

San Diego, CA – October 1, 2012 – Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) today announced the launch of the Independent Living Facilities (ILF) Project that establishes a countywide association of ILFs. This Association provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to improving local housing options that will save healthcare and law enforcement resources, reduce homelessness, and improve public safety and the quality of life for those living with mental illness.

Independent Living Facilities are a privately-owned multi-unit complex or home which provide housing for adults with mental illness and others who may benefit from the fellowship of a shared housing environment. ILFs provide an important housing option for people with mental illness in San Diego County.

The Independent Living Association will use a business philosophy to create a countywide association of ILF providers. The Association will be made up of ILF operators who have completed training in operating a high quality ILF and who have demonstrated that they meet the Association's Quality and Ethical Standards through on-site inspections. To ensure wide accessibility of this information, the Association will create and maintain a critical new resource in the County – an easy-to-navigate online website with information on ILFs designed for consumers, mental health providers and property owners. This ground breaking project is the first of its kind to organize and promote ILFs, and is designed as a model for other communities across the nation.

“Housing is a part of health. Access to quality housing is one of the most effective ways to encourage recovery and help those that suffer from mental illness live a full and meaningful life,” states Angela Carrillo with Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital. “It is our goal to help all San Diegans, including those that have mental health concerns, to reach their full potential.”

The ILF Project is funded in part by the County of San Diego Health and Human Service Agency's Behavioral Health Services Innovations Program funded by the Mental Health Services Act. The ILF Project is facilitated by CHIP and led by co-chairs, Angela Carrillo, and Ronda Gibbs of the Community Research Foundation. Additional community partners include 2-1-1 San Diego and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS (CHIP): Founded in 1995, CHIP is an independent non-profit collaboration of San Diego health care systems, hospitals, community clinics, physicians, universities, community based organizations and the County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency who are dedicated to a common vision. CHIP assesses and addresses priority health needs through collaboration.

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