

## Independent Living Facility Project

*“Improving the lives of people dealing with mental illness, while saving healthcare system resources”*



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. However, 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 the network of care.

### **Independent Living Facilities Association**

The mission of the Independent Living Facilities Association (ILFA) is to promote the highest quality home environments for persons with mental disorders by providing education and training to Independent Living Facility (ILF) owners through established standards of care. The ILFA will offer services to its members that will encourage engagement in a model currently practiced by the Better Business Bureau (BBB). This approach is four pronged and will focus on the areas highlighted below:

1. **ILF DIRECTORY** – A listing of participating ILFs that will display information and photos of the facility and will allow owner’s to market (or assist owners in marketing)their facility. The purpose of the ILF Directory is to be a central resource for hospitals, discharge planners, case managers, family members and consumers. Much like the BBB, by utilizing an unbiased approach of displaying information about the facilities, the ILF Directory will serve as a current pulse on the community. Businesses that adhere to the ILFA Quality and Ethical Standards will have priority designation on the website.
2. **EDUCATION** – The ILFA will provide education and training for ILF Operators, residents and community members. Training topics will include: business training for ILF owners; consumer/resident rights; health and mental health education; “Introduction to ILF’s” for community members and; legal, policy and advocacy courses. ILFA education courses will serve as the foundation for the development and longevity of ILFs.
3. **PEER REVIEW & ACCOUNTABILITY** – Each ILFA member will have a site visit from a peer review team to evaluate facilities’ adherence to ILFA standards. This will serve not only as a development and mentoring opportunity for owners, but will also increase the skill set of the resident’s who participate in the Peer Review process.
4. **ADVOCACY** –The ILFA will be the visible member of the community supporting the rights of business owners, residents and government.

The ILFA will be introduced to the community in early November with a two day Kick-off Event, featuring educational courses for ILF Owners and the community, and free ILFA membership.

The County of San Diego Health and Human Service Agency’s Independent Living Facility Project is facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners and led by co-chairs, Angela Carrillo, Sharp Mesa Vista, and Ronda Gibbs, Community Research Foundation. Additional community partners include 2-1-1 San Diego and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Please contact Beth Ruland, Community Health Improvement Partners, at [bruland@sdchip.org](mailto:bruland@sdchip.org) or 858-609-7967 for further information.