



Developmental Disabilities Services Tools for Independence

October 17, 2014

Dear Mr. Mayor & Dunwoody Council Members,

Jewish Family & Career Services is a non-sectarian social services agency that provides programs and services to support individuals and families, including eight fully staffed homes, in Metro Atlanta. The purpose of this letter is to offer our support to the city of Dunwoody in your endeavor to preserve the character and safety of the Dunwoody community. We sincerely appreciate Dunwoody's effort to embrace individuals with developmental disabilities and would like to assist in keeping Dunwoody a welcoming community.

We attended the City Council work session on September 8th and were reassured to hear that the Council wanted to separate services to individuals with developmental disabilities from the proposed restriction on personal care homes. However, we became extremely concerned when we read the definition proposed by the Council in the October 13th memorandum, but are confident that the exclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities was not intentional.

According to the memorandum, the Council proposes to use the definition used for Personal Care Homes according to the Department of Community Health (DCH), Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division (HFRD). The council might not be aware that community-based homes for individuals with developmental disabilities are defined and licensed in a separate category, called Community Living Arrangements (CLA-DD), administered through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).

DBHDD defines a Community Living Arrangement for Developmental Disabilities (CLA-DD) as "A residence, whether operated for profit or not for profit, that provides or arranges for the provision of daily personal services, supports, care, or treatment exclusively for two or more adults who are not related to the owner or administrator by blood or marriage and whose residential services are financially supported, in whole or in part, by funds designated through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)." A community living arrangement is specific to people with developmental disabilities and can have no more than four residents (<http://dch.georgia.gov/community-living-arrangements-cla>, CLA Licensure Packet).

Therefore, we recommend that the Council 1) consider a new use category under Group Living called "Community Living Arrangement", 2) use the DBHDD definition of CLA-DD and 3) allow CLA-DD uses by right in all residential zoning districts.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional assistance or support to the Council in this matter.

Sincerely,

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JF&CS is a proud partner of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta and the United Way of Greater Atlanta. Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.