

Getting Started – Services: This track is for families just starting the housing process for their loved one. We will review financial considerations when looking at community-based housing and help you identify which services you need to make it sustainable. You will get an overview of critical benefits and how to apply, including personal care services and Section 8 rental assistance. We will also review homeownership opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Session 1 - 9:15-10:15am

Parent Panel – “Vision for Housing” - Hear from 3 parents on their Choices

Moderator: *The Arc of Washington’s Joanne O’Neill*

Joanne O’Neill works for The Arc of Washington. This workshop will explore the successes and challenges that this panel of parents have encountered as their son/daughter have moved from the family home into another housing setting.

Session 2 – 10:30 -11:30am

Benefits and Personal Care Services – By DSHS / DDA’s Heather Tremaine

Heather Tremaine works for the Developmental Disabilities Administration providing support and training on the Community First Choice (CFC) program. The CFC program includes the service of personal care, which is assistance with daily living skills such as bathing, dressing, and mobility. Eligibility for personal care is determined by financial and functional eligibility. The emphasis of the presentation will be on what personal care is, and how to access the service.

Session 3 – 12:45 -1:45pm

Bricks & Mortar – Section 8, ADU’s & Home Ownership– By KCDDD’s Katherine Festa and Parkview’s Marc Cote

Katherine Festa works for King County Developmental Disabilities providing technical support and training on housing needs. Mark Cote is the Executive Director of Parkview services and will provide Homeownership information. This workshop will give information on how to access a Section 8 voucher to pay a portion of rent so that a person may live independently in the community. Also, a brief overview of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

Session 4 - 2-3:00pm

Financial & Legal Considerations – By Denise Redinger & Christy Thompson-Ibrahim

Explore guardianship options and what might be best for your family. Is it important for your adult child to have a legal guardian? Who will that person be when I am no longer able to serve in that position? Are there alternatives to guardianship that might make sense? How do trusts and guardianship work together to make a future plan for your family? Once the guardianship is established, how do you complete the required court reports?

Exploring Options – Knowledge: This track is for families who already have many of the services needed for housing. We will discuss current housing models available to adults with disabilities; Adult Family Homes, Supported Living, and how to create your own housing for your loved one “Shared Living”. Personal stories will help you envision the most appropriate option(s) for your family member.

Session 1 - 9:15-10:15am

Self-Advocate Panel “Success Stories!” Moderated by KCDDD’s Katherine Festa

Listen to Self-Advocates tell their stories on what worked and what didn’t work when choosing their home. This workshop will give families a chance to hear from persons who have different models of housing. The Models are Section 8, Adult Family Home, Supported Living and living on own with no support.

Session 2 – 10:30 -11:30am

Essential Components for Housing - By The Arc’s Robin Tatsuda

This workshop will provide a quick summary of the resources, services, and other considerations needed to create a housing plan including care services, the physical housing location, and finances. Participants should already have some background knowledge of these topics, as this workshop provides only a brief summary of services.

Session 3 – 12:45 -1:45pm

Adult Family Homes & Supported Living – By DSHS/DDA’s Brian Borton

Brian Borton is the Region 2 AFH Supervisor with DDA, and will be presenting information on Residential Programs funded through DDA. This course will give families an overview of the different Residential options such as Supported Living, Group Homes, AFH’s, and ICF/IID’s, and the funding sources that the state utilizes to pay for these programs. Focus will be on providing information, and answering audience questions regarding specific client circumstances. Brian will also make himself available afterwards for any additional cases that individual families may wish to strategize about.

Session 4 - 2-3:00pm

Shared Living – What is it? - By Community Homes’ Vicki Isett and Partners 4 Housing’s Pam Blanton

Vicki Isett is the Executive Director for Community Homes, Inc. Community Homes developed the Shared Living Model of community-based housing in 2014 in collaboration with Partners4Housing. This workshop will describe what Shared Living looks like, what resources residents can use to pay for it, and what the family’s role is in its creation. We will also discuss the pros and cons of this housing model.

Putting It All Together – Implementation: This track is for families whose loved one is ready to move into the community. We will share specifics on how to find an appropriate Adult Family Home, briefly discuss what you need to access Supported Living, how to create your own housing for your loved one “Shared Living”, and how to recruit live-in caregivers.

Session 1 - 9:15-10:15am

Which Model is Right for You? – By The Arc’s Robin Tatsuda

This workshop will quickly review the basic components including the pros and cons of the most common housing models including Adult Family Homes, Shared Living, and Supported Living. This workshop is designed for families who already have some understanding of the housing models and are in the final stages of selecting the model that will work best for them.

Session 2 – 10:30 -11:30am

How to find and select an Adult Family Home – By DSHS / DDA’s Kayla Davis

This session will provide an overview of Adult Family Homes (AFHs), review resources and web-based tools to use for locating AFH options, and discuss important factors to consider when selecting an AFH. Kayla Davis is the Performance and Quality Improvement Specialist for the Developmental Disabilities Administration in King County.

Session 3 – 12:45 -1:45pm

Shared Living – How to Create It – By Community Homes’ Vicki Isett

Presenter Vicki Isett, Executive Director for Community Homes, Inc. will describe the basic steps involved in creating a Shared Living home for your family member. This will include considerations for roommate selection, caregiver recruitment, bricks and mortar requirements, budgeting, and tips for a successful household.

Session 4 - 2-3:00pm

How to Recruit Live-In Caregivers - By Community Homes’ Alyssa Midgley

Alyssa Midgley is the Director of Services for Community Homes, Inc. She worked as a live-in caregiver for many years and has recruited caregivers for our homes. This workshop will help families learn how to write an effective job description, how to think about compensation for live-in work, and where to advertise the position. She will also share suggestions for screening and interviewing candidates.

Advocating for Housing – How Families Can Make A Difference: This track gives families an opportunity to learn how to advocate for increased capacity for community-based housing in Washington State. There is not a clear system for housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The responsibility falls to families to navigate housing opportunities for their family member.

Session 1 - 9:15-10:15am

What's the Plan? – Vision your Future – By The Arc's Cathy Murahashi

What do I want for my son or daughter's future? What do I need to do to do think about and do to make sure things happen? This workshop focuses on how to put together an action plan so that you can begin to put things in place for your son or daughter's future.

Session 2 – 10:30 -11:30am

Your Voice Matters: Simple Ways to Make A Difference – By The Arc's Cathy Murahashi

Housing for people with disabilities in Washington is a mishmash of homes and services which makes it challenging for families to navigate. Come learn what's happening with housing issues and how you can advocate for more housing capacity and services. You CAN make a difference!

Session 3 – 12:45 -1:45pm

How to Advocate for Adult Family homes Serving Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Community – By AFH Council's John Ficker

John Ficker is the executive director at the Adult Family Home Council. In this workshop, John will explain the Council's advocacy efforts to improve services in adult family homes for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through an in improved contract between AFHs exclusively serving the DD/ID community and DSHS, the Council hopes to develop improved assessments, supports, regulations and rates. Learn about the efforts, actions and desired outcomes to grow appropriate resources for this community.

Session 4 - 2-3:00pm

How to Advocate for Affordable Housing – By The Arc's Ramona Hattendorf

Housing plays out at every level: Local, state and federal. This session will cover the Housing Trust Fund, key players, and data points you should know. Bonus: Housing data for each King County legislative district.

Self-Advocate Views – Vision for Housing: This track is for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability who are ready to move and live independently. We will discuss your vision for housing, self-advocacy skills, strategies to live with roommates and more.

Session 1 - 9:15-10:15am

Everyone Has Hopes and Dreams for their Life – By David Murahashi

Everyone has hopes and dreams for their life. Your hopes and dreams will help you plan for your future. A big part of that future is where you will live. Planning starts with knowing yourself: what you like and what you don't like. This session will focus on helping self-advocates explore what they want for their home and their life.

Session 2 – 10:30 -11:30am

Doing What You Want To Do As Your Own Self-Advocate – By The Arc's Eric Matthes

This will be an interactive workshop highlighting tips for being safe and responsible in your own place including things like kitchen tips for easy meals, doing your own laundry and ironing, cleaning the apartment, and budgeting to pay rent and bills on time.

Session 3 – 12:45 -1:45pm

Roommates: Do's and Don'ts – By The Arc's Claire Tierney and Daniel Isherwood

Join The Arc's Healthy Relationship Program team to learn skills that will help you live with other people who are not your own family. We'll talk about respect, communication, conflict resolution, and things that are public versus private.

Session 4 - 2-3:00pm

Klondike The Therapy Dog - By Debbie Skow of Therapy Dogs International

Klondike is a six year old Golden/Labrador Retriever mix. He is certified as a therapy dog with Therapy Dogs International.