



Bridging Practice and Policy: Transitions from Adult Care Homes (ACH)

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| <p>System Gap Addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Care Homes (ACH) in North Carolina serve more than 27,000 individuals with disabilities by providing a place to live, assistance with activities of daily living (i.e., dressing, cooking, eating), and medication management. • As many as 1800 individuals in these settings may be individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). • Many of the facilities that are categorized as adult care homes were not created, designed or licensed to provide services for individuals with I/DD, especially those with needs that require intensive supports. • Individuals with I/DD should be offered a choice to live in a home that they lease or own in the community of their choice. • At present, the State has not allocated any funding to help the transition of these 1800 residents with I/DD. • The successful transition of individuals with I/DD from adult care homes to community settings cannot be achieved without a well-developed process. |
| <p>Initiative Goals and Timeline</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist state policymakers and stakeholders in understanding the barriers to community living. • Delineate practice innovations and policy changes with the potential to assist individuals with I/DD to transition from ACHs to homes of their own, with the appropriate services and supports. |
| <p>Description of Activities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate individuals with I/DD living in adult care homes in North Carolina who may be eligible for I/DD services and supports under the Home and Community Based Services waivers, state funds or any available Medicaid State Plan (i) option. • Provide advocacy support to individuals with I/DD living in adult care homes to facilitate their transition from adult care homes to homes in community settings. • Assess the quality of life of individuals with I/DD living in adult care homes located in NC. • Identify and assess barriers to community living for individuals with I/DD. • Develop a “blueprint” to close the front door of adult care homes to people with I/DD and ensure the successful transition into the community for people with I/DD who wish to live in the community. |
| <p>Achievements and Outcomes to Date</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified 27 individuals with I/DD living in 25 adult care homes in North Carolina who were eligible for participation in this initiative. • Reviewed each individual’s record to understand the individual’s history and placement needs. • Develop a personalized transition plan that took into account the advocacy work needed in all systems before, during, and after the move from the ACH ensuring successful community inclusion. • Successfully transitioned 15 individuals to the community surpassing the demonstration goal of 6 individuals. |
| <p>Expected System Change as Result of Initiative</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the final report for this initiative, key leaders and decision makers will have documentation of the scope of the systemic causes of institutionalization that keeps NC citizens with I/DD in settings that restrict full community inclusion. • State leaders will work to remove the existing barriers identified in the blueprint so that more Individuals with I/DD living in ACHs, their families and guardians will be aware of more inclusive living arrangements and will choose to transition out of ACHs. • Use the Money Follows the Person (MFP) model to offer flexibility in supports and services that are responsive and easy to access. |