



# 2019 SW WA AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT

SW Washington  
Affordable Housing Conference  
For individuals with Disabilities  
May 13th, 2019

Darla Helt, Executive Director  
Alina Grimsted, Intern

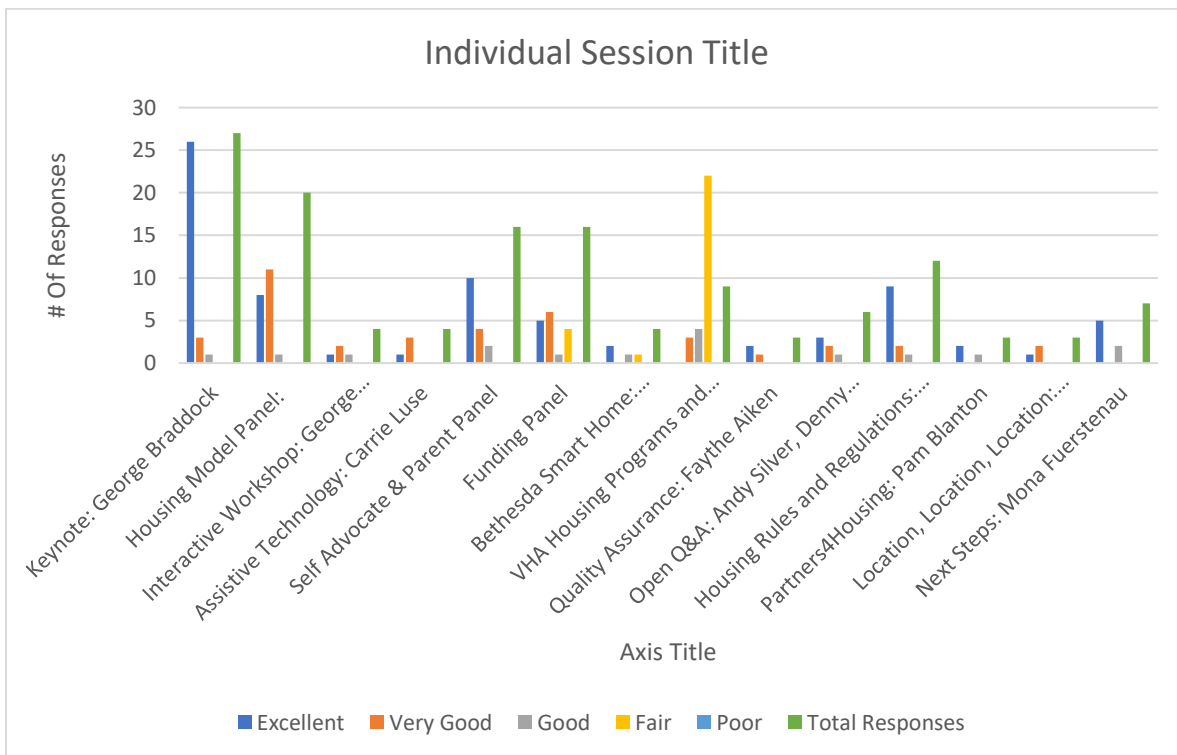


**Please Note:** This report was developed based on evaluations submitted by Conference attendees. A total of 33 responses were received. These evaluations are used for chart development only; responses from the World Café – Next Steps, Suggestions, Questions and Ideas were taken verbatim from the World Café workshop and other written documentation.

## Individual Sessions

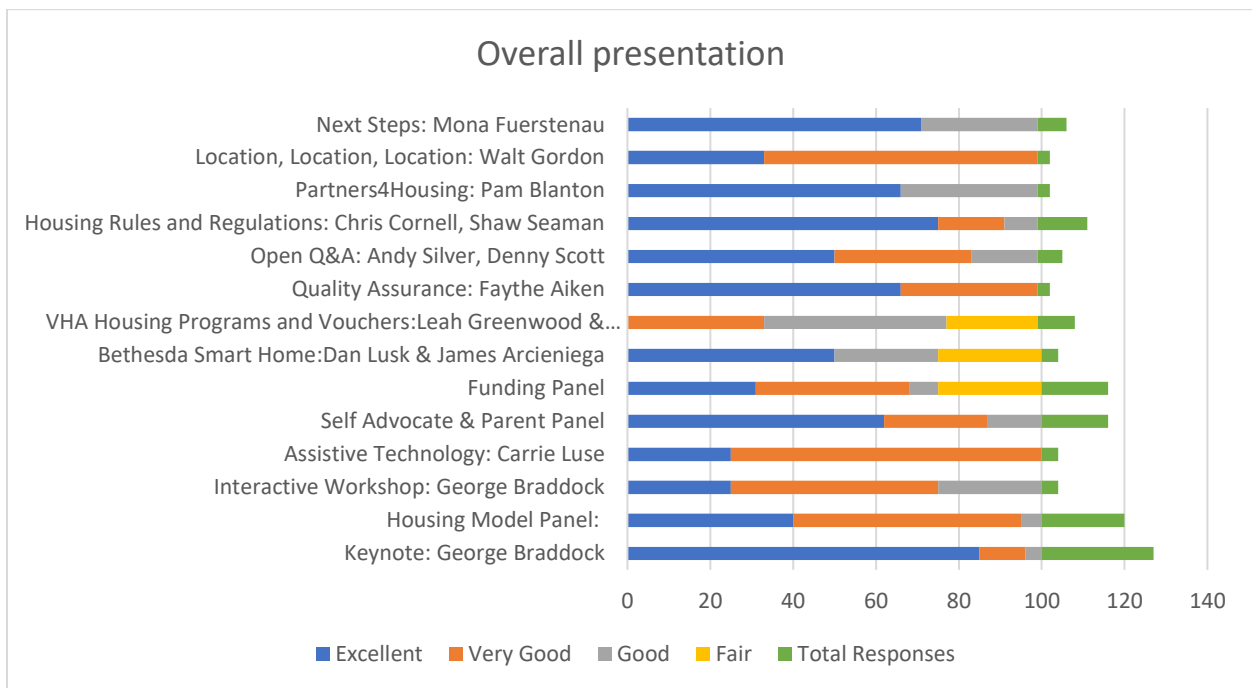
Please rate the **overall presentation** for sessions that you attended by placing an X in the appropriate box. Please mark only in the boxes provided (and only for sessions you attended).

**Responses by number:**





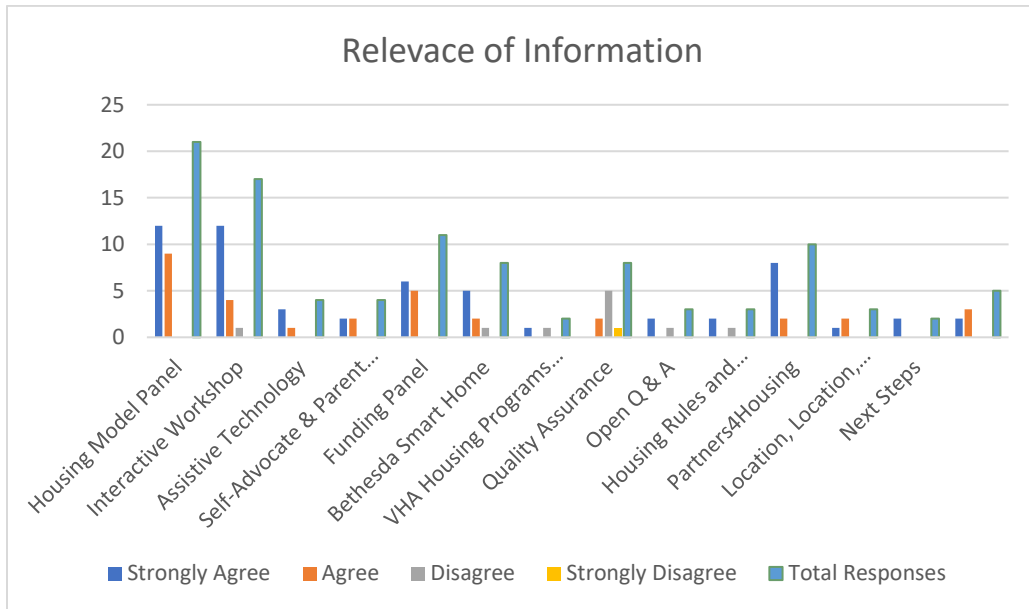
*Mary Strehlow enters responses at the World Café.*





Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements regarding the subject matter and application of the presentation content by placing an X in the appropriate boxes. Please mark only in the boxes provided

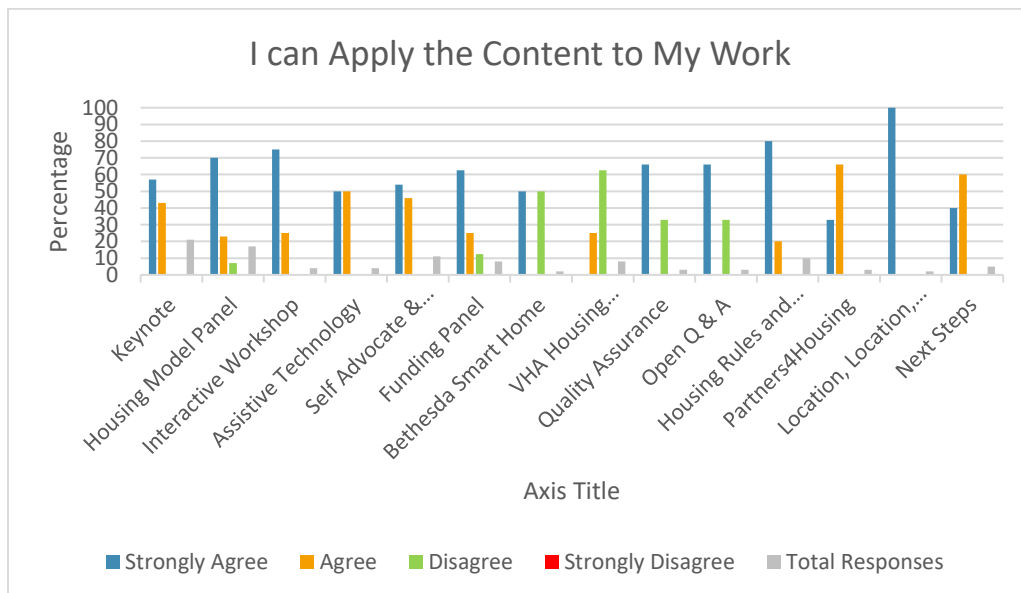
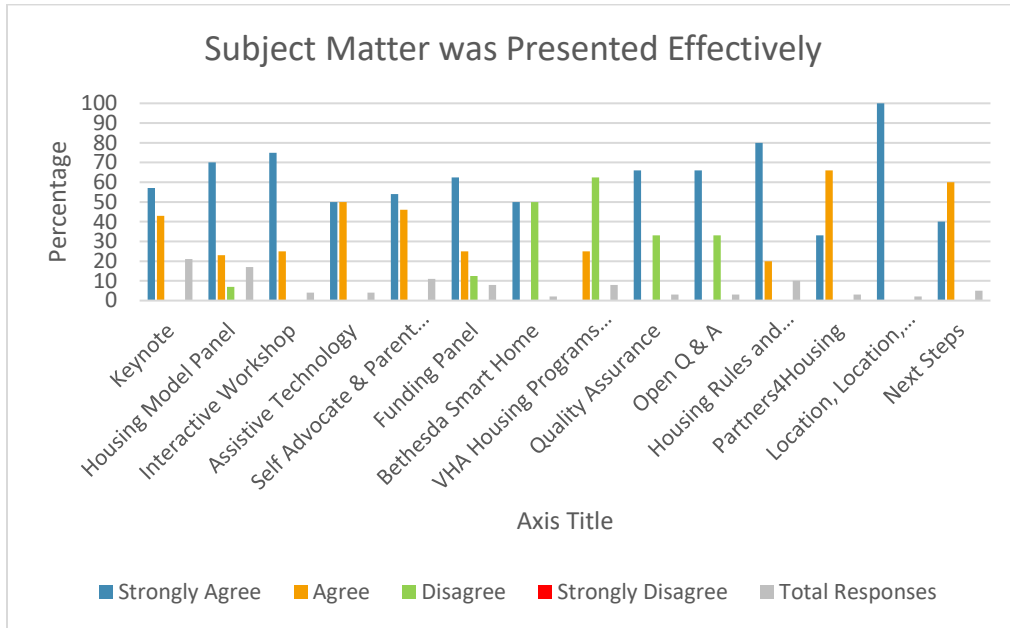
**Responses by number:**



*Monica Meyer and Faythe Aiken discuss the importance of quality care.*



**Responses by percentage**





*Opening Remarks from PEACE Executive Director Darla Helt*

## Participant's Comments

### **What was the most valuable part of the sessions?**

- Communication between other parents
- The keynote & last session
- Networking. Appreciated the booklet with pics and names to refer back to
- Creative housing solutions
- Having all the key individuals in one place
- Networking and new ideas
- Personal commitment to make 1 change
- Keynote speaker and parent experience
- Question and answer – it was great to have so much time to ask questions
- Good Q&A in Location, Location, Location
- Names and contact information
- Getting names/organization for future use.
- So many options
- Connecting with other folks. I like having the professionals sitting at the tables. Loved that access
- Learning a different perspective about building
- George Braddock
- Listening to those who were steps ahead of me
- All I attended were great
- Variety and choice – great
- Great presentation/information
- Hearing about the different housing options
- Everything DDA



## Participant's Comments (Continued)

### **Suggestions**

- Need someone to consult with for families interested in developing a home to discuss financial options
- Would like a list of parents with ages/sex of children, level of functioning with a goal of contacting one another about housing
- Intentional community with family

### **Questions**

- What kind of subsidies or support programs are there for autistic adults who need housing help but do not qualify for a waiver or DDA support? Tie in with mental health (suicide, anxiety, depression). Poverty program tie-in?
- What financial assistance is there for families without the \$ to build an ADU?
- Most of the housing options are only available to those on CORE waivers. what about the rest of our kids on B+? Only AFHs?
- Is there financial assistance to help median-income families build an ADU for their disabled family member?
- I have a VH Home mortgage benefit that I'm not using. Is there a way veterans like me can use this to finance a home for my disabled child (name and phone number provided)
- Who can we talk to individually about housing options and what might work best for us? ...feeling overwhelmed
- We need a residential 'broker'. Someone who knows what is available in our area and will listen to our list of needs and wants and take us around to visit them.
- Curious about intentional communities with set asides for DD but open to families, low income, etc.
- Would like referrals for consultant re: setting up home with other, i.e., people who have done it, people who know who/what/why

### **Ideas**

- More options for single people
- Need a regular group of people to exchange ideas and concerns
- As a single aging parent, I would like to find a facility for both my son and myself. So that when I am gone, he will still have a home and people to care for him.
- With DDA only funding the supports part of housing, why do they hold the power to decide where clients are referred? If on core waiver, DDA has to provide referral to Agencies, not clients or families deciding where.



***What was the most valuable part of the conference?***

- So many options
- Lunch discussion
- The follow up. What's happening next
- Contacts
- Multiple resources presented
- Creative ideas from parents
- Open discussions with diverse group
- Networking
- Keynote and lunch panel were great
- DDA housing rules and regulations
- Loved the keynote and his pictures/slides of what worked and house to have a blank space that can evolve
- Learning what was happening/being tried, where needs/gaps are. Particularly like parent panel.
- Learning names and organizations that i can check into when it is time to seriously explore housing
- Panels are wonderful!
- Powerpoints for all sessions available on peace website & videos from presentations
- Most difficult part of conference was deciding which sessions to attend! So many awesome choices and great info. A good problem to have 😊
- Clarifying LIC rules for my special situation
- Learning about housing options
- All parts
- Talking with others, hearing other ideas. Nice job!
- Keynote and breakout sessions
- Community and expertise
- Good variety of presenters but many never worked with dd community

***Please provide any suggestions for how the conference could be improved***

- When people register – ask what info they want to learn about the subjects
- Send out breakout session options prior to beginning of conference
- Discuss options for those families that have good assets to use
- Glossary of acronyms both service & housing 'resources' (ie "Waivers", DDA, etc)



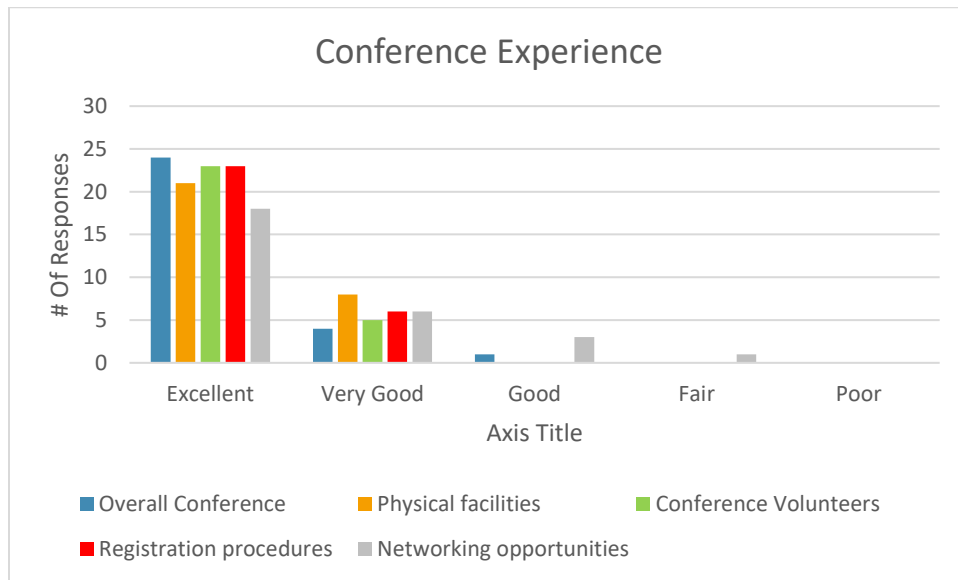


- For those of us who can't be at all the sessions as above, it would be wonderful to have sessions recorded to watch later.
- 80% live with parents. What about the others. I have kids from foster care system. How do I help my kids move into adult care?
- Wanted to be in more than one breaks out session at a time. But still learned a lot 😊
- Wish there were vendor table. Would be great to hear from self-advocates! Nothing for us without us!
- Community partner participation
- Accessibility in main room for wheelchairs wasn't great
- Is home still meeting monthly basis? Families would like to participate
- Add contact info for presenters
- Reuse the nametag holders – collect at the end of the conference
- Need presenters/developers to enter conversations: what's needed to build different housing for DD community





The following charts relate to Conference logistics





## Keynote



*Keynote Speaker George Braddock,  
President of Creative Housing Solutions*

### **Material Covered:**

The critical role of the physical environment in promoting independence, self-determination and improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities in community settings. There are numerous examples where the failure of the environment to respond to the needs of the person resulted in the failure of the supports and the individual with disabilities moving to a more restrictive setting. Traditionally, the focus of person-centered planning has been on assuring appropriate supports and programs and has ignored the role of the physical environment.





## World Café – Next Steps



*Mona Fuerstenau, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Bethesda Lutheran Communities*

### **Question 1: What Two Actions Are Needed**

- What two things are needed to move housing forward in Clark County
- More housing in general and more affordable housing
- Developers to come in (incentivize the developers to come and build)
- Change in zoning laws for housing for special needs
- More creativity in housing as opposed to traditional housing (duplexes/triplexes)
- More communication for parents' options for their adult children
- Community looking beyond
- Advocacy – for funding, policy changes
- Explore privatized options (not losing freedom)
- Educate policy makers (local/state)
- Help people understand that people together can enrich each other's lives
- Help people understand and access income supports
- Do not pit people in need against each other
- Develop partners
- Give Denny a project!
- Habitat
- Zoning changes
- Create low income housing in Portland to decrease demand in Vancouver
- Get state legislative to earmark low income housing for intellectual disabilities
- Legislative action! – housing rules can seem cumbersome; parents paid to provide care
- Continued access to housing information – parent's forum; social networking; podcast and resource archive



- Flexibility in zoning rules
- Organize request for VHA
- More funding
- More flexibility
- More creativity
- Stakeholder's coordination, caregivers included
- Support landlords to encourage them to rent
- Wrap around services to increase stability, relationships, behavior, social/emotional, medical, financial, skill development, recreational
- Incentives for providers
- Tailoring services to the individual not the location where they are living
- Funding
- Thinking outside the box
- Collaboration with community partners outside of DDA, etc. (Clark College)
- Networking
- Streamlining the process
- More affordable options
- Availability, increase in number of units
- Decrease barriers to affordable options
- Increasing public awareness
- Streamlined process or distribution of resources
- Funding
- Call Shaw
- Quality care givers
- More ideas
- Networking/communicate
- Educate people/decision makers
- Rules for grants
- Specify needs
- Contact for action
- Identify which programs and advocates for individuals
- Explore private options
- Navigate and contact for new ideas
- VOTE
- Zoning
- Fundraise at community level
- Report card for elected officials on disability issues
- Zoning regulations – work with zoning boards; outdated, location, tiny home
- Funding
- Public education/awareness
- Grass roots/advocacy
- Elect officials to create zoning laws to allow for more innovative housing options
- Educate the public regarding the need for disability housing





### ***Question 2: What Will It Take to Get There***

- Make resources happen
- Voices to be heard
- Get more money allocations for housing and services
- Money to follow the person: respite care continues when a person moves out
- Update regulations – learning from other states
- Get more person-centered services
- Develop a true understanding to local legislators so proper housing and funding are available
- A more detailed person care planning to know client better
- More transitional training for parents and for child
- Organize people
- Reallocate some current funding
- If something isn't/doesn't work, 'try another way'
- It is not going to work if the environment doesn't work
- Get people with disabilities together
- Washington Administrative Code changes impeding some of this
- Create coalition of Oregon agencies
- Look at other twin cities or bedroom communities and how they dealt with this
- Look at cities with high concentration of intellectual disability populations or 'Autism' populations
- AI simulations like SimCity



- Find out what current earmarks are
- Increase total funding for earmarks
- Identify intersectionality of funding
- Connect adult problems with Special Ed K-12 defects
- Extend IEP to age 26 under Obamacare
- Boots on the ground – focused voice for advocacy; same message; parent/family voice
- Outreach/education/networking – legislators
- Deepen community provider capacity
- Energy
- \$\$\$
- Commitment
- Compassion
- Education – everyone on the same page
- Communication
- Blow up the whole system and start over
- Look at current working systems nationwide
- Education
- Time
- Action – people
- Law changes
- Parents collaborating
- Access to and place to share information
- Housing Resource Managers to assist families/individuals
- Lobbying – asking for additional accommodations
- More education/resources given in schools earlier on transition nights, fairs (county presence)
- Network
- Organize groups to enact change in policy/laws, i.e. PEACE & DDA
- Tax breaks/incentives for individuals or businesses that support disabilities
- Fund an entity that helps families with ALL questions, ideas, etc., to think outside the box for alternative housing and support
- Encourage developers to consider our housing needs and desires
- Champion advocates
- Identify action steps, break down and create board to do the work
- Finding community partners/making contact
- Subject matter experts
- Word of mouth
- Investments – state/county
- Assessment of best practices
- Voting



- Organizing
- Advocacy
- Candidate's forum
- Awareness
- \$
- Follow through
- Focus groups
- Media
- Housing option flow chart
- 2nd Annual Housing Conference – invite elected officials, school districts, developers, faith-based organizations, media, diversity



### ***Question 3: What Will I Do***

- Write article in Spectrum Life magazine about today's conference
- Research other cities' as to how they support intellectual disability housing
- Learn more about zoning in Clark County (where tiny house/second unit can be on property)
- Investigate mainstream voucher
- Contact PEACE for involvement
- Contact Faith Partners for Housing and projects in SW WA
- Attend one legislative advocacy day (Lorrie)
- Selfcare!
- Share provider advocacy questions (Faythe)
- Working with developers to build housing in Vancouver (James A)





- Keep advocating (Tiffany, Melissa)
- More self-educating
- Look into housing trust fund (Kristi)
- Learn the next steps for housing for my adult son (Jessie Lindburg)
- Work hard to build roommate matching pool (Partners 4 Housing)
- Advocate for increased housing resources
- Educate self about the system
- Support group follow-up
- Emailing my Special Ed coordinator and Special Olympics about the different options in my town
- Start my application for 501c3
- Be active in RAP (Ann)
- Looking into being active in SAIL (Carley)
- Find \$ for SAIL (Darla)
- Go to at least two advocacy days in 2019/2020 (Theresa)
- Spread awareness and volunteering (Brittany)
- Decide what action/step I can take after I process info from today (Erica)
- Talk to state DD director in June (Dan Lusk)
- Teach other to advocate/get involved
- Talk to Melody Pazolt, in charge of supported living in WA
- Educate yourself (Sandi)
- Call Shaw
- Common ground
- Get ahead of the problem
- Contact Aging and Long-Term Care
- Become more involved
- Take part in community events – education, job fairs, transition fairs
- Look into visiting housing projects that were successful
- Plan to move forward – get people together
- Outreach (Gavin)
- Research resources (Leyla)
- Push future planning with parents/families (Dani)
- Compile a resource binder (i.e. homeless resources) for staff (Jessie)
- Share what I learned (Jeri)
- Meeting with others (Trish)
- Suggest follow-up while it's fresh in mind (Tanya)
- Stay engaged
- Keep the faith
- Flow chart committee (Lacey)
- Educate (Bernice)
- Participate in action /advocacy (LeAnn)
- Find funding (Lynn)
- Start lobbying and supporting candidates that put priority on disabled Americans (Tammy)



- Educate herself on other residential options; go above and beyond job requirements; stay connected (Amy)
- Inventory of housing models and how to pay for it (Lynn)

