

## **Resources for Zepf Center Clients In Need Of Residential Housing**

*The following information is being provided for Zepf Center clients and their families and support teams, to assist with residential housing needs. The attached document, Choosing an Adult Family Home for a Loved One, is a publication of the Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association, which is affiliated with NAMI Ohio. Choosing an Adult Family Home provides an overview of the residential housing options that may be available for those with serious mental illnesses, along with guidance on how to select the right housing that may be available.*

*Also attached is a copy of a document published by Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) entitled Housing Categories and Definitions, which provides definitions for certain categories of OhioMHAS housing as a framework for policies, programs, funding and data collection. Zepf Center utilizes the OhioMHAS Housing Categories and Definitions in its housing related activities and communications.*

*While Zepf Center believes they may be helpful to clients and their families, Zepf Center is unable to confirm their accuracy.*

### **Zepf Center's Role in Assisting Clients with Residential Housing Needs**

Zepf Center will assist with information and access to resources to allow clients and their guardians and families to determine where to reside, subject to each client's needs, abilities, limitations and qualifications. Those factors should then be reviewed against the available housing at any given time. Availability is often the most limiting factor, since there is generally a shortfall of available housing for individuals with mental illness.

Case Managers work with clients and housing specialists both within and external to Zepf Center to explore what is available and assist clients with residential housing choices.

***Housing choices are solely the responsibility and right of the client or the client's legal guardian, not the Zepf Center.***

Where appropriate, and as part of the overall services provided, Zepf Center clients undergo periodic, regular assessments of the client's housing needs and other support needs. Assessment of a client's housing needs does not include assessment of the actual housing chosen by the client. Zepf Center does not evaluate outside client housing, including housing safety, security, habitability, licensing status, lease agreements, or staff qualifications.

Behavioral compliance issues can affect client eligibility for some housing options, such that availability for certain facilities, including but by no means limited to licensed adult care facilities, can be restricted or limited. A client's eligibility for such housing is always subject to change, as is any given facility's licensure status. Some clients choose to reside in settings other than licensed facilities, and many clients have limited options based on financial, behavioral and other factors.

As authorized by the Client, Zepf Center will make available its assessment of a client's housing needs, such that guardians and/or families may also effectively assist and support the Client.

Zepf Center does not place clients in specific housing, nor does it have the ability or obligation to do so.

Further, it is not within Zepf Center's authority, capability or responsibility to regulate, inspect or evaluate residential housing facilities.

*If you have questions about Zepf Center's role in assisting clients and their guardians with residential housing needs, please contact your Zepf Center Case Manager.*