

October 20, 2009

Mr. Laurence J. Hoffman  
7874 Holly's Cove Road  
Saint Michael's, MD 21693

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

I write on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) to endorse the enclosed letters from The Arc of Delaware and Homes for Life Foundation regarding the Benedictine School's proposal to sell its home on Diminish Drive in Newark, DE. Council encourages you to revisit this plan and retain the home which could be used as a community-based housing option for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The lack of safe, affordable, integrated and accessible housing for individuals with disabilities has reached a crisis level throughout the state. People with disabilities who are not able to maintain employment at a high enough level to pay for their housing are simply out of luck. People with disabilities are living with aging relatives, in institutions, and on the streets. Housing is severely limited in all counties for individuals who would elect to live independently. Currently in Delaware, housing authorities have long waiting lists and many are not taking applications. Given decreasing federal programs that support housing authorities' funds, the housing problem is only getting worse. Preserving this home will afford individuals with disabilities the opportunity to live in a desirable home which is integrated in the community with appropriate supports. In addition, maintaining the home would appear to honor the original intent of providing community-based housing for people with disabilities.

SCPD is charged in 29 Del.C. Section 8210 with the responsibility of proposing and promoting laws, regulations, programs and policies to improve the well-being of persons with disabilities. In addition, Council reviews programs for persons with disabilities and makes recommendations to these programs so they effectively meet the needs of persons with disabilities. SCPD, in its endeavors to empower individuals with disabilities, has worked closely with The Arc and Homes for Life Foundation for many years, and has found these organizations to be highly qualified and committed to developing and managing meaningful housing programs which enhance the lives of persons with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: The Arc of Delaware  
Homes for Life Foundation  
DDDS Advisory Council

Exec/Benedictine home 10-09