



Advocacy and Resource Center

231 New York Road
Plattsburgh, New York 12903-4425
(518) 563-0930
Fax: (518) 562-0085

November 15, 2022

Supervisor Michael S. Cashman
Town of Plattsburgh
151 Banker Road,
Plattsburgh NY 12901

Dear Supervisor Cashman,

I am writing to notify you officially of the interest and intent of the Advocacy and Resource Center to establish a residence for eight to nine individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Town of Plattsburgh. This notification is provided in compliance with Section 41.34 of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law (copy enclosed).

The Advocacy and Resource Center has built a new home on 421 Tom Miller Road. Enclosed you will find a fact sheet outlining the specific nature, size and community support requirements of the proposed program. Also enclosed is "the most recently published data compiled pursuant to section four hundred sixty-three of the social services law which can reasonably be expected to permit the municipality to evaluate all such facilities affecting the nature and character of the area wherein such proposed facility is to be located" (NYS Mental Hygiene Law, Section 41.34 (c)(1)).

The Advocacy and Resource Center is a not for profit corporation providing rehabilitation services to the developmentally disabled in Clinton County since 1954. As you know we presently have 4 homes in the Town of Plattsburgh. We believe we have been good neighbors in these areas and have received no complaints.

Whenever we propose the establishment of a home for disabled individuals, the issue of code compliance and zoning is always raised. In order to assist you with this I am enclosing a summary of Section 41.33 of the New York State Law which clearly shows that small groups of disabled individuals should be considered as a "single family dwelling". As you may be aware, our agency provides Residential, Day Habilitation, Home and Community Based waiver services, and employment supports to intellectual developmentally disabled individuals. One of our major service goals is the establishment of residences to enable intellectual and developmentally disabled individuals to reside in communities close to family, friends, and opportunities for normal life enriching experiences. In general terms a residence program provides housing, meals, companionship, social events, staff supervision, training in the activities of daily living, and for more severely disabled individuals, clinical and health care services. Also, during the weekdays participants would attend various vocational, prevocational, or educational programs in the community as well as recreational activities during the evenings and on weekends.

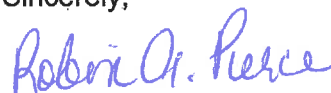
Under Section 41.34 of the NYS Mental Hygiene Law, the Town of Plattsburgh has forty (40) days after the receipt of this notification to respond in one of three ways:

- 1) Approve the recommended site;
- 2) Suggest one or more suitable sites within your jurisdiction which could accommodate such a facility; or
- 3) Object to the establishment of a facility of the kind described by the sponsoring agency because to do so would result in such a concentration of community residential facilities for the mentally disabled in the municipality or in the area in proximity to the site selected; or a combination of such facilities with other community residences or similar facilities licensed by other agencies of state government that the nature and character of the areas within the municipality would be substantially altered.

If the municipality does not respond within forty (40) days, the Advocacy and Resource Center may proceed with the establishment and certification of the proposed facility as per this notification. Because we are nearing the end of construction of the new home and are looking to move residents in by mid – December. We are asking that you waive the 40 day requirement and provide a written response for approval as soon as possible. This can be via letter or email. If by email please forward to Rpierce@cviarc.org, Llobdell@cviarc.org, and Ktrombley@cviarc.org.

We look forward to working closely and cooperatively with you, and your constituents in the spirit of the law to allow developmentally disabled individuals to reside in a normal community setting. We would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss our residence program more thoroughly. Please feel free to call me at 563-0930 to arrange a meeting if desired. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Robin Pierce
Executive Director

SITE SELECTION FACT SHEET
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE CENTER
CONTACT PERSON: ROBIN PIERCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PHONE: 563-0930

Site/Area Information:

The Advocacy and Resource Center wishes to establish a residence at 26 Jerry Drive, New York. We are in the process of building a 6-7-bedroom 4000 square foot age in place home. This well constructed home is located on 26 Jerry drive across the road from the Methodist Church. An application to certify this home under the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities requires that we seek town approval.

Program Information:

This residence will accommodate 8-9 developmentally disabled adults with a wide range of disabilities. It is anticipated that these 8-9 individuals will be above 21 years old and are residents of Clinton County. The program will provide housing, meals, companionship and constant supervision. Staff will assist the residents in achieving the highest level of independence in daily living skills possible for each of the individuals that will reside there. An emphasis is also placed on providing ample opportunity for recreation and socialization. The disabled individuals residing within this home will be constantly supervised by trained staff members. These individuals are moving from homes operated by the agency throughout the county as part of a reduction in size. The home is designed to be an age in place home meeting all the needs of the people no matter what their disabilities are or where life brings them.

Size:

The proposed residence is planned to house no more than 8 or 9 developmentally disabled individuals in a 4000 square foot space.

Community Support Requirements:

In order to ensure that prospective participants receive all necessary support services, the location was selected with attention to the proximity and accessibility of the following community services:

Shopping Facilities
Medical Services
Religious Services
Adult Treatment Services
Recreational / Cultural Opportunities

Community Involvement:

In the development of a residence, the Advocacy and Resource Center attempts to incorporate neighborhood concerns in their development plans. In order to foster good neighborhood relationships, every effort is made to respect the rights and desires of those living in close proximity to our homes. Having operated homes in Clinton County since 1973, we have shown our neighbors that we are in fact, "good neighbors". Furthermore, we encourage neighbors to become involved in helping integrate the disabled into their neighborhood. It is anticipated that the individuals residing within this home will be involved in the community services and facilities listed above.