

On The Precipice of Living a Full Life in the Community:

Institute for Community Living Awarded Contract to Provide Supported Housing For Almost 1,200 New Yorkers With Mental Illness

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The first time the Institute for Community Living received a court-monitored receivership, it not only succeeded—it spent the next 25 years growing into an agency now capable of helping 9,000 individuals struggling with mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance abuse and homelessness. Now in its 25th year, Institute for Community Living (ICL) has come full circle with a court-monitored, three-year and \$20 million contract. Through the award, ICL will assist close to 1,200 individuals with psychiatric disabilities presently living in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island Adult Homes move to their own community apartment. This marks ICL's first foray into Staten Island and the first time that the nonprofit will have programs in all five boroughs.

The project is part of an \$80-million program launched by the New York State Office of Mental Health. Seven different providers will develop 4,500 units of supported housing so that individuals with mental illness, now living in adult homes, can transition into the community. The program is a direct response to last year's District Court judgment in the case of Disability Advocates, Inc. v. Paterson, et al. The court declared that adult homes amounted to warehousing individuals with serious mental illness, and it ordered that these individuals be transitioned out of group homes into supported housing in a community setting.

Beginning February 1, 2011, ICL will initiate the process to engage, assess and provide support services to assist these individuals to transition from adult homes into scatter site apartments within the community.

"These folks will be embarking on a journey filled with pride, adventure, workable challenges and immense personal growth," says Dr. Peter C. Campanelli, President and CEO, ICL. He continues, "We are delighted to be working with the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services and the Coalition of Institutionalized and Disabled; their experience, especially with training, brings another depth to our own. This project is an opportunity and a challenge to transform lives, and we are eager to embrace it."

Collaboration of Three Agencies to Improve Lives in the Community

The individuals moving into supported housing will be coming from adults homes, which by their very nature, cannot and do not promote community integration. Supported housing is the best opportunity for residents to integrate with the community, but without the proper supports, services and considerations, they will not thrive any better liv-



Dr. Peter C. Campanelli

ing in their own apartments than they did in the group homes from which they came.

ICL's services and approach are rooted in the belief that community integration is vital to recovery, wellness and independence, and that with proper supports—psychiatric, medical, vocational and social—an individual with mental illness can lead a full life in the community. ICL will be collaborating with the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) and the Coalition of Institutionalized and Disabled (CIAD) to train staff and to provide evidence-based treatment, best practices and comprehensive services for the individuals transitioning into supported housing.

Harvey Rosenthal, NYAPRS, Executive Director, says, "This project builds upon our long history advocating for group home residents with psychiatric disabilities, and it brings so many of those efforts to fruition. The combined effort of ICL, NYAPRS and CIAD, who will work together to support these individuals every step of the way, will ensure that these men and women can look forward to a meaningful recovery and a full life in the community—a chance that until now, has passed them by."

What is remarkable about this collaboration is what it means for the client. Dr. Campanelli explains, "At the heart of this endeavor, are the three agencies that are bringing vastly different expertise to the table – all of which will surround each client with the right support services to live in the community successfully. ICL's proficiency at housing and integrating medical and physical health, NYAPRS's advocacy and pioneering skills in developing peer support and CIAD's know-how on working effectively with consumers is an incredibly powerful three-way combination."

Not Without Precedent

Beginning with the assumption of a court-monitored receivership 25 years ago, ICL has come full circle with this new project, ICL's largest to date. The \$20-million contract will allow ICL to create scattered site apartments in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, meaning ICL's impact will now reach into all five boroughs.

ICL has reached the quarter-century mark, and with the advent and promise of this new project, ICL has even more to celebrate. Founded by ICL CEO and President Dr. Peter C. Campanelli in 1986, ICL began in Brooklyn with the ICL Stepping Stone Residence, a court-monitored receivership and supported housing program for individuals with mental illness. Under Peter's leadership, ICL expanded to provide housing and services to individuals in Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx; in the community, in schools and in shelters. ICL now provides recovery and rehabilitation services, supported housing, integrated medical and psychiatric care, and vocational support to adults, families and children with mental illness.

A Share of the Responsibility

In October of last year, the New York State Office of Mental Health requested proposals to develop and operate up to 4,500 units of supported housing to serve the current residents of 28 adult homes in New York City. The supported housing needs were broken down into eight geographic groupings, and seven different agencies were chosen to provide services. The total units, listed below, will be rolled out in three phases, over the course of three years:

- F.E.G.S: Bronx, 455 units
- Services for the UnderServed: Brooklyn, 571 units
- Postgraduate Center for Mental Health: Brooklyn, 468 units
- Institute for Community Living: Brooklyn and Queens, 621 units
- Pathways to Housing, Inc: Queens, 516 units
- Transitional Services for New York, Inc.: Queens, 660 units
- Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services: Queens, 640 units
- Institute for Community Living: Staten Island, 569 units

By the third year of the program, it is estimated that these contracts will provide a total of \$65.9 million in annual rental stipends and \$13.5 million to support staff, putting the total value of the project close

to \$80 million. ICL's proposal was ranked #1 among the providers, and it was the only agency awarded two groupings, giving ICL a quarter of the responsibility for transitioning the residents of group homes into a community setting. With this contract, ICL anticipates adding 100 new staff members, some of whom will be peer specialists who share similar histories and experiences to those they will be helping.

Background

Institute for Community Living: The Institute for Community Living, Inc. (ICL), founded in 1986, is a not-for-profit corporation that assists individuals with psychiatric disabilities, intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities. At the heart of ICL are the people that are served and the communities in which they live. The agency provides 100+ evidence-based and best practice innovative treatments, rehabilitation programs and support services to over 9,000 adults, children and families in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania; offers over 1,400 housing units and a comprehensive system of clinical treatment options; and operates a transitional residence in Queens for 243 veterans and a Brooklyn shelter for women with mental illness.

New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services: The New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc. (NYAPRS), founded in 1981, is a statewide coalition of people who use and/or provide recovery oriented community based mental services. Its membership includes over 100 community mental health service agencies that support the efforts of tens of thousands of New Yorkers by providing a wide range of services that share a fundamental belief in the capacity for recovery, healing and independence for every individual with a psychiatric disability. Through its individual and organizational memberships, it reaches over 20,000 individuals who currently receive recovery, rehabilitation and peer supported services. For more information, visit www.nyaprs.org.

Coalition of Institutionalized and Disabled: The Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled (CIAD) is a non-profit, consumer-led advocacy organization of adult home and nursing home residents and residents' councils. CIAD was established in 1973 to bring pride, purpose and self-determination to residents. Our mission is to provide residents with the information and skills they need to advocate for themselves, to protect and promote the rights of residents, and to improve the quality of their lives and their care. CIAD organizes residents into resident councils, training and nurturing resident leaders, educating residents about their rights, and promoting their participation in the affairs of their own residences as well as broader public policy issues.