

Arlington Handicapped Association  
Shared-Attendant Housing Project

PROGRESS REPORT: December 1980

The shared-attendant housing project advanced in the following broad category areas:

- Remodeling
- Attendant training
- Selection of residents
- D.H.R. attendant care contract
- Operating documents
- Apartment rental
- Equipment
- Transportation
- Support personnel
- T.R.C. relations

REMODELING: The Arlington Handicapped Association vice-president Richard Gumtau, a licensed civil engineer, made drawings of needed structural changes at the proposed project site, The Mill Run Apartments. We presented the drawings to the apartment owner, John Pannell, who stated that there did not seem to be any problems with the proposed changes. He agreed to the modifications and had two contractors to bid on the work. The low bid of \$3,700. will be accepted. These changes will be paid for partially by budgeted T.R.C. funds and partly by the Leland Fikes Foundation grant money. All work will be done after the leases are signed.

ATTENDANT TRAINING: The Housing Coordinator contacted Judy Einbinder at the Houston Independent Living Center and asked her to bid on providing the initial attendant training when the project opens. A.H.A. asked her to provide a course outline and an estimated cost figure for the training. The center has not responded to numerous inquiries since that time and plans for constructing a new curriculum are under way. The coordinator studied the following publications thoroughly and will use the best parts of each in constructing the training program.

1. Kent State University Attendant Care Manual
2. University of Texas at Arlington Attendant Care Manual
3. I.L.R.U. at T.I.R.R. Independent Living: The Attendant's Perspective
4. United Cerebral Palsy, Houston, Respite Care Manual
5. Association of Collegiate Administrators' Attendant Care Manual
6. Southwest State University of Minnesota Attendant Care Manual

Bernice Sorrells, contract negotiator for the Department of Human Resources, is checking on getting separate funding for attendant training. This amount would be additional to the contract for attendant care service funds.

SELECTION OF RESIDENTS: The resident selection committee, composed of two A.H.A. board directors and the housing coordinator, met on December 3. The committee drew on the expertise of Sandra Bell, physical therapist; Paul Bellish, Regional Director for D.H.R. Adult Services; and Bernice Sorrells, D.H.R. Contract Negotiator. The committee interviewed each of the six applicants for approximately thirty minutes. The committee asked questions in regards to the applicants' health, ability to finance attendant care, and probed to determine their motivational levels. A three-member team from D.H.R. interviewed each applicant to determine their eligibility for D.H.R. attendant care funds. The committee will meet again in January and process other applicants who could not be present in December.

D.H.R. ATTENDANT CARE CONTRACT: In November the housing coordinator held an exploratory discussion with Paul Bellish and D.H.R. contract negotiator Ray Dane (see November report) on getting attendant services for the A.H.A. project. A series of phone conversations followed this meeting. Paul Bellish informed the housing coordinator that Deputy Commissioner of D.H.R., Merle Springer, had been contacted and agreed that the state D.H.R. office could support our proposal. Springer stated that wavers on eligibility requirements and number of hours available to an individual client had to be received from Washington before a service contract can be written. The present eligibility requirements are so stringent that most resident applicants would not be eligible. The eligibility requirements have to be reduced for the applicants to receive D.H.R. attendant care funds. The number of hours per month that an individual can receive in D.H.R. attendant care funds must be increased. Present regulations are designed for the benefit of elderly persons, stated Bellish. He also stated new leadership in the D.H.R. state office may lead to more funding for non-elderly handicapped programs. D.H.R. has contacted Title XX officials in Washington about the wavers. They are negotiating an attendant service contract with Houston's Independent Life Styles Inc.. Contract negotiations with A.H.A. will be based on this prior Houston negotiation.

December 22--the housing coordinator met with D.H.R. officials at the regional office in Arlington to further discuss a possible contract. A.H.A. board members, Vernon Ekstrand, Richard Gumtau, and John Cortusillo huddled with D.H.R.'s Paul Bellish, Bernice Sorrells, and Chore Service Supervisor Sue Sloan. After discussing the limitations and expectations of both parties, the Housing Coordinator asked D.H.R. to agree in principle to a contract. The Housing Coordinator stated that costly expenditures for remodeling, rent, and equipment have to be made by A.H.A., and a commitment by D.H.R. is necessary. Paul Bellish stated, "A.H.A. should proceed with developing the project as if there will be a contract for attendant care services by April 1, 1981." The details of the contract will be negotiated by Sorrells and the housing coordinator. The basis for the contract, as stated before, will be Independent Life Styles Inc. agreement. The entire A.H.A. Board will be consulted before finalizing the contract.

During the discussion, Paul Bellish stated that A.H.A. would not provide matching funds unless the state D.H.R. office did not have sufficient funds itself. Bellish mentioned the figure of \$50,000. dollars to pay for attendant care services and administrative costs. D.H.R. will pay for the services on a per day, per person basis. The Independent Life Styles contract calls for approximately \$17. per diem. The highest amount that D.H.R. will pay is \$21. per diem. D.H.R. spends this amount on skilled nursing home care, and the state office refuses to exceed this amount. The exact allowable amount will be determined by Sorrells and the housing coordinator. D.H.R. wishes to treat A.H.A. as a provider agency and expects it to assume responsibility for recruiting, training, and supervising the attendants. Bellish also stated that D.H.R. funds cannot be spent on transportation services. If A.H.A. provides transportation, it must fund the transportation by another resource.

OPERATING DOCUMENTS: Operating documents of various types are necessary for the functioning of a shared-attendant housing program. The following list of documents came from numerous sources and have been reconstructed for A.H.A. particular program needs.

1. Support personnel and supporting agencies
2. Considerations for selection committee decisions
3. Orientation session sheet
4. The role of the attendant
5. Procedures for selection committee meeting
6. Emergency medical treatment authorization
7. Emergency medical card
8. Attendant application form
9. Get-up activity sheet
10. Night time activity sheet
11. Release of liability

APARTMENT RENTAL: The A.H.A. has verbally agreed to rent three two-bedroom apartments at the Mill Run Complex beginning January 15, 1981. A major problem in developing the shared-attendant housing program is securing functional living quarters in a section of the city which has a large, low income work force and keeping the apartments vacant long enough to develop other program components (remodeling, equipment, attendant care funding, etc.). A breakthrough occurred when the housing coordinator called Carolyn Vaughn, Section 8 specialist, at the Dallas HUD Office. The coordinator asked Carolyn if HUD could pay rent to the landlord while the apartments are being remodeled and are standing vacant. After checking with HUD's legal department, she agreed that it can be done and called the Arlington Housing Authority to tell them of the approval. Armed with the knowledge that remodeling can be used to keep apartments vacants, the housing coordinator met with Mill Run Apartment owners, John and Ginger Pannell. Jerry Strong, assistant director of the Arlington Housing Authority, joined in the discussion. Strong stated that the Housing Authority could begin paying Section 8 rent

subsidy January 15. The residents must live intermittently at Mill Run during the period January 15 to April 1. This period will be used to remodel the three apartments. Strong understands that the residents will not live at Mill Run full time until April 1 when A.H.A. attendant care services will begin. The residents must pay their share of the rent during the interim period. The housing coordinator will ask the A.H.A. Board of Directors to pay residents' share of the interim rent for those persons who cannot afford to pay.

EQUIPMENT: The housing coordinator called and wrote John McNair at Impart to follow up an earlier conversation, advising the type of resident communication needed at the project. McNair assured the coordinator a recommendation which has been tested in their laboratory will be ready by mid January. He promised that the system will meet the criteria outlined earlier (see November progress report). The following items are needed to modify the bathroom area: comode grab bars, shower stall grab bars, hand-held shower hose, and three shower chairs. All of the items except the shower chairs can be purchased. None of the commercially made chairs are appropriate, and the chairs will have to be fabricated.

TRANSPORTATION: The city of Arlington announced that its handicapped transportation system will be fully operational by February 1, 1981. The system will operate between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. A shorter schedule is planned for Saturdays, and none on Sunday. The city system will meet most of the residents' transportational needs. The A.H.A. directors have informally stated that the shared-attendant housing program may use one of its lift-equipped mini buses. Insurance for the bus averages \$600. per year and maintenance averages \$500. per year. D.H.R. will not pay for transportational expenses and another funding source needs to be found. Please contact the housing coordinator to offer alternative suggestions. Residents will be asked to pay for gasoline and the drivers will be volunteers.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL: During the month, the coordinator developed support services and back-up systems for attendant care delivery. He called the four nursing registries in Arlington and asked them to supply nurses' aids for short-term spot duty. The nurses registries will act as a back-up system for attendants who are unexpectedly absent. The twenty-four hour nursing services stated that they could have a nurses' aid at the project within an hour after being called. Rates for the nurses' aids range from \$5.20 to \$6.60 per hour according to the time of day and the day of the week. The coordinator also talked with Dr. Gerald Thompson, a general practitioner at the Arlington Medical Association, about treating the residents' regular illnesses. He has received a letter of request but has not yet responded. If he agrees he will be charged

with the primary duty of treating the residents, and his partners will provide twenty-four hour coverage in his absence. Dr. Robert Prevost, a physiatrist, agreed to treat problems related to the residents' disabilities. The coordinator contacted Ray Dabney of Carruth Rehabilitation Center in Dallas and asked if Carruth would agree to do consulting work and provide in patient services for the residents. Dabney stated that he needed to talk to Medical Director Morton, but did not see any problems. We are waiting for his written reply. Arrangements with Peter Smith Hospital to treat the residents on an in patient basis for general medical problems must still be arranged.

T.R.C. RELATIONS: Met with T.R.C. Supervisor John Heck and Counselor John Baker at T.R.C.'s Davis Street office to discuss the vocational ability of resident applicants. The two stated that the majority of applicants have sufficient work potential and do not present a problem. The other three applicants fall into a marginal evaluation bracket. If the five solid applicants are admitted to the program then a resident with marginal capabilities may be acceptable as the sixth and final resident. Heck stressed the need to have success with the original six residents to help insure future funding. The coordinator understood and will give greater weight to the suggestion when considering all the factors in selecting the residents.