

Name of Agency: Olds Association for Community Living

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Programs Provided: Residential Individualized Services
Proprietorship Service Project
Room and Board
Supported Employment
Volunteer Work Experience
Learning Resources

Service Description:

- Olds Association for Community Living offers support to persons with mental and physical challenges who are seeking support for their daily lives and vocational needs
- They strive to ensure that each individual they serve is given the best opportunities to grow in all aspects of their life
- They believe that persons with developmental disabilities have the right to establish a home in the community of their choice, and should be given the support required to be contributing and responsible members of society

Residential Individualized Service Project:

- This program provides the client with support in their home according to their individual needs and choices
- The service must fit the client; the client does not have to fit the service
- The client will be given the opportunity to make some choices in regards to where to live and, if applicable, who to have as a roommate
- The client will be encouraged to become an active participant in the community according to their abilities
- Whenever possible community resources will be accessed
- The client may choose to request internal services in employment training and support and/or learning resources
- The client and the family or guardian will play an active role in securing a home and service suitable to the client

Proprietorship Service Project:

- Proprietorship placements offer an alternative to residing with roommates for those individuals who desire a family atmosphere
- The client will be given the opportunity to meet potential proprietors and make a choice of whom they would like to live with
- The client will be encouraged to become an active participant in the community according to their abilities
- The client and the family or guardian will play an active role in securing a home and service suitable to the client

Room and Board:

- Room and Board offers an alternative to renting or living at the college dorms
- This service is usually accessed by students attending Olds College
- No staff support is provided in a Room and Board situation
- The boarder has access to all community resources and makes use of them at their own discretion
- The boarder accessing this service must have a funding source in place
- The boarder and/or guardian may be referred to the Client Services Coordinator or Career Services

Supported Employment:

- This service provides the client the opportunity to explore career options and offer the client training and support in finding and keeping a job
- The Employment Training Specialist and client determine which areas of employment are suitable to pursue by working through a series of interest and skill assessments
- The Employment Training Specialist then conducts a job search and matches the client to the suitable job
- A Job Coach is then trained to do the required job who in turn trains the client
- The length of time that the job coach spends with the client is totally dependent on the client
- The ultimate goal is for the client to hold a position independently
- The Employment Training Specialist continues to provide intermittent support to the client and employer for as long as the client remains in service
- The Employment Training Specialist maintains regular contact with the families regarding the clients employment experience

Volunteer Work Experience:

- This program offers the client who is unable to participate in paid employment the opportunity to experience fulfilling work that is of benefit to the community
- The Employment Training Specialist will conduct a series of assessment with the client to determine areas of interest and skills
- The Employment Training Specialist will then research the community for volunteer work placements and make a job match with the client

- The client will be matched with a Job Coach who will also be trained in the job that the client is taking
- The length of time that the Job Coach spends with the client is totally dependent on the client and the employer
- The Employment Training Specialist, with the assistance of Job Coach and employer, will determine with the client when a change in duties, hours, or support is required
- The Employment Training Specialist continues to provide support to the client and employer for as long as the client remains in service
- The family is kept in contact regarding the client's employment experience

Learning Resources:

- This program will enhance the skills the client needs to use in day to day situations
- The Learning Resources is made up of several programs for the different needs and abilities of the client
- Computer programs allow the client to work on many skills from how to run a computer or develop writing, reading, pre number and math skills
- Home safety programs are also offered
- The clients are taught the purpose of the different businesses and stores and how to access them
- The clients also participate in the use of the library, bowling alley, restaurants, parks and the swimming pool
- Input and suggestions from families is always encouraged and appreciated
- The families are kept informed of what and how the client is doing
- The Learning Resource program is flexible to the changing needs of the client