

## **HCBS Settings-Elderly and persons with Physical Disabilities Waiver-Evidentiary Package**

### **Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home-Assisted Living Facility-Evidence of HCBS Settings Characteristics**

Submitted to the District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance, EPD Waiver Unit

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#### **Evidence of HCBS Settings Characteristics**

The LLDH Home has been one of the only Medicaid providers of assisted living services in the District of Columbia, participating in the program since 2008. For those not familiar with the LLDH Home, our mission for the past 77 years has focused on providing extraordinary health and life care services to low and modest income elders of the District of Columbia helping them to live life to the fullest. Elders and persons with disabilities who choose our Home come here not as a place of last resort only to be isolated from their community but because the Home offers an active, caring and autonomous environment that integrates community supports and encourages independence in everyday life.

Assisted living is often an ideal housing arrangement when maintaining a home or apartment is too much work and/or the logistics of daily life supported by multiple providers becomes an overwhelming burden. Assisted living promotes independence by making 24 hour care accessible with autonomy in schedule and lifestyle choices possible. Based on a survey done by the National Council of Assisted Living conducted in 2013, more than 90 percent of assisted living residents reported experiences with high quality of life, high level of care and a sense of security in the community.

- **Interconnectedness between the institution and the setting, including administrative or financial interconnectedness, in question does not exist or is minimal;**

Interconnectedness between the Home's nursing facility and assisted living does exist but the Home takes steps to assure that the direct services as well as the revenue and the budget are separate. The Home maintains a separate service program staffed by separate employees. The Assisted Living RN manager, separate caregivers (RN, LPN and CNA's), dining room servers, and housekeepers all are assigned directly to the HCBS section of the building and rarely overlap or have duties in the nursing facility. All revenues from the HCBS are accounting for in a separate line item. These revenues do not support the operation of the nursing facility. Cost centers such as labor and supplies are also maintained under separate financial management and are budgeted outside the budget of the nursing facility.

- **To the extent any institutional staff are assigned occasionally or on a limited basis to support or back up the HCBS staff, the institutional staff are cross-trained to meet the same qualifications as the HCBS staff; and**

The LLDH Home employs and trains specific staff to work directly with individuals living in assisted living. The LLDH Home emphasis on continuity of care leads to employees consistently assigned as personal care aides, licensed nurses, dining room servers and housekeepers to a specific shift, group or floor in the assisted living. All employees in the assisted living are also given specific training required under

both the HCBS program and the District of Columbia Assisted Living Law (DC ST § 44-101.01, § 44-101.01), a separate code of regulation from the nursing facility (institution). Again, because of the emphasis on consistency, occasions for support or back up by direct care staff are rare. In those limited events, staff working with assisted living residents must meet the same qualifications as those routinely assigned to this program.

- **Participants in the setting in question do not have to rely primarily on transportation or services provided by the institutional setting, to the exclusion of other options.**

Located in the vibrant neighborhood of [REDACTED], the Home is steps from shopping, public transportation and community resources. Residents of the assisted living have a variety of transit options and do not routinely utilize the medical transport options provided to individuals living in the nursing facility. Because of its unique setting, the Home is located approximately 3 blocks from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Red Line and hosts multiple bus lines from the bus stop located directly in front of the property. Residents are also encouraged to use and assisted to register for Metro Access, a community based shared-ride, door-to-door, paratransit service for people whose disability prevents them from using bus or rail. The Home contracts with Diamond Cab to provide a voucher system for cab rides as well as assistance in hailing a variety of local cab provider via the Home's front desk. Lastly, the Home offers parking and easy pick-up for visitors or family who provide transit and is within a 5 block distance to several grocery stores, CVS pharmacy, restaurants, banks, movie theaters, commercial shopping, and several churches.



Map pin-pointing LLDH REDACTED

Picutre taken directly from front door of LLDH Home showing metro bus line. LLDH Home noted as blue dot with metro center at the red dot [REDACTED].

- **The setting is integrated in the community to the extent that a person or persons without disabilities in the same community would consider it a part of their community and would not associate the setting with the provision of services to persons with disabilities.**

As stated above, the Home's mission in addition to its unique location encourages homelike community that resembles a setting such as apartment building or hotel and not an institution for persons with disabilities. For example, the Home's main entrance opens directly into a spacious lobby that resembles a hotel or apartment building and not that of a health care institution. Like many apartment buildings in Washington DC, the Home does have a front desk where a receptionist receives visitors, assists with mail and assists with general questions. She is not, however, a security guard or member of the nursing staff and appears as a concierge professional. Upon entering the Home, residents and visitors do not pass through the health care center to access a resident's room, the dining room and in-house service LLDH-Assisted Living Facility-Evidence of HCBS Settings Characteristics

such as the Beauty Shop or exercise gym. Residents are served in the dining area by waiters/waitresses in a restaurant atmosphere and provided housekeeping by staff mirroring hotel service. Residents have many of the standard apartment building provisions should they wish to take advantage of them including residential laundry and individual, locked mailboxes.

The Home not only encourage residents to be active in the community but also partners with the local community for events on the property. These events include an annual fall festival called “Zoo Day”, a family friendly event with petting zoo, crafts, carnival games and food sales. The Home has hosted political candidates and voting drives, local yoga classes, author events and live music open to the public. The Home strongly believes that the mission of serving residents of the District of Columbia means being a part of the neighborhood and not isolated from it.

The Home is discreet in the provision of supportive health care services with such services provided only within the residents’ rooms or the privacy of the nursing station and not in public areas. Restrictions are not placed on the residents simply by entering into the assisted living arrangement. Instead the Home encourages residents to fully participate in community life and not limit daily routine only to the social activities arranged by the Home. The Home encourages all residents to be an active part of the community. The Home also adheres to all HCBS requirements and does not restrict visitors, provides 24 hour access to the building, or limit overnight trips.



Lobby View



Private Mailboxes



Reception Area



Drawing Room

REDACTED

Dinning Room and Resident

REDACTED

Farmer’s Market Day and Resident

REDACTED

Zoo Day hosted for the [REDACTED] community by LLDH Home

REDACTED

Voting (2008)

REDACTED

Odyssey Boat Trip – Annual Event

REDACTED

Forth of July Fireworks (Waiting for start)

• **The individual participates regularly in typical community life activities outside of the setting to the extent the individual desires. Such activities do not include only those organized by the provider agency specifically for a group of individuals with disabilities and/or involving only paid staff; community activities should foster relationships with community members unaffiliated with the setting, services to the individual, and activities in which the individual participates, are engaged with in the broader community.**

All residents of the Home, assisted living or otherwise, have open access to the greater community and are provided supports to maintain community connections and an independent lifestyle. Individuals are free to set up their own schedule, make choices throughout the day and live in a setting that promotes privacy, independence and autonomy. The Home strives to keep family and friends connected to residents and to keep residents connected to life in the District of Columbia whether church, community club or neighborhood connections. Residents and families utilize all services in the community including shopping centers, community center and library, post office, movie theater, restaurants and churches. Maps of the facility location and proximity are provided showing several neighborhood resources

REDACTED

Library, Community and Recreational Centers

REDACTED

Local churches of various denominations

REDACTED

Retail shopping, restaurants and grocery stores

In addition, residents are encouraged to invite groups or visitors into the Home not associated with the Home's formal activity program. Currently, one resident hosts his own church's bible study, another her book group and many others have hosted parties for family or friends in many of the Home's recreational areas.

The Home also offers activities that do not focus on disability but encourage access to the wider community outside the Home including trips to the movies, shopping in the area and at a local outlet mall, a dinner cruise, a trip to a local casino and an outing to a local theater. Pictures of some of the events are also included above.