

LAFAYETTE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Summary of Discussion: Individuals Concerned with the Intellectually and Developmental Disabled (IDD) Community

June 25, 2020

Attendees:

Jana Easley (Interim Planning Director, City)
Britt Palmberg (Rick Community Planning)

Community members interested in the needs of individuals in the community with the intellectual and developmental disabilities: Julie and Tim Marshall, Elizabeth Lichtenstein, Bob Bruegel, Karen Zeid, Diane Lindahl, Danielle Morgan, Rosario Maiocco, Miranda Fischer

Background Information and Comments from the Group:

- A key question surrounds how to support families and kids with IDD in the Comprehensive Plan.
- IDD encompasses autism, down syndrome, and related conditions. It is a very complex issue.
- The County's needs assessment concerning IDD has been running parallel to the Lafayette Comprehensive Plan. The number one issue identified through the County so far has centered on housing. There aren't any options that appeal to the broad IDD community. Many families sign up to serve as host homes.
- Girls with IDD are 7 percent more likely to be assaulted, compared to the general population.
- Surveys indicate that 87 percent of IDD adults want to live independently. However, they need safe, supportive, and long lasting choices with regard to living options. The Nyland housing cooperative serves as a resource.
- It is important to understand the importance of sensory input on IDD individuals. There are many horror stories stemming from situations in which IDD individuals encounter sensory overload, for example.
- In terms of co-housing, the group would like to see specific language in the comp plan speaking to the needs of the IDD community for housing. It may require partnering with non profits in the local area.
- Language pertaining to affordable housing in the comp plan should mention the needs of the IDD community.

- One of the participants noted that more options and developments are popping up to serve the needs of IDD children. There are more choices in terms of where to go, who to live with.
- It is important to have services available on site to serve the IDD community, in addition to housing.
- Co-housing situations tend to resemble a melting pot of people. IDD individuals benefit from living together in a true community. One of the greatest challenges for IDD families is determining the right choice for an IDD individual, with regard to housing and services.
- Finding cities and communities where the IDD community can introduce ideas to serve the broad IDD community is key.
- Ordinances or programs in cities that mandate, for example, a 10 percent affordable housing requirement provide for greater income diversity in a community. However, communities need to go to the next level in their housing strategies to plan for individuals with IDD.
- One of the participants noted that Lafayette was one of the pioneers in co-housing in the US, but it never got any credit for it because subsequent developments were completed in Boulder that attracted more attention. There is an opportunity for Lafayette to get more credit for its innovative housing strategies.
- Managing sensory stimulus for IDD individuals is an issue from a design perspective. Controlling external stimuli is important. It can be a bit of a challenge in creating a critical mass of programs and services for IDD individuals.
- The comp plan needs to have language to address the reality of IDD individuals, and should provide for the necessary density and range of uses to serve IDD individuals. It is also important for the comp plan to discuss the social costs of isolating IDD individuals.

Additional Comments Regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Implementation:

- How can we decrease the economic and social burden on families with IDD individuals? It is really important to include the COVID crisis in this discussion. COVID helps magnify the exposure that IDD individuals have in the community.
- Ideally, a development or project that serves IDD individuals would include a range of uses and services on-site. These offerings could include local community gardens, computer services, art works, and other activities.
- The City of Lafayette needs to make a more concrete effort to address the needs of IDD going forward. Age-ism is the big “ism” right now, but “able-ism” is at play in various aspects of the community. The City needs to keep the interests of IDD integrated in all of its planning. We need to amplify voices and identify where local systems are not meeting the needs of the IDD community.
- Universal design concepts need to be included in the planning for the community. Intellectually challenged individuals represent a special category. We need a measuring

stick to identify where we are missing the mark as a community. We need to become more educated about community systems and how they impact IDD.

- The Comprehensive Plan needs to include broader language in its goals, but more specific items in its action items.
- The City needs to identify where good ADA connections are missing in the community.
- The plan needs to put in action work on various city codes (including building codes) that affect the IDD community. The concepts of universal design could be incorporated into the City's building code.
- The Comprehensive Plan needs to think through various ideas for inclusion. Financing facilities for IDD is an interesting issue. Importantly, the plan should at least leave spaces for IDD facilities.
- The City needs to understand the complexity of serving the IDD community. There are some new innovations out there, such as IDD funds that invest in housing and facilities for IDD, almost like a REIT.
- The IDD community needs to be part of the conversation. We need to make sure that the broad language of the plan will focus on the needs of IDD. It is important to aim for the integration, not the separation, of IDD individuals in Lafayette. Resiliency is a good word, to tie with the broader discussion of planning for IDD in Lafayette.