

JE: You have to provide your own attendant?

We have to provide our own Attendant from either the Dept of Social Service or a friend or a family....

.....(Another voice... "Hi! I'm Lori"..... and then this voice takes over!).....

Its to provide accessible housing at a real cheap rate. And we do room and board and all utilities at these two houses, there's another one right behind it. So basically, I guess, at the end what I'm saying and what we have been talking to Cheshire about is that we provide a resource in the community and that there are IL situations, there are barrier free apartments not far from here that are independent, but we do co-operative living for people who don't want to live alone or don't have the resources to live alone, or they might be a point in their life, they may have come from their parents house, and not be ready to live alone, because they have not been trained or because they do not want to. So basically what we do have is two houses here and one in Santa Cruz, the one in Santa Cruz we just rent rooms and it is all accessible and people are responsible for shopping, cooking and cleaning. Here we have a room and board and utilities, with a manager, three meals a day

JE: So in Santa Cruz they have to do a lot more for themselves. What about an emergency type situation

In Santa Cruz it is pretty much up to them to decide to call the fire department, which would be just like anyone else living alone. Here we have an emergency call system

JE: I was thinking more of physical care

Attendant care? Well in Santa Cruz it is just like living in any other house, you have to wait for someone to come in or phone. Now here we have a manager on call 24 hours, he lives in, and we also have an emergency call system with a keeper for the middle of the night, so that someone from the back house can communicate with the keeper at the front. There have been times, even here, when people have called the fire department in the middle of the night, because their phones are right next to the bed. Really we encourage people to use whatever resources they need, whatever the problem is.

At the very beginning, people are coming to realise what each person can do for the house, like Bruce has done dishes, I think, for ever. It is his choice, or vacuum, or dust, or make telephone calls, or whatever it is, everybody does something. It is quite disruptive to have someone come in from the Board of Health or Social Services, sneaking in kind of to see how we are doing

JE: In the beginning they did that a lot, did they

Yes, they wanted us to be licenced, we will fold before we will ever licence

JE: Are you still having problems on that

No, it has been two and a half years. They just decided we are not bothering anyone and we are legal and people are happy here.

A resident: What I wanted to ask you, we could do with a maid

To get someone to do dishes would be too expensive, but once a week someone to scrub the apartments, do the windows, walls or bathrooms

Resident: I generally find the bathroom dirty, and I am taking charge of it

But I don't think I can solve that really, I think that is something, like the board said, you either have a house member take it over, or you use paper plates, or I guess we will find something else to do, or get a maid

JE: So there is five people living here

Four in the back house and then there is five in the front house, we call it one, but it is obviously two houses.

JE: How many people on the board

13. We alternate the board meetings between the two houses, we meet once a month. An idea which the house is working on now is that we would like house meetings, not formal, but we haven't noticed that people don't all get together in one place, they will say something is wrong to someone else, but not really express it to everyone, so I think the Board is just generally said .....

JE: Who make up the board.

Originally Dorothy Nicholl started on the board and then people have given us names, and the house has suggested people like the Manager, people from the house, but it is not formal, we don't have someone on the board from the house which we are talking about right now that is a voting member

JE: Are there any disabled people on the board

Yes.

JE: People in the local area

Yes. That originally started with us and have disabled children, or disabled themselves. Rob Johnson has moved into the Santa Cruz house a couple of months ago. We are real lucky in California. In Nevada it is very different, most disabled are from Nevada come to California, because they make about \$100 a month and do not have any medical coverage. Here we have attendant care, Medical for emergencies like wheelchairs, basic medical coverage, emergency coverage, attendant hours and social security allotments, which enables people to make a choice. Those that are not eligible for that programme, there is of course always convalescent hospitals here, and if nothing else you can be assured that you will have some medical attention at a convalescent home, a room at least, I do not know what you can get beside that. People can go there to recover from a pressure sore or something like that, like Bruce here broke his hip, something that we would not handle here. We really don't provide any medical care, that is something we have been talking about and we are really not sure what to do. For instance if someone does have a severe pressure sore, I think what we are not clear about is when it is our turn to say it is getting serious, you better go somewhere.

JE: Ideally it should be up to the person themselves to take care of them so they don't have pressure sores

Right, but when is it our place to say, you seem real set with that cold, you should go get checked, and when is it their place to say, it is my cold and I am fine. I am into my third year here, and the idea is for me to phase my position out and for the house to run everything, I am really generally phasing everything out and I only down here maybe once a week at the most

JE: So the disabled can take total control

They get a cheque once a month and the accountant turns it over once he has paid the basic rents, they pay all the bills

JE: How do they come to live here

Originally I think Dorothy scouted every place around here, sent out notices, to convalescent hospitals, who did not want to lose people who were easy, to social services. She even went to the convalescent hospitals and walked through and looked at people, kind of spying really. Then we put ads in papers, and word of mouth. We know we are not getting across really to a big cross section. How do you guys do it over there

JE: A variety of ways .... (tells them about democracy at Le Court)

These people hire their own manager here. It is their money, originally the board said no, they have to learn how to do it, but after a while we realised these guys have to live with it. So now the house pretty much does it all. I come down and oversee it and tell the board what happened, just so they know what goes on, we are not here to make decisions or anything. When I first came, the attitude of the board was, well here is a group of people we really want to help, and now it is more, they can pretty much help themselves, we are just here because legally we have to be, and if they need something feel free to ask. They have shown that no catastrophe is going to happen if the board does not stay close, I think in the long run that is the way it is going to be.

JE: Where do most of the people come from, anywhere or local

Local are the first choice, because we bill ourselves as local, but we have had people call from like San Jose, but not too far away, we have had a couple of calls or a letter from say, LA or something

TAPE OVER

(Tape side A (Lori Guiliani) ... inaudible until after half way)

JE: Ed Roberts made it to a meeting on the Saturday

He has got good support too, his wife

JE: Oh yes, he has got a very good scene, but he needs it, he is so severely disabled

(Another voice):- He has done a real good job down here, some of the money that has come down here is earmarked specifically for CILs, things that probably would not have happened had he not been disabled

JE: He has taken a lot of criticism for it too

(Continues inaudible,.....)

END