

Preparing for a discussion of the IDT's recommendation for most integrated setting and benefits of community living

The *Messier Settlement Agreement* requires the professional interdisciplinary team (IDT) to make an assessment and recommendation as to the most integrated setting appropriate to meet the individual's needs. At the annual Individual Plan (IP) meeting the team members will be sharing their recommendation with the individual and the guardian. This document is a tool to guide your discussion and planning. We will be talking about how supports and services could meet the individual's needs and how he/she could personally benefit from living in a community setting. The lists below generally describe many of the benefits and opportunities of community living. Please consider how these or other benefits you may identify for the individual should be considered. We look forward to discussing the team's recommendation and the unique benefits for the individual during the upcoming planning meeting.

❖ People who live in inclusive community settings benefit from:

- Smaller homes with fewer housemates
- More privacy, including a private bedroom
- Less noise and intrusion
- Increased individualized choice on a day-to-day basis
- Fewer moves as homes are designed for age-in-place (where there is probability of more moves in the future of STS)
- Fuller participation in everyday life in his/her home, neighborhood, and community

❖ People who live in inclusive community settings may have greater opportunities:

- To go shopping for preferred foods, and assist in preparing meals
- In deciding what to do during the day, where to work or volunteer
- For participation in community activities and events with smaller groups or one-on-one with staff support
- To make new friends and maintain current friendships, increase social networks
- For exploring and developing hobbies and personal interests
- To learn new skills and increase independence in everyday life