

## Room 2 Chat

### Session 3

Grace Kim, Deseree Kameka Galloway, Alicia DeLashmutt, Deb Finck, Marta Carlucci  
Redefining our Comfort Zone: How to embrace people of ALL abilities in an intentionally diverse and inclusive community

- Although I'm furloughed now here in Merced, CA, I've been teaching digital art one day a week to adults with developmental disabilities in a full time, arts-based day program since 2015. My wife and I are seekers, and this idea makes a whole lot of sense, a broader definition of diversity, that will help us ID a community in the next couple of years. Thank you.
- Deseree Kameka : Results from market analysis in Colorado community that shows over 50% would prefer a cohousing community:  
<http://www.autismhousingnetwork.org/data-driven-housing-development-for-people-with-autism-and-other-intellectual-developmental-disabilities/>
- Brian-Help Autism Center CO : We have been working on a project to open a ranch for autism & other specials needs in Colorado. Which would include housing. Looking at multiple ideas about housing. Co-housing could be that option, but not just for special needs families.
- grace: Brian - I've heard about similar ranch/animal related communities that offer housing, jobs/roles and autonomy.
- grace: and cohousing could very much be a model for the housing.
- Brian-Help Autism Center CO : Have been working on this since 2006
- I think of Camphill Village in Copake NY which is a thriving community of adults with disabilities. Have they been of help as a model for anyone forming such a community? It's an amazing place with large gardens, long established.
- Brian-Help Autism Center CO : There are several places around the country. I have a list of them.
- Deseree Kameka : Camphill is a model of "shared living", BUT it is also what is considered "provider-controlled". So people who live there can not choose a different service provider and would have to move if they no longer liked how they were being supported. In a cohousing community, people with disabilities can choose their preferred provider and change that provider at any time.
- Deseree Kameka : Here is the AHN Housing Directory:  
<http://www.autismhousingnetwork.org/housing/>
- Brian-Help Autism Center CO : Correct Deseree. Our idea have families with their preferred provider. Have community building with different rooms for therapy.
- I just spent hours and hours and days and days calling vendors and renegotiating an elevator contract, troubleshooting the Internet, helping people with their computers — and I don't even live there right now.
- It is also ok as you develop relationships to tell them feedback like anybody else. I've gotten feedback and it is just as hard as anybody else, but still valuable.
- Note assuming confidence also applies to elders accompanied by another relative, care giver. My mom often got upset when the doctor talked to me.

- having recently worked on these issues, there are legal documents and systems that may help. In terms of this, supported decision-making may help.
- <https://www.aclu.org/other/supported-decision-making-resource-library>
- Desiree Kameka : Recruit here by listing on AHN :  
<http://www.autismhousingnetwork.org/housing/>
- Desiree Kameka : There is even a "cohousing" filter :)
- Desiree Kameka : Research project:  
<http://www.autismhousingnetwork.org/exciting-research-emerging-to-fuel-housing-community-development-for-neurodiverse-populations/>