

Barrier free housing that promotes barrier free living
Barrier free living starts at HOME-what happens when “housing displacement” happens?
Bringing enlightenment and enrichment through education and awareness
Osa Jackson Schulte PhD, PT, GCFP/AT
Dedicated to Ronald Daniels who inspires me to be my best.

How important is the comfort of your home? What if you were temporarily/permanently disabled (ie. mobility, vision or hearing impaired) ? Would you be faced with “Housing Displacement”? Without adequate accessible, affordable housing to live in then there is a disconnect or separation from your family, friends and community. The crisis escalates if the family and friends may not have a place for them to stay. The patient being discharged is going through thousands of choices that are not easy or comfortable to make and they may each be life altering. The factors above combine to result in health declines which can lead to premature death.

The current existing requirements by American Disability Act (ADA) for freestanding home construction is not keeping up with the demand for affordable, accessible barrier free housing. ADA requirements for apartment construction is only 10% for new building in order to be ADA compliant. In Michigan, a local insurance company found there were no barrier free apartments available for an individual when she ready to leave the rehabilitation center. NONE. She could not go back to her previous dwelling with her spouse since the bathroom was inadequate for her needs.

In the last decade, the US census shows an increase from 1 in 9 disabled persons to now there is 1 in 5. What is the context and the societal and personal perspectives to allow for this crisis to remain hidden from public view until it happens to some one you know?

There is a need for clearing out of the past perceptions, belief and attitudes and building new dialogues for creating new contexts and vocabulary that supports the inquiry into new and workable solutions to housing displacement after traumatic injuries or illnesses. There are many worlds to consider and communicate with and for:

- Health insurance and the government and medical groups have a language model and beliefs grounded in reimbursement formulas as the centerpiece for their relationship with their patients. There is a need for a new language for the process and the emotional experience of rehabilitation after trauma/illness that will incorporate compassion for the patients, families, friends, the community, neighbors, care givers and the entire medical team.
- The barriers to accessible, affordable housing are just as impactful and traumatic as the management of the actual traumatic illness or injury. The wheelchair is not the problem and it is the solution for transportation for someone who is mobility impaired.
- The trauma of separation from your home, your family and friends is also additional stress.
- The trauma from the loss of the usual routine and support from work, volunteering, caregiving etc. is additional stress.
- There are many other traumas associated with drastic health changes such as mobility, vision or hearing) including identity, career, income, long term goals, ability to learn certain things, belonging to certain groups, accessibility etc.

Where did all this evolve from? The conversations start with the person who is going through the traumatic experience and the focus is on functional BARRIERS.

One generation ago, in the 1950's and sixties, most public and private schools, churches, stores etc in America were not wheelchair accessible. The barrier was in large part shaped by the science of the day and the medical practices. People in a wheelchair were taught to expect that they would be pushed by someone else since it was too hard for them with their injuries

and the equipment of the time. Today, the hospitals and rehabilitation centers are barrier free and yet the communities around them are not necessarily barrier free.

When you hear the word disability- what do you think of?

How does legislation support the needs for an individual who is mobility, vision and hearing impaired?

What if this person wants to work after their disability? What are the tax consequences for them depending on the government assistance they are on? Is there support for transportation and what does that look like?

Housing displacement for the disabled and the associated trauma (Outline below are the key points. The story board details for the video visual details to highlight these key point and stories of real life examples will be in BOLD)

Bold-Interview wheelchair user-When I roll in my WHEELCHAIR, staircases exist at the entrance AND EXITS OF THE MAJORITY OF HOUSES- pictures showing 20 different staircases). STAIRCASES have existed back into the history of early civilization, from ziggurats to present day. Staircases were designed to make buildings look bigger and more impressive. OOPs -there is no functional relationship between a wheelchair user and a staircase in a safe manner. STAIRGLIDES are used when temporary or permanent illness occurs, if you can afford one. The bigger issue is that stairs and or door jams also interfere with people entering and leaving/entering a home who are pushing a BABY...stroller,, baby buggy, on crutches, cane or an electric WHEELCHAIR. WE can create a NEW AND FUNCTIONAL culture of the world. To allow people to get in and out of building, a home or apartment and get wide enough doorways so a wheelchair can ROLL into the bathroom or shower. VIDEO OF ANN ROLLING IN AND OUT SHOWER/DOWN RAMP IN GARAGE TO VANThere is a need to make the needs of people be more important than staircases and start to move the conversation to explore new ways for beauty, grace and ease of mobility for all people. If not-there is a silent group who cannot attend the party (minimized/disturbed sense of belonging-PARTY SCENE AND SOMEONE LOOKING IN THE WINDOW AND FRONT STAIRCASE IN FRONT OF THEM.

Ron: vision(INTERVIEW YOU-SPEAKING WITH PASSION ON THESE 3 BIG POINT AND GIVE EXAMPLES

“”Commitment is to build the “BARRIER FREE HOUSING until the NEED is satisfied worldwide.”

To UPDATE LANGUAGE associated with the conversations about ADA, and other regulations Impacting the whole disabled community:

1 Regulations inclusive, functional, affordable thereby creating accommodations that are fitting for these time.

2 Establish a precedent for the standards for construction of homes and apartments: there is no basic standard for what a fully accessible home is at this time.

3 Empower self awareness, life long learning and personal growth - through education and enrichment.

Osa: vision- INTERVIEW ME

1. Commonalities in the reality of the impact of trauma and disability as it impacts everyone. -PERSON FROM AUSTRALIA RECENTLY STATED THAT THE YEAR SHE WAS IN A WHEELCHAIR AFTER HER CAR ACCIDENT WAS THE HARDEST YEAR OF HER LIFE- MOBILITY WAS “SOOOO” HARD-SHE IS SO GRATEFUL TO BE BACK TO LIVING, SHE STATED. The statistics reveal that 20 years ago there was 1 person out of nine in the Usa who were disabled and now the numbers have grown to 1 out of 5 people who are disabled in the USA. WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW WHO CANNOT LIVE WITH A FAMILY MEMBER OR A FRIEND AND MUST THEN GO TO A INSTITUTIONAL FACILITY, HOMELESS SHELTER OR NURSING HOME?? What about a barrier free housing community being an option? NEW

2. To address the barriers of being disabled and experiencing housing displacement faced by the individuals who are motivated to be self sufficient and are on a quest for independence and self sufficiency.
3. Questions or comments are welcome. Accessible, affordable barrier free housing for barrier free living. Barrier free living is a way of life that starts at home.
Contact Osaschulte7@gmail.com