History and Mission

Our mission is to provide progressive, high quality, consumer directed, community based services, in an innovative, cooperative, and flexible environment that empowers the individual to successfully live in their chosen community.

Since 1986 Aurora Residential Alternatives (ARA), a division of Aurora Community Services, has provided compassionate and professional residential alternatives for individuals with developmental disabilities, chronic mental illness, and traumatic brain injuries. ARA provides homes for more than 350 individuals through 90 residential homes statewide and emphasizes that programs should serve people and be customized for each individual.

“My son began suffering from mental illness when he was 14 years old...he was in and out of treatment centers...but it wasn’t until he became a resident of an Aurora group home that I got to see my son enjoy his life for the first time since the onset of his mental illness. The entire team who worked with (my son) showed a genuine interest in him both personally and professionally...I will be forever grateful that Aurora Services came into our lives with a willingness to make the difference that nobody else took the time or made the effort to do.”

- Parent of home resident
What Makes our Houses Unique

Individual Approach
Services provided are based on each individual's needs and desired outcomes. Whether they need two weeks to adjust to a medication change, daily living skill development, symptom monitoring, or transitional housing after a hospital stay, our homes can accommodate them.

Our Staff
Many of our staff have served in the mental health community for years and so have a wide range of experience and expertise. All staff are thoroughly trained and have a passion for serving individuals in their chosen community.

Our Commitment
Aurora is committed to providing individuals with community-based services which keep them active and engaged in their community and provide an alternative to facility-based long-term care.

Services
- Goal-oriented skills coaching
- Daily living skill assistance and education
- Staff on site 24/7
- Room and board in a safe and healthy environment
- Service coordination with other agencies
- Crisis intervention
- Assistance in accessing community resources
- Medication assistance and education
- Conflict resolution and stress management coaching

We encourage all consumers to utilize community resources and to be actively engaged in their chosen communities.

Admission Criteria
Prospective ARA consumers must be 18 years old and have a primary diagnosis of a mental illness. Residents must agree to adhere to an individual service plan and the expectations of the program. Aurora reserves the right to assess all individuals referred clients for appropriateness for the program.

Specialty Programs

Atlas House: This home is a licensed residential facility located in New Richmond, WI. It serves the short-term needs of individuals from St. Croix County who are experiencing an interruption in their daily living due to mental illness. The goal of this home is to help individuals achieve stabilization so they can return to more independent living.

Comstock House: This home is located in a rural setting in the town of Comstock in Barron County, WI. It is an eight-bed home which is staffed 24 hours a day. Individuals who utilize this home are encouraged to establish strength-based goals which help them develop greater independence. Additional residential opportunities may be available in other communities.