Options Counseling Exercise

Family Profile: Mental Health

June Hansford is 76 years old. She has lived for the past 10 years with her 40 year old daughter Maria, who has Down 's Syndrome and her 50 year old son Malcolm who has been diagnosed with Paranoid Schizophrenia. She has one other son Marty, who is married and has teenage children but lives out of state.

June's husband Frank died about 10 years ago. They had made a decent living as Frank worked as a manager at Georgia Pacific and June worked part time at the library since the children were out of high school. They owned their home and June currently has manageable expenses. She does not have lots of assets as she has spent most of her assets supporting her two children who have struggled as adults. Malcolm has not had success working very long at jobs. Maria has a case manager through the County and attends day services 5 days a week at a local shelter work agency.

June has a 4-bedroom home in a good neighborhood. She is very proud of her home and spend lots of time keeping it in good repair. Recently, Malcolm's positive symptoms have been escalating. Malcolm does not want treatment for his mental illness and feels he just needs some time to rest-the voices won't let him however. Malcolm has retreated to his room and will not come out except to eat. He is not bathing, will not talk to June, she hears loud, strange music coming from his room, and can hear him shouting at someone long hours during the day. June has become afraid of Malcolm's accusations and doesn't like to be home alone with him. She is afraid he will become violent at some point. Marty no longer brings the grandchildren over to see June and Maria as he fears that Malcolm may become aggressive towards them.

June has limited knowledge about schizophrenia and isn't sure what all of this means. She doesn't understand the service system or what might help Malcolm succeed. June remembers the one time he was hospitalized in college they "sent him back to the street" because he refused treatment and didn't meet the emergency detention criteria-whatever that is. Malcolm has no medical insurance, and no income and June fears he will accumulate great debt with any treatment so she isn't pushing things.

June has had health problems recently and has asked Marty if she and Maria can come and stay with him for awhile until they sort things out. June

feels she will need to sell the home to pay for her own long term care but doesn't know what she will do with Maria and Malcolm. She is becoming frail but has not thought about her own future. She feels she can't leave Malcolm alone in the house for much longer. She doesn't know what to do. Marty calls the ARDC for help.

Issues:

- Care and treatment for Malcolm's mental health condition and his future and treatment options.
- Income and health insurance for Malcolm
- Housing Options for Malcolm
- Housing Options for June and Maria
- Caregiver support for Marty and June