

PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER  
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137



HAPPY

THANKSGIVING

PHONE 314-264-9100 BHC Switchboard

PHONE 314-340-6002 Thrift Shop

WEBSITE [www.parentsassociationbhc.com](http://www.parentsassociationbhc.com)

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**  
**FOR 2020 PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 2:00 p.m.**  
**Administration Bldg. Room #10**

All Parent Association members, friends and staff are invited. Keep up with the latest news about Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. Bring your talents and expertise for our advocacy efforts. With everyone's involvement, the lives of the residents at BHC will be the best possible. All are encouraged to stay informed and take some action. Attend a parents meeting, talk with other families, share your concerns and ideas, write a letter, or make a phone call to help provide a safe, healthy, and supportive environment for the residents of BHC and others. They have no voice but ours, so we must continually speak up for them. Refreshments served.

**UPCOMING PARENT MEETING: NOVEMBER 10, 2019**

**2:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATION BLDG. ROOM #10**

**2020 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

FEBRUARY 9    MAY 17    AUGUST 9    NOVEMBER 8

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The switchboard phone number for Bellefontaine Habilitation Center is 314-264-9100 or 314-264-9101.

Our Parent Newsletter is online at [www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com](http://www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com). Pass it along to friends, family, and political leaders.

All staff have been trained in the Safety-Care Behavioral Safety Training program which provides the skills to respectfully, effectively, and safely address resident behavioral challenges.

Designs for the work on the roads have been received with possible plans to widen driveways in the 1600's and improve the walk way in the circle of the homes. Work is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2020.

Education of all legislators is an ongoing necessity as part of our advocacy for intellectually disabled residents living in habilitation centers. Get to know your legislators. Invite them to visit a habilitation center. To find your legislators, call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000 or go to [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov).

Attend the upcoming Parent Assn. meeting to help keep habilitation centers good homes for our family members. Your participation is important.

Keep informed. Take action.      Mary A. Vitale, President, Bellefontaine Parents Association

**TRIBUTE FUND**

Celebrate a birthday or anniversary, offer get well wishes or congratulations, remember a loved one by sending in a tribute - support the residents at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. A few examples of the use of funds are: annual picnic, Christmas gifts and decorations, birthday cakes and presents, holiday decorations, treats and dances, household items, and special programs. The tribute form is on the last page of the newsletter.

**DONOR**

Joan Murphy

**RECIPIENT**

**OCCASION**

in memory of Page



**FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD**

\$ 1205.00 Halloween decorations for each home  
treats for each resident  
pumpkins



THANKS TO THE BIG HEARTS AND HARD WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS  
AT THE HIDDEN TREASURE THRIFT SHOP, AND THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATE FUNDS.  
ALL PROCEEDS GOES TO BENEFIT BHC RESIDENTS.

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**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON 2019 -FIESTA**

“Fiesta Time” was enjoyed by all at the Employee Recognition Luncheon held at the Catering to You Banquet Center on July 25, 2019. This annual luncheon is sponsored by the BHC Parents Association in appreciation of the daily work of the BHC staff.

Thanks to the Employee Relations/Recognition Committee for a fun afternoon filled with entertainment, prizes, and staff appreciation.

The Honor Roll of Years of Service below shows the number of years BHC staff members have given care to the residents of Bellefontaine Habilitation Center.

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 39 years - 1 staff           | 30 - 35 years - 12 staff |
| 24 - 29 years - 41 staff     | 18 - 23 years - 66 staff |
| 12 - 17 years - 91 staff     | 5 -11 years - 85 staff   |
| 1- 4 years - remaining staff |                          |



Thanks to the BHC staff whose daily work gives  
BHC residents a high level of care in a  
safe, healthy, supportive, homelike environment.

**2019 marks 95 years of BHC staff providing services!!**

**RESIDENTS WERE BUSY IN JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Community Events:** Cardinals Game, Great Clips, ARC Dance, Home visit, Nursing Home, AMC St. Charles, Creve Coeur Movie Theater, Weber Chevrolet, Museum of Transport, USOS Barber, Jack of All Fades, West Olive AMC Theater, Zoo, Real Voices Real Choices, Ozarks, Kiener Plaza, Faust Park, Mall walking West Co. Mall, Forest Park, St. Louis Justice Center, Library, Grant's Farm,

**Shopping:** Gas Station, Walmart, Family Dollar, GameStop, Beauty Supply, Hooter's, V-Stock, Dollar General, Five Below, 367 Flea Market, Dollar Tree, Save A Lot, Best Buy, Quik Trip, White Castles, Aldi's, Dollar Tree, Marshall's, Red Wing Store, Goodwill, Dierberg's, Target, West County Mall, Central West End, St. Peter Mall, Shoe Carnival, Biglots, Den-X, Chesterfield Outlet Mall

**Out to Eat:** Culver's, Hooter's, STL Fish & Chicken, Penn Station, Rice House, Subway, KFC, Lee's Chicken, Applebee's, Baskin-Robbins, Dairy Queen, Fazoli's, Pasta House, 54th Street Grill, Golden Corral, Taco Bell, Waffle House, Firehouse Subs, Cold Stone Creamery, Hibachi Grill, Long John Silver's, Imo's, Blueberry Hill, Church's, White Castles, Chinese Food Place, Olive Garden, Q'doba, Cecil Whittaker's Pizza, Bandana's, McDonald's, Burger King, A&W Restaurant, Cracker Barrel, Courtesy Diner, Chick Fil A

**On campus:** Movie nights, Bingos, dances, open gym, Jurassic Park daytime movie on picnic week, Music Man visits, open gym nights, swimming pool, church services

**DINOSAURS ROAM BHC PICNIC**

On September 12, friendly dinosaurs roamed around on the BHC campus, took part in the parade, and rumbled their way to the colorful, creatively decorated Jurassic Park in the multipurpose building.



In this wild Jurassic Park, residents took part in a variety of fun activities and treats.

Clowns, music, games, caricature artist, mime, face painting, horse and carriage rides, treats of fruit, Hawaiian Ice, funnel cakes, cotton candy and soft-serve ice cream made for a day full of fun.

**Thanks goes to:**

- |                          |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| BHC ERRC Committee       | BHC Parent's Association | BHC Picnic Committee |
| BHC Staff                | Bubble Bus               | Balloon Clown        |
| Caricature Artist        | City Mime                | D&T Funnel Cakes     |
| Dandy Soft Serve         | Diana Jones              | Face Painters        |
| Fresh Thyme              | Hampel Clowns            | Parade Participants  |
| Dr. Pepper Snapple Group | Schnucks                 | Sports Energizers    |
| St. Louis Carriage       | Jurassic Park characters | Terry Hobbs          |

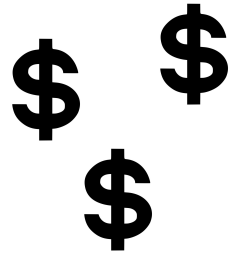
Parade Participants: Jurassic Park characters, Bellefontaine Police Dept., Riverview Fire and Police Depts., Unit 3, Apt B, Home 1608, Joe Lewis, Donnell Lockridge, Becky Post, Tiffany Wright-Robinson, Psychology, Staff Development, Quality Assurance, North County Industries, Dietary, St. Louis Carriage, Hampel Clowns, Bubble Bus, BHC Parent Association

MUCH APPRECIATION GOES TO:

- BHC PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
 THE PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE  
 ALL BHC STAFF MEMBERS  
 SPONSORS  
 PARADE PARTICIPANTS

The wide smiles on the faces of the residents told that the picnic was a success.

**2019 FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI**



<b>HABILITATION CENTER</b>	<b>FY 2019 ICF/IID COLLECTIONS</b>
Bellefontaine	\$17,126,916.00
Higginsville	9,987,891.00
SEMORS	8,283,727.00
St. Louis DDTC (St. Charles, S. County)	16,914,232.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 52,312.766.00</b>

Habilitation centers continue to earn millions of dollars in federal Medicaid reimbursement funds for the state of Missouri at the rate of approximately \$65.00 for each \$100.00 of expenditure for habilitation center services!!!

Providing these comprehensive services in habilitation centers is successful and very cost-effective.

Receiving comparable services “in the community” would not save money.

Habilitation centers are good homes for residents. They are successful, stable, and sustainable, giving comprehensive, consistent, and cost-effective care to the residents.

**Families are calling BHC looking for services, but are denied the choice of a habilitation center which is their federal legal and civil right.** Do you know of a family that might need the services of a habilitation center? Call the Parents Association at 314-340-6002.

**2019 FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS FOR STATE OPERATED HOMES IN THE COMMUNITY**

Northwest Community Services	\$13,037,694.00
Southwest Community Services	5,673,245.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,710,939.00</b>

Because these homes are state operated, the state of Missouri also receives federal reimbursements for them.

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**GRANT AWARDED TO MISSOURI TO PROMOTE SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING**

The federal Administration for Community Living has awarded grants to Missouri, Indiana, and Kansas to encourage the use of supported decision-making (SDM) instead of court-appointed guardianship.

The Missouri Supported Decision Making Consortium will be led by the University of Missouri on behalf of UMKC (UCEDD). The partners will include Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, Missouri Protection and Advocacy, older adults, people with I/DD, families, judges, legislators, and professionals.

A reminder of what Supported Decision-Making is:

Supported Decision Making promotes the idea that, with almost no exceptions, all people with intellectual disabilities can make their own decisions with support from an informal network of advisors. The advisors do not need to be court-appointed and do not bear any responsibility for ensuring the success of outcomes.

While some individuals may be able to use SDM, it is not a “one size fits all” alternative to court appointed guardianship.

Be aware of what SDM promotes and the possible consequences of SDM for persons with severe intellectual disabilities.

**STAY UPDATED ABOUT MO HEALTH NET AND MANAGED CARE**

Missouri's Medicaid program is called MO HealthNet. Many of those enrolled in Missouri Medicaid are covered in Managed Care Programs. The contracts with the health care companies can limit what they are required to pay.

Currently, Missourians who are aged, blind or disabled, including those Missourians with developmental and intellectual disabilities served through the Missouri Department of Mental Health, receive services through the traditional MO HealthNet program, NOT in Managed Care.

Other states have changed to Managed Care of all of their Medicaid recipients with varying degrees of success or failure.

A transcript from the Department of Developmental Disabilities about Managed Care can be found at: <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/docs/directorsdesktranscriptjanuary2019.pdf>

**PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMENTS:**

Including people with disabilities in a Medicaid Managed Care Program is another Medicaid issue to watch. Concerns are that payment for current services could be lessened or eliminated in a Managed Care Program.

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**MEDICAID MANAGED CARE WARNINGS**

**Are Managed Care Providers Wrongly Denying Services To People With Disabilities?**

by Shaun Heasley | May 6, 2019

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2019/05/06/are-managed-care-denying-services/26561/>

As more states turn to managed care to administer Medicaid, federal investigators are set to examine whether these companies are offering people with disabilities the care they're entitled.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General said it will investigate whether managed care organizations are wrongly denying services.

Many states have turned to private insurers to handle their Medicaid services, including those for people with developmental disabilities. Under the arrangements, states pay insurers a set amount of money to administer benefits.

"The contractual arrangement shifts financial risk for the costs of Medicaid services from the state Medicaid agency and the federal government to the MCO, which can create an incentive to deny beneficiaries' access to covered services. Our review will determine whether Medicaid MCOs complied with federal requirements when denying access to requested medical and dental services and drug prescriptions that required prior authorization," the HHS inspector general said in announcing the plan to investigate.

The move comes at the request of Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa. In a [letter](#) to HHS Inspector General Daniel R. Levinson last month, Casey cited reports from the Dallas Morning News and the Des Moines Register suggesting that some managed care companies have wrongly denied needed care.

"It is the duty of MCOs, as a steward of taxpayer dollars, to spend Medicaid funds responsibly in pursuit of the health of our families," Casey wrote. "What the Dallas Morning News and Des Moines Register uncovered, however, were actions taken by MCOs focused squarely on delivering profits to wealthy shareholders at the expense of those most in need of medical care."

Specifically, Casey wants the inspector general to address whether people with disabilities and other groups that weren't traditionally covered by managed care are being adequately served by these companies. And, the senator said the investigation should examine if people with disabilities are being denied access to care at higher rates than other Medicaid beneficiaries.

What's more, Casey asked the inspector general to look into whether the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is adequately providing oversight to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries are getting the services they need.

The HHS Office of Inspector General said a report detailing its findings is expected sometime next year.

**MORE MEDICAID MANAGED CARE WARNINGS**

Below are excerpts from a presentation at the 2019 VOR Annual Conference. The topic was Medicaid Managed Care, especially through For Profit entities.

The speaker was James Edmondson, M.D., PhD, a neurologist and the father of two children with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Edmondson has experienced the Long Term Services and Supports system from two very different perspectives.

He has recently worked in the Medicaid Managed Care sector, and shared his insights from this experience.

In the presentation, Dr. Edmondson warned attendees specifically about the dangers of states moving Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) (including residents of habilitation centers) to Managed Care.

To watch the presentation, go to [www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net).

Excerpts:

- Medicaid Managed Care is part of a widespread trend in state governments of moving responsibility for social and health services into the private sector.
- State budget directors want Medicaid Managed Care for one reason: to cap Medicaid cost.
- There are numerous examples of chaos and provide bankruptcies caused by switching from fee-for-service to managed care.
- If Medicaid Managed Care plans cannot earn a profit, they will simply leave the state.
- States should intensify their surveillance of Medicaid Managed Care utilization management and fraudulent service denials.
- Medicaid Managed Care processes are optimized for authorizing medical services and paying medical claims. (not the person centered, active treatment plans required for persons living in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities ICFs/IID called habilitation centers in Missouri)
- “ICF/IID provides active treatment, a continuous, aggressive, and consistent implementation of a program of specialized and generic training, treatment, and health or related services, directed toward helping the enrollee function with as much self-determination and independence as possible.”
- “Active treatment is based on an evaluation and individualized program plan by an interdisciplinary team.”
- The I/DD community has been doing person-centered planning for 50 years. The last thing states should do is to replace decades of compassionate I/DD person-centered planning expertise with corporate health insurance robots and algorithms.
- Don’t give control over I/DD funding to huge, for-profit, private corporations which have no expertise in person-centered planning and no historical connection to I/DD.

**PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMENTS:**

Managed Care for Missouri’s Medicaid Program, MO HealthNet, should not include the severely intellectually disabled residents of Missouri habilitation centers.

**VOR UPDATES ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

[www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)

**THE DISABILITY INTEGRATION ACT (DIA) SENATE BILL 117, HOUSE BILL 555**

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/117>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/555>

Senator Chuck Schumer introduced The Disability Integration Act (DIA), Senate Bill 117.

The House sponsor is Representative F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., HR 555.

While the intention of the bill is to provide services for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious flaws in the bill would put persons who are the most disabled in harm's way.

- The bill would eliminate existing services provided in facilities like habilitation centers.
- These individuals would be forced out of their homes into more scattered settings throughout the community.

**CONTINUE TO TAKE ACTION**

Contact your federal legislators to reject this bill, and find responsible ways to improve services for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including those who need the high level of care available in facilities like Missouri habilitation center homes.

For a sample letter go to [www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)

To find your legislators, call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000, or go to: [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov) Look for your federal U.S. senators and representatives.



**PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMENT**

**With several years of government reports about lack of quality of care in many waiver community homes, why have a bill to move everyone into these ill prepared homes?**

In 2003, the Government Accountability Office report "Long Term Care: Federal Oversight of Growing Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waivers Should Be Strengthened", found that more than 70 percent of the programs it reviewed had problems with quality of care. <https://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03576.pdf>

In 2012, a report entitled "General Oversight of Quality of Care in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Programs", from the Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General states that adequate systems to ensure quality of care are lacking in many states. <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-08-00170.pdf>

In 2018, a joint report, "Ensuring Beneficiary Health and Safety in Group Homes Through State Implementation of Comprehensive Compliance Oversight", issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG); Administration for Community Living (ACL); and Office for Civil Rights (OCR) states "OIG found that health and safety policies and procedures were not being followed. These are not isolated incidents but a systemic problem – 49 States had media reports of health and safety problems in group homes."

<https://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/featured-topics/group-homes/group-homes-joint-report.pdf>

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**JOIN VOR – our national voice to maintain a choice from a full continuum of care for persons with intellectual disabilities. \$45 per year per individual; \$200 per year per family organization; or \$250 per year per provider/professional organization**  
**Send completed form with payment to: (checks made out to "VOR")**

VOR

836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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TRIBUTE FUND FORM (please print)

ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

ON THE OCCASION OF \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND TO (name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

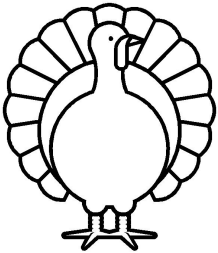
FROM (name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO "BHC Parents Association"

MAIL TO: PARENTS ASSOCIATION 10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD ST LOUIS MO 63137

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
THE HIDDEN TREASURE SHOP  
BEST THRIFT SHOP PRICES!!**



**BLDG #1901** FIRST BUILDING ON THE LEFT AS YOU ENTER BHC CAMPUS.

**WEDNESDAYS, 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M. AT BHC**

Please leave donated items at the Parents Association shed near the Thrift Shop.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER  
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD  
ST. LOUIS MO 63137

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS  
CORRECTION REQUESTED