

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

PHONE 314-264-9100 BHC Switchboard
PHONE 314-340-6002 Thrift Shop
WEBSITE www.parentsassociationbhc.com



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020 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: FEBRUARY 9, 2020

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

In case of bad weather, call the switchboard to see if the Parents Assn. meeting has been canceled.

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. Pass it along to friends, family, and political leaders.

Road work is planned to begin this Spring.

Thanks to all BHC staff who travel to work or stay over during winter weather conditions. Your daily work is always appreciated.

There is a shortage nationwide of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). If you know of someone who has the qualities to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities, encourage them to consider becoming a DSP.

The 2020 Missouri Legislative Session began on January 8 and ends on May 15, 2020.

The 2020 VOR Annual Conference and Congressional Visits will be from June 6– June 10. Think about attending – some or all of the day – you can be a voice for intellectually disabled persons, especially residents of BHC. For more information go to www.vor.net

Remember, according to current federal law, families have the legal right to choose from all available Medicaid services including habilitation centers as they search for appropriate services for their family member with an intellectual disability.

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

**2020 BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER
PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS**

10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD ST. LOUIS, MO 63137

314-340-6002 Thrift Shop

314-264-9100 or 9101 BHC Switchboard

www.parentsassociationbhc.com

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Members of the Parents Association of the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center enhance the lives of the residents. Examples of resident support by the Parents Association include:

- BIRTHDAY CAKES AND GIFTS
- CHRISTMAS GIFTS
- HOLIDAY PARTIES
- HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
- HOME FURNISHINGS
- SPECIAL PROGRAM FUNDS
- PICNIC FUNDS
- DANCE BANDS
- CAMP FUNDS
- STAFF APPRECIATION

A Parent Association Newsletter is published 4 times a year, and can be accessed on our website, www.parentsassociationbhc.com. Do you have a relative, friend, or community leader that would be interested in the Parent Association? 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$5.00 annually. Pass along the membership form in this newsletter issue.

For questions about the Parents Association, call 314-340-6002.

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The Parents Association extends a note of thanks for generous donations that bring much enjoyment to the residents at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center.

The Mulvaney family
Members of Overland Baptist Church
Members of Church Women United



TRIBUTE FUND

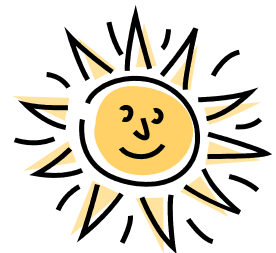
Celebrate a birthday or anniversary, offer get well wishes or congratulations, remember a loved one by sending in a tribute - support the residents at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. A few examples of the use of funds are: annual picnic, Christmas gifts and decorations, birthday cakes and presents,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

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>
Patsy Christen Fran Grebel M. Laks David & Pamela Meyer		in memory of Patrice Christen donation donation Merry Christmas



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

- \$5200.00 Christmas gifts, decorations, parties
- \$126500 Birthday gifts
- \$ 50.00 Home 1504, household goods
- \$ 50.00 Home 1606, household goods
- \$ 200.00 Home 1610, household goods



THANKS TO THE BIG HEARTS AND HARD WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS
AT THE HIDDEN TREASURE THRIFT SHOP.



ALL THE SHOP PROCEEDS GOES TO BENEFIT BHC RESIDENTS.

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PARENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YEAR 2020

Dues are \$5.00 a year. Make checks payable to “**BHC Parents Association**”.

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NEW MEMBER yes no _____

If you are a new member, please let us know for mailing the newsletter.

**Mail to: PARENTS ASSOCIATION 10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137**



BHC RESIDENTS ENJOY ACTIVITIES/FALL AND WINTER

BHC residents have been busy with programs and activities on and off campus.

These activities and programs give residents participation in the wider community, and in the community they have on the BHC campus with each other.



In the Community:

Shopping

V-Stock, Flea Market, Family Dollar, Walmart, GameStop, Dollar General, Dirt Cheap, Academy Sport, Marshall's, QT, Save A Lot, St. Louis Galleria, Party City, Target, Five Below, Big Lots, Dollar Tree, Best Buy, Bedroom Store, K&G, Mid Rivers Mall, West County Mall, Aldi's, Burlington, Sam's

Out to Eat

Rice House, Gas Station, Bandana's, Hooters, Burger King, Subway, STL Fish and Chicken, McDonald's, Pirrone's, Q'doba, Church Picnic, Old St. Louis Chop Suey, Fazoli's, Chinese Food Place, Cracker Barrel, Dairy Queen, Golden Corral, White Castles, Cane's Chicken, Taco Bell, KFC, Doozles, MOD Pizza, Wing Stop, Dave & Busters, China King, Applebee's, Panda Express, Hibachi Grill, Popeye's, Longhorn Steakhouse, Church's

Community Events

Chris Brown Concert, Great Clips, WWE Wrestling, Fox Theater, ARC Dance, Chaifetz Arena, Spanish Lake Park, Home visit, St. Charles Riverfront, USOC Barber, Jack of All Fades, Cash America, Sister's House, Special Olympics Bowling, Greater Grace Church, Family Justice Center, Roach Legacy Center, Lumiere Casino, Busch Christmas Lights, St. Louis Blues Hockey

On campus:

Movie nights, Bingos, Dances, Open Gym, "Grinch" daytime Movie, Music Man visits twice a week, open gym nights, snack classes, the swimming pool, Church services, Bob Kramer's Marionettes, Halloween Dance, Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Special Olympics Bowling, Gingerbread Decorating, Christmas Party, Christmas Dance

MISSOURI 2020 LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

January 8	First day of session
January 15	State of the State Address
March 23-27	Spring break
April 13	Easter break
May 15	Last day of session



Members of the Missouri General Assembly returned to the State Capitol for the start of the 2020 legislative session, which began at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The 2020 legislative session marks the Second Regular Session of the 100th General Assembly.

As of 1/10/20 there are a total of 1228 bills and resolutions filed this legislative session.

The House now has 114 Republicans and 48 Democrats with one seat vacant.

The Missouri Senate has 24 Republicans and 10 Democrats.

All 163 House seats and half of the 34 Senate seats are up for election in November this year, as well as the 5 state executive offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and Treasurer.

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.



EDITORIAL IN SUPPORT OF HABILITATION CENTERS

In response to an article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch about distraught families on a wait list for services from the Department of Mental Health, the following editorial from the BHC Parents Association was published on 12/3/19.

Letter: Disabled Missourians need more habilitation access

Regarding “In Missouri, people who can’t speak and see wait in line for help” (Nov. 24): This article highlights the great need for a full continuum of care for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is very disheartening to me to see families suffering because of lack of services. Some of these families could find extensive services at Missouri habilitation centers, which are intermediate-care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. These facilities must have very high standards of care and oversight in order to maintain Medicaid funding.

However, there currently is a no-new-admissions policy for all of these Missouri centers.

Families or hospitals asking about admissions are told habilitation centers are not a choice, which is in violation of federal law. Our neighboring states of Illinois and Arkansas have open admissions to their centers, and families are frequently choosing them to receive services.

Missouri habilitation centers are residential campuses for persons with severe intellectual disabilities who many times also have severe behavior challenges and high medical needs. A full array of services is available on campus including medical, speech and occupational therapy, behavior management, daily programming, work opportunities, and transportation. Residents enjoy many off-campus activities such as shopping, dining, and trips to libraries, parks and entertainment events. Staffers at habilitation centers are well trained, so that residents can live their lives to the fullest, despite their disabilities.

Families looking for comprehensive services should have the option of choosing a habilitation center **as required by federal law.**

Here are the links to the 12/3/19 editorial letter and the 11/24/19 article about families waiting for services.

Editorial 12/3/19

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-disabled-missourians-need-more-habilitation-access/article_d564723d-e686-5d33-b367-a7f1e6da4e75.html

Original article 11/24/19

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/in-missouri-people-who-can-t-speak-and-see-wait/article_66ece4e7-d87a-519e-b6a1-ea31ab7d09f0.html

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

The following comments were submitted to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights show the benefits of sheltered workshops for some.

December 15, 2019

To: The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Re: Subminimum Wages: Impacts on the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

I am the guardian for my 66 year old brother who is severely intellectually disabled, cannot walk or talk, and has behavior challenges. He is not able to work, but some of his peers are employed at a work center using wages below minimum wage allowed by Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act for people with disabilities.

Far from violating the civil rights of people with disabilities, these work centers recognize the abilities of participants and provide them with meaningful work, self-worth, friendships, and wages.

There are protections in the current law. : “All subminimum wages must be reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at periodic intervals. At a minimum, the productivity of hourly paid workers must be reevaluated every six months and a new prevailing wage survey must be conducted at least every twelve months.” Deciding to work in a work center under 14c wages is voluntary. There are current opportunities for those who are able to work in integrated competitive work settings, including supported employment if needed.

What truly would violate the civil rights of persons with disabilities would be to deny some of them the choice of where they want to work.

Mary A. Vitale, President, Bellefontaine Habilitation Center Parents Association

CAUTIONS FOR MANAGED CARE FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE INTELLECTUALL DISABILITIES

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.

There are discussions by the Department of Mental Health to begin to include persons with disabilities needing long term support services in a Managed Care system of Medicaid.

Below is a report from the Center for Consumer Engagement describing successes and failures for states that have moved to Managed Care for Long Term Support (MLTSS).

SUMMARY of REPORT

<https://www.healthinnovation.org/resources/publications/service-disrupted-managed-long-term-services-and-supports-falling-short-for-adults-with-idd>

Service Disrupted: Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Short for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities November 12, 2019

The rapid advance of managed care in Medicaid is newly enfolding many adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). These consumers need a well-coordinated and broad range of home and community based long-term services and supports. To assess how these consumers are faring in managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS), we examined programs in eight states – Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin. In these locales, the programs are all statewide but use a variety of models.

We found results ranging from somewhat beneficial to terrible. In no state have consumers resoundingly gained better access to the full range of high-quality, coordinated services they need.

The problems of MLTSS programs for people with IDD have caused states to rethink managed care as the model for IDD service system reform. This opens up space for advocates to introduce other ideas on how to improve and strengthen the IDD service delivery system.

Our report recommends the following promising practices, and offers action steps for state officials and consumer advocates:

- Resist any plan to move IDD LTSS services into managed care solely to save money, and proceed with extreme caution in other cases
- Authentically engage consumers in program planning, implementation and oversight
- Build a robust provider network, including experienced case managers and direct service workers
- Exercise strong oversight
- Establish strong quality measures
- Require consumer-centered policies in all aspects of MLTSS program design

FOR THE FULL REPORT:

https://www.communitycatalyst.org/resources/publications/Service-Disrupted_MLTSS-for-Adults-with-IDD.pdf

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VOR ADVOCACY NOTES

www.vor.net

The Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support, or Autism CARES Act has been signed into law. The act renews funding for another 5 years - \$369 million annually through 2024.

Ohio families get opportunity to make settlement language clear www.disabilityadvocacyalliance.org/

In December 2019 a federal judge in Columbus decided that both sides in a settlement agreement have 2 weeks to decide upon new wording that would make clear that the settlement language does not intend to force people to move from their homes at intermediate care facilities if their families don't want that option.

Pennsylvania families get temporary moratorium on White Have and Polk Centers closure

<https://theikiids.org/>

A bill placing a moratorium on closing the centers narrowly passed the House Health Committee 13-12. Families still have work to do, however, because if the bill passes the Republican-controlled Legislature, the governor, a Democrat, plans to veto it at this time.

U.S. Congressional Bills to Watch www.congress.gov

H.R. 555 & S. 117 - The Disability Integration Act - This bill's goal is to eliminate "institutional care".

H.R. 582 & S. 150 - The Raise the Wage Act - This bill is aimed at raising the minimum wage, but it also has provisions to eliminate 14 (c) wage certificates, which would cause sheltered workshops to close.

H.R. 873 & S. 260 - The Transformation to Competitive Employment Act - This bill would eliminate sheltered workshops and 14(c) wage certificates, under the mantle of everyone with a disability is capable of competitive integrated employment.

Stay informed. Take action. Make change happen.
Contact Information

BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER

Rebecca Post, Superintendent
Marcy Hargis, Assistant Superintendent
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137
314-264-9100 or 314-264-9101

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Mark Stringer, Director of Department of Mental Health
Valerie Huhn, Director-Division of Developmental Disabilities
April Maxwell, Director-State Operated Services

Department of Mental Health
1706 E. Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-4122
1-800-364-9687
www.dmh.mo.gov

GOVERNOR MIKE PARSON

P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 751-3222
www.mo.gov

MISSOURI STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Missouri Capitol Switchboard: 1-573-751-2000
www.mo.gov

U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

United States Capitol Switchboard: 1-202-224-3121
www.house.gov
www.senate.gov

U.S. PRESIDENT

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Switchboard: 1-202-256-1414
www.whitehouse.gov

AFSCME COUNCIL 61 (American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees)

3230 Emerald Lane Suite 400
Jefferson City, MO, 65109
(573) 635-9145
www.afscme.org

VOR (a national organization representing a full continuum of care for persons diagnosed with an intellectual disability, including ICFs/IID, habilitation centers in Missouri)
1-877-399-4867
www.vor.net

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

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

**THE HIDDEN TREASURE SHOP
NEW HOURS!! 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
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ST. LOUIS MO 63137

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