

**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 AUGUST 2022

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

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.

THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS ARE RESUMING!!!!

MEETING DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022

MEETING TIME: 2:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: IN THE GYM

Parent Association General Meetings will resume on Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Please call the switchboard before coming to make sure the COVID virus has not changed our meeting plans. 314-264-9101

Masks are required at the General Meeting. (If visiting your family member you will need to be tested.)

Federal Surveyors for Title 19 Medicaid funding were on campus June 27-30. These requirements give our family members a high level of services and oversight.

Continued appreciation goes to BHC staff for their committed care for our family members.

The national organization VOR held its annual Legislative Initiative in May and June by Zoom meetings and conference calls with U.S. Congressional offices. The annual Membership meeting was held on June 12 with excellent speakers and attendance by members of several states.

There continues to be a strong, persistent effort nationwide to close all congregate care facilities like habilitation centers, despite current federal regulations in support of choice based on need such as:

The 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision that interprets the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act states:

"It would be unreasonable, it would be a tragic event, then, were the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to be interpreted so that States had some incentive, for fear of litigation, to drive those in need of medical care and treatment out of appropriate care and into settings with too little assistance and supervision." *Olmstead*, at 610.

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 others.

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

RECIPIENT

OCCASION



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

\$ 8900.00 BHC picnic 2022



THE HIDDEN TREASURE THRIFT SHOP HAS BEEN CLOSED DURING THE PANDEMIC.

LESS FUNDS ARE COMING IN.

NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE BHC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

BHC RESIDENTS ENJOY ACTIVITIES/SPRING AND SUMMER

Thanks to staff for helping residents enjoy all of these Spring and Summer activities:

On Campus Activities:

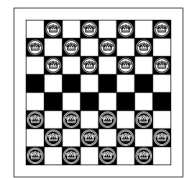
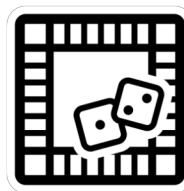
Fishing at the Conservation area, kite flying, evening gym activities of Bingo, movies, dances, and open gym time, resident 75th birthday celebration, visits with family members on and off campus

4th of July celebration - Each Resident received Baseball Cap or Bucket hats to Design along with 4th of July Activity Packages

Off Grounds Activities

Tower Grove Park, Spanish Lake Park, Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, China Buffet, Asian Restaurant



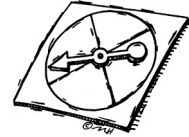


ANNUAL BHC PICNIC, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Good news!! The annual BHC picnic is once again being held in the gym, Thursday, September 15, 2022.

GAME TIME is this year's theme: The parade is at 9:30am. Activities in the gym are in two sessions:

The morning group is 10:00-11:30. (1502 1503 1504 1505 1601 1610)



The afternoon group is 1:30-3:00. (1603 1604 1606 1607 1608 1908 Apt B)

The picnic is limited to parents, guardians, residents and current staff members.

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BHC ANNUAL FEDERAL SURVEY

Federal surveyors for Title 19 of the federal Medicaid law were on the BHC campus from June 27 through June 30. These annual federal surveys of habilitation centers must meet 8 Conditions of Participation: (CoPs):

- 1. Management
- 2. Client Protections
- 3. Facility Staffing
- 4. Active Treatment
- 5. Client Behavior and Facility Practices
- 6. Health Care Services
- 7. Physical Environment
- 8. Dietetic Services



The eight CoPs comprise over 400 specific standards and elements. Serious deficiencies must be corrected within 90 days; other deficiencies must be corrected within a year. Failure to correct deficiencies results in loss of certification and loss of Medicaid funding.

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APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

There is a critical shortage of direct support professionals (DSPs), the caregivers who see to the daily needs of the disability and aging communities. Low wages, lack of benefits, insufficient training, and no career path affect the ability to hire and retain DSPs.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD), has developed *Missouri Talent Pathways*, an initiative to recruit and retain a highly skilled and dedicated workforce of direct support professionals. Benefits to participants include:

- Earning a Certified Direct Support Professional certificate which is nationally recognized credential from the U.S. Department of Labor
- Professional Development education credit with little or no debt
- Paid on the job training

- Career ladder

For more information from the Department of Mental Health go to <https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/service-providers/talent-pathways>

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AGING OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

An estimated 7.3 million people with an intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD) live in the United States, most of whom are cared for by family caregivers.

Today people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are living longer than ever before.

Their family caregivers are aging at the same time.

The aging of people with I/DD and their caregivers have serious implications for disability services.

What will happen to those with I/DD as their needs increase as they age, but their ageing caregivers are less and less able to provide the care needed and have increased needs of their own?

Community providers may not have the capability to give the expanded services needed for aged people with I/DD.

Nursing homes are not suitable for people with intellectual disabilities

In Missouri, habilitation centers would be an appropriate living environment choice for aging people with intellectual disabilities.

Habilitation centers excel in several critical areas:

1. availability of medical care, on and off campus
2. accessibility of on campus services such as speech, physical, and occupational therapy
3. variety of programs and work opportunities, on and off campus
4. recreational opportunities, on and off campus

Habilitation centers can help residents attain and maintain their highest level of abilities.

Habilitation centers have the highest level of oversight to prevent abuse and the most recourse to investigate allegations of abuse.

Habilitation centers are required by federal law to provide comprehensive mandatory services.

Habilitation centers are cost effective in caring for people with high levels of disabilities.

Habilitation centers are a real part of the surrounding community of neighborhoods, schools, churches, and businesses.

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

Families are calling habilitation centers looking for help in finding out- of- home services for their family members who are intellectually disabled but are denied the services of a habilitation center because of Missouri's closed admissions policy.

Opening up admissions to Missouri habilitation centers could help in providing for the increased needs of aging people with intellectual disabilities.



VOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND VIRTUAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS 2022

VOR is a national organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The 2022 VOR Annual Conference with Congressional visits was a virtual event this year.

The Annual Conference membership meeting was held on June 12. Guest speakers made informative presentations on a variety of important issues concerning services for people with intellectual disabilities.

Jill Escher, President of the National Council for Severe Autism, presented a comprehensive overview of the challenges and solutions that face families of individuals with severe autism.

Kit Brewer, Executive Director of Project CU and Member of the Board of Directors of the Coalition for the Preservation of Employment Choice discussed the value of programs that provide employment opportunities using 14(c) wage certificates and the importance of protecting vocational centers.

VOR member, Micki Edelson, told of her 50-year journey of building homes and advocating for people with intellectual disabilities and autism, in an interview with VOR's former Director of Government Affairs, Tamie Hopp. Micki is the founder of Homes for Life and author of "Mom with a Megaphone"

Videos of these presentations can be watched at:
<https://www.vor.net/news-and-events/item/vor-2022-annual-meeting>

Zoom meetings and conference calls to U.S. Senators and Representatives began in May and June.

Subjects of material presented to Congressional offices included:

Seeking Parity by Increasing Federal Funding for All Forms of Residential Treatment and Care
Increased funding is needed for the entire system of care for people with an intellectual or developmental disability and aging communities, regardless of settings.

Seeking Parity for Increasing Wages and Training for All Direct Support Professionals
There should be equal increases in wages and training for all Direct Support Professionals regardless of the type of facility in which they serve, and regardless of which Medicaid funding stream oversees their pay.

Support for All Employment Opportunities for Individuals with I/DD and Autism
Congress should expand, not decrease, employment opportunities for all people with intellectual disabilities, including vocational work centers (sheltered workshops).

To read the legislative materials go to:
https://www.vor.net/images/stories/2021-2022/VOR_Legislative_Initiative_2022_Materials_For_Congressional_Meetings.pdf

The Congressional offices expressed how important these meetings are, as they hear from many disability organizations that want to eliminate homes like habilitation centers.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECOME A VOR MEMBER

JOIN VOR \$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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip _____
Home Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Or go online: www.vor.net

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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

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

CLOSED AT THIS TIME!!!

PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
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FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED

