

**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 2024

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.

MEETING DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024

MEETING TIME: 2:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

2024 MEETING DATES

AUGUST 11 NOVEMBER 10

Repairs have been completed for parking lots, drive-ways, walk ways and road! These repairs beautify the grounds and make moving around the campus safer for residents, staff, and visitors.

The 100th anniversary of Bellefontaine Habilitation Center was celebrated on June 13.

Great appreciation to all past and present staff for the daily comprehensive care available to our family members at BHC.

Federal reviewers and surveyors for Title 19 Medicaid law requirements were on campus recently. Charts examined during the week of June 10 for the utilization review were approved. The annual on-site federal survey for Title 19 began on July 8. Medicaid funding depends on successful reviews and surveys.

The HIDDEN TREASURE THRIFT SHOP is open for business!!

What's at the Thrift Shop?

Clothing, jewelry, purses, shoes, furniture, bed linens, tablecloths, glassware, dishes, kitchen utensils, baskets, pictures, lamps, tools, small appliances, books, dvds, vinyl records, audiocassettes electronics, holiday decorations, toys, and a large category of miscellaneous items

Held at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center, building 1901

Every Wednesday 10:00 – 3:00

Run by Parents Association Volunteers

All proceeds benefit the residents at BHC who have severe intellectual disabilities.

Pass the word along to others that we are open.

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

Karen Kearney

RECIPIENT

Lee & Jackie Kearney

OCCASION

in memory of Mary Ann Kearney



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

\$1,221.00 Birthday cakes for residents, May - December 2024



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ANNUAL BHC PICNIC, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

The annual BHC picnic is once again being held in the gym.

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024

Theme: 100 Year Anniversary Celebration

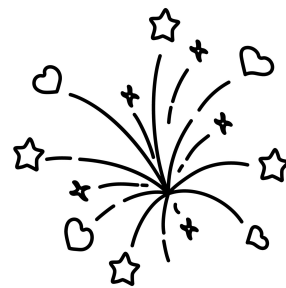
Parade: 9:30am

Picnic activities in the gym are in two sessions:

The morning group is 10:00-11:30. (1502 1503 1504 1505 1601 1602 1604)

The afternoon group is 1:30-3:00. (1603 1605 1606 1607 1608 1609 1908 Apt B)

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



1924-2024

100 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

100 YEARS OF SERVICE CELEBRATION AT BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER

The Bellefontaine Habilitation Center Centennial Celebration was held on the campus on June 13, 2024. It was a celebration of an extraordinary **100 years** of services for people with intellectual disabilities!

The 100 Year celebration began with the rhythm of music from Morning Thunder, led by Scott Weber.

The festivities included:

a warm welcome by EeJuan Riddle,

a reverent invocation by Dishon Knox,

the solemn Pledge of Allegiance by Wardell Wilburn,

and presentations by:

current State Senator Angela Mosley
current State Representative Marlene Terry
previous Senators Tim Green and Gina Walsh

Sheila Wunniing, Director of State Operated Programs
Rebecca Post, BHC Superintendent
Marcy Hargus, BHC Asst. Superintendent
Kathy Hubbard, previous Superintendent

Mary Vitale, BHC Parents Association
James Mulvaney family members

Senator Mosley and Representative Terry presented Resolutions from their respective branches of state government recognizing the 100th Anniversary Milestone.

Becky Post was recognized for sixteen excellent years as Superintendent.

The inaugural "Star for BHC" Awards to recognize dedicated service to the residents at BHC were announced:

Dr. Ralph Sneed	John and Betty Coll	Representative James Mulvaney
Senator Tim Green	Senator Gina Walsh	Bill Heuvelmann

Following the presentations, outdoor tents and beautiful table settings provided a festive air to the delicious luncheon prepared and served by Catering to You.

Thanks to the 100 Committee members for all the hard work in planning the Centennial Celebration:

Cathy Rea	Debra Avery	Karen Miller
Natasha Wright	Jan Charleville	Bill Heuvelmann

Special assistance was received from Dishon Knox, EeJuan Riddle, North County Industries (NCI), and the departments of Housekeeping, Maintenance, Activity Therapy and Recreation.

Jules Blair oversaw still photography and the videographer was Dishon Knox.

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A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL PAST AND PRESENT BHC STAFF MEMBERS FOR PROVIDING DAILY COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR OUR FAMILY MEMBERS.

**BHC
1924-2024
100 YEARS**



BHC RESIDENTS ENJOY WINTER/SPRING ACTIVITIES

Dietary instructions are observed for the residents at all activities.

Thanks to staff for helping residents prepare and participate in these Spring and Summer activities:



ON CAMPUS

April – Residents enjoyed Spring Party and Easter Party with music and activities.

ROARING TWENTIES

May – BHC had their 1st Prom with a Roaring Twenties theme. Residents and staff were dressed to impress. Lively music brought the dancers to the floor. Photos were taken of everyone dressed in their best and later displayed near the gym. Cupcakes and bundt cake were served.

June - June- Celebrated Juneteenth and July 4th Party, Activities, Music, and Strawberry Shortcake

Daily Activities include: Karaoke, Bingo, Wii Play and BHC Theater



IN THE COMMUNITY

Events

St. Louis Cardinal Baseball, Avalon Gardens, Local Parks, Zoo, Crest Bowling, Lake of the Ozarks

Out to Eat

Pasta House, Best Steak House, China House, Baskin and Robbins, China House, Dairy Queen

Shopping

West County Mall, 5-Below, Goodwill, Barnes and Noble, Dollar Tree and Target



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BHC ANNUAL FEDERAL SURVEY AND CHART REVIEW

During the week of June10 a utilization review was completed for BHC. This review is a chart audit process for Title 19 of the federal Medicaid law. Charts reviewed were approved.

Also, the **annual on-site** federal survey required by Title 19 Medicaid law began on July 8. The federal survey ensures compliance with 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.

These requirements give our family members a high level of services and oversight.

The criteria can be found at:

www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_j_intermcare.pdf

RESIDENTS:

**Persons now living in habilitation centers have a diagnosis of severe intellectual disability. Many also have multiple physical impairments, extreme behavior challenges, and complex medical conditions. Habilitation centers help them attain and maintain their highest abilities.

COST:

** Habilitation centers are cost effective. It would cost more in the community for these residents to receive all the services available to them at habilitation centers.

HABILITATION CENTERS ENVIRONMENT:

** These facilities 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
5. Transportation
6. Crisis intervention and stabilization for clients

** Habilitation centers are residential campuses for persons with intellectual disabilities. They are a real part of the surrounding community of neighborhoods, schools, churches, and businesses.

QUALITY OF CARE:

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

** Habilitation centers require comprehensive mandatory services.

GUARDIAN CHOICE:

**The Code of Federal Regulations, the United States Code, the Supreme Court, and state law protect the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families as primary decision makers concerning services they receive.

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EQUILIBRIUM HOMES CLOSED

Homes in the community under the management of Equilibrium Homes have closed for lack of appropriate services.

Residents lived at several different locations. The Bellefontaine Habilitation Center is now providing services for several young women during this difficult time for them until needed services can be met by community providers.

This is an example of the continued need for immediate, comprehensive crisis care to safeguard individuals with intellectual disabilities.



June 22, 2024 was the 25th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's Decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* On Thursday, June 20th, an event celebrating that anniversary was held in the Great Hall of the Department of Justice, produced jointly by the Administration for Community Living, the Department of Justice, and the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services.

It was good to hear success stories from individuals using Home and Community Based Services.

However, Olmstead was referred to as a community integration mandate. This misrepresents the Olmstead decision that supports CHOICE of services depending on the needs of an individual.

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WHAT DOES THE 1999 OLMSTEAD DECISION SAY?

**Olmstead v. L.C.,
119 S. Ct. 2176 (1999)**

Olmstead set forth a three-part test to determine if community placement is appropriate (i.e., institutionalization is unjustified):

- “(a) the State’s treatment professionals have determined that community placement is appropriate;
- (b) the transfer from institutional care to a less restrictive setting is not opposed by the affected individual; and
- (c) the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others with mental disabilities.” 119 S. Ct. at 2181 (emphasis added).

A majority of Justices in *Olmstead* recognized an ongoing role for publicly and privately-operated institutions:

“We emphasize that nothing in the ADA or its implementing regulations condones termination of institutional settings for persons unable to handle or benefit from community settings...Nor is there any federal requirement that community-based treatment be imposed on patients who do not desire it.” 119 S. Ct. at 2187.

Justice Anthony Kennedy warned about the possibility of tragic consequences for intermediate care facility residents if the ADA is misinterpreted:

“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.”

“In light of these concerns, if the principle of liability announced by the Court is not applied with caution and circumspection, States may be pressured into attempting compliance on the cheap, placing marginal patients into integrated settings devoid of the services and attention necessary for their condition.”

VOR entered an Amicus Curiae brief during the *Olmstead* Supreme Court hearings.

Quoting VOR's Amicus Curiae brief, the Supreme Court in *Olmstead v. L.C. and E.W.* held that "Each disabled person is entitled to treatment in the most integrated setting possible for that person--recognizing that, on a case-by-case basis, that setting may be an institution."

For more *Olmstead* information go to:

<https://www.vor.net/get-help/more-resources/item/olmstead-resources-2>

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Legislative material folders were presented to all U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, and in meetings with committees and federal agencies. The folders included information about the following:

(1) **VOR – A Voice Of Reason** - is a national non-profit organization founded in 1983 by families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We advocate for high quality care and human rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and autism. VOR believes that the best way to meet the individual needs of every member of this diverse population is to ensure that each person's medical, intellectual, emotional, and behavioral challenges are met, while ensuring that individuals, families, and guardians are able to choose from a full array of options.

(2) **H.R.2941 / S.1332: Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act**

This bipartisan measure would require the Office of Management and Budget to establish a separate category within the Standard Occupational Classification system for the nearly five million direct support professionals (DSPs) who care for people with intellectual disabilities and the aging population.



(3) **H.R. 7267 - The Disability Community Act**

The bill would increase the FMAP to 90% for three years for all states, and cover all individuals with I/DD.

(4) **S.4120 / H.R.7994 - Long-Term Care Workforce Support Act**

This bill would increase the Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) by ten percentage points and provide \$100 billion in a variety of grants to states for additional programs. The bill requires that 85% of the FMAP increase must go to improve compensation, benefits, working conditions and training for the DSP workforce. The bill includes provisions to improve safety protocols for both the caregivers and for those receiving their care.

(5) **VOR's Objections to The Permanent Reauthorization of the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Program (MFP)**

MFP was originally established as a 5-year, \$1.4 billion Demonstration Program in 2005. Reauthorizations and reappropriations have, unfortunately, occurred every few years without any review or assessment. VOR believes it should not pass without substantial modifications to reflect the radical change in conditions since the original legislation.

(6) **VOR Advocates for Necessary & Significant Changes to the Autism CARES Act Prior to Reauthorization**

VOR shares the concerns of the Autism Science Foundation (ASF) that the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act (H.R.7213) requires significant changes for the legislation to best address pervasive gaps in research and reflect lived lessons and current science that has evolved since the last reauthorization

Important in person meetings attended by VOR advocates were with:

- ** Administration for Community Living,
- ** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights,
- ** Department of Labor-Disability Employment,
- ** Senate Committee on Aging and Disability,
- ** and House Committee on the Workforce.

VOR IS OUR NATIONAL VOICE BECOME A MEMBER DONATE 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



COME VISIT US



THE HIDDEN TREASURE SHOP
SHOP TILL YOU DROP!! BEST THRIFT SHOP PRICES!!
BLDG #1901 FIRST BUILDING ON THE LEFT AS YOU ENTER BHC CAMPUS.

WEDNESDAYS, 10:00 A.M. TO 3 P.M. AT BHC

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

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
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**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**