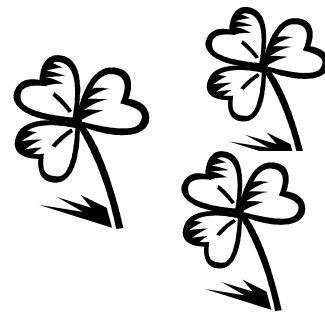


**PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC. SLSSH  
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER**

10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137

PHONE 314-340-6002  
WEBSITE [www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com](http://www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com)



**NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2010**

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING  
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2:00 p.m.  
MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING GYM, BHC

All Parent Association members, friends and staff are invited. Keep up with the latest news about Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. Share your concerns and ideas with others. There will be delicious refreshments and attendance prizes.

++++  
++++

**IMPORTANT MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE**

**At the November 2009 Board Meeting a vote was taken to change the number of meetings for the Parents Association to four per year: March, May, September, and November.**

**As of this writing the 2010 general meeting dates are:**

**2010 DATES FOR PARENT MEETINGS (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2:00 p.m.)**

**March 14**

**May 16 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday is Mother's Day so changed to May 16)**

**September 12**

**November 14**

**Please note this change, and watch for the newsletters as a reminder of the next meeting.**

**Plans for the new building and campus renovation are progressing.** Architect firms have been hired. On February 1, 2010 representatives from the Parents Association met with state officials and the architect chosen for building the 4 new 8-bedroom homes to replace the Elliott Building. Thanks to Representative Gina Walsh and Tim Green for attending. Our two main concerns have been addressed in the plans presented:

- 1) There will be covered, heated, and air-conditioned walkways from the homes connecting them to the Multipurpose Building.
- 2) A separate dietary building will remain on campus.

If there are any major changes to these plans it is understood that the Parents Association will be notified.

**Quarterly financial statements** are to be sent to those signing a form included in the annual PCP meeting. If you have requested these statements, and are not receiving them, contact Becky Post or Marcy Hargis at 340-6000.

**Remember to keep in frequent contact with your assigned service coordinator** to address concerns, ask questions, or make suggestions.

**The Waiting List for services as of January 2010 is: 419 Residential 4,334 In Home**  
from [www.dmh.mo.gov](http://www.dmh.mo.gov), choose Developmental Disabilities, choose Waiting List Information

Keep informed, take action.  
Mary A. Vitale, President, Parents Association, Inc.



**FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD**

- \$2250 Birthday cakes for 2010
- 730 Birthday gifts for Jan-Jun 2010
- 300 Valentine candy, decorations
- 300 Easter candy, decorations

**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.

<b>DONOR</b>	<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>OCCASION</b>
Patsy Christen	donation	
Jenny & Fred Rosenblum	donation	
Karen Kearney	Lee & Jackie Kearney	Mae&Tim Cremins, Marie&Jim Kearney, Christmas
Betty Coll	Sandy Sloan	In memory of Walter Sloan
Betty Coll	Amy Vaughn	In memory of Ernest Vaughn
Cathy Berkley	Ellen Zieha	In memory of Tom Zieha
Cathy Berkley		In memory of Mrs. S. Hogg
Natale & Rosemary Lucido		In memory of Earl & Angela Radley
Joan Murphy		In memory of Page Ellen Murphy
Howard & Norma Lingle	Betty Burke	In memory of James Vestal
Cathy Berkley	Ted Rose & Calloways	In memory of Terry Yanke
Jim & Betty Rung	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Melissa Rung	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Steve & Mary Vitale	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Haberberger Mechanical	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Margaret A. Striler	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Robert & MaryLou Sammelman	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Phylis Peluso	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
John & Mary Gamache	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Mr/Mrs Russel Schachsieck	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Mr/Mrs Aaron Smith	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Mr/Mrs Joe Carrara	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Carol House	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Jim & Dee Baldetti	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Howard & Norma Lingle	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Roseanne Dickey	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Cathy Berkley	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Bill & Sarah Jane May	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Betty Coll	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Jim & Ruth Vondras	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson
Larry & Virgie Duncan	Mickey Slawson	In memory of Norman Slawson



Mickey Slawson wishes to extend her heartfelt thanks for the thoughts, prayers, and tributes sent upon the death of husband, Norman. He was a very devoted advocate for the residents of Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. The Parents Association expresses sympathy to the family, and thanks for his dedication to BHC.

++++  
++++

**RAM DUES FOR 2010**

The Mental Retardation Association of Missouri (RAM) requests your support for RAM's efforts on behalf of all state habilitation centers in Missouri. Annual dues are \$5.00. Please make checks payable to RAM and mail to:  
 Norma Lingle  
 1010 DuBerry Lane  
 St. Louis, MO 63138

**PARENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YEAR 2010**

Dues are \$5.00 a year. Make checks payable to Parents Association, Inc.

Mail to: Jeannette Brueggemann, Treasurer  
 9628 Cinnabar Drive  
 St. Louis MO 63126

Please enclose your name, address and phone number for our records.

## **2010 BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS**

### **OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT Mary Vitale 1335 Redbird Drive Florissant MO 63031 314-831-5662  
VICE PRESIDENT Betty Coll 1108 Nectar Drive St. Louis MO 63137 314-867-0509  
TREASURER Jeanette Brueggemann 9628 Cinnabar Drive St. Louis MO 63126 314-842-0926  
RECORDING SECRETARY Norma Lingle 1010 DuBerry Lane St. Louis MO 63138 314-869-1670  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Virgie Duncan 9513 Harold Drive St. Louis MO 63134 314-429-6261

### **DIRECTORS**

John Ahlquist 850 Woodside Trails Drive Ballwin MO 63021 636-227-2236  
Dee Baldetti 6435 Lindenwood St. Louis MO 63109 314-752-0925  
Cathy Berkley 3622 McDonald St. Louis MO 63116 314-664-8731  
Floyd Cressey 174 N. McBride Road Ava IL 62907 1-618-763-4305  
Marion Dotson 4544 Bessie Avenue St. Louis MO 63115 314-381-7185  
Mary Jane Gamache 7536 York Drive Clayton MO 63105 314-726-0342  
Jim Kemp 6435 Lindenwood St. Louis MO 63109 314-752-0925  
Izella Moore 3024 Mediterranean Florissant MO 63031 314-837-0364  
Richard Moore 3024 Mediterranean Florissant MO 63031 314-837-0364  
Mickey Slawson 995 Dauphin Florissant MO 63033 314-838-4046 (Past President)  
Ruth Vondras 630 Graham Road Florissant MO 63031 314-837-0199  
Patrick Wells 2981 Springwater St. Louis MO 63129 314-846-3329 (Past President)

### **HONORARY MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Larry Duncan 9513 Harold Drive St. Louis MO 63134 314-429-6261

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Audit	Howard Lingle 1010 DuBerry Lane St. Louis MO 63138 314-869-1670
By-Laws	Loretta Brophy 6026 Arthur St. Louis MO 63139 314-645-0898
Legislative	Jim Mulvaney 11 Brookstone Court Florissant MO 63033 314-831-7301
Membership	Cathy Berkley 3622 McDonald St. Louis MO 63116 314-664-8731
Newsletter	Mary Vitale/Betty Coll
Public Information	Mary Vitale 1335 Redbird Drive Florissant MO 63031 314-831-5662
Refreshments	Ruth Vondras 630 Graham Road St. Louis MO 63031 314-837-0199
Telephone	Mary Jane Gamache 7536 York Drive Clayton MO 63105 314-726-0342
Tribute Fund	Roseanne Dickey #6 Hobbs Mills St. Charles MO 63303 636-441-7554
Thrift Shop	Betty Coll 1108 Nectar Drive St. Louis MO 63137 314-867-0509

PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC  
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137  
314-340-6002  
[www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com](http://www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com)

**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 Bellefontaine Habilitation Center and others. They have no voice but ours, so we must continually speak up for them.

**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  
314-340-6000

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

Keith Schafer, Director of Department of Mental Health  
Bernard Simons, Director-Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Mike Stoutimore-Director-State Operated Services  
Jeff Grosvenor, Administrative Services

Department of Mental Health  
1706 E. Elm Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-751-4122  
1-800-364-9687  
[www.dmh.mo.gov](http://www.dmh.mo.gov)

**MISSOURI STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Missouri Capitol Switchboard: 1-573-751-2000  
[www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov)

**U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

United States Capitol Switchboard: 1-202-224-3121  
[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)  
[www.senate.gov](http://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](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

**AFSCME COUNCIL 72 (American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees)**

St. Louis Office, AFSCME Council 72  
625 N. Euclid, Suite 228  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314-367-5656  
[www.afscmecouncil72.org](http://www.afscmecouncil72.org)

Jefferson City Office, AFSCME Council 72  
2419 Hyde Park Road, Suite B  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
573-635-9145  
1-800-554-2054  
[www.afscmecouncil72.org](http://www.afscmecouncil72.org)

**VOICE OF THE RETARDED** (a national organization representing a full continuum of care for persons diagnosed with mental retardation, including ICFs/MR, habilitation centers in Missouri)

1-877-399-4VOR  
[www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)

**ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH**

900 North Tucker Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
314-340-8000  
letters to the editor [letters@post-dispatch.com](mailto:letters@post-dispatch.com)



ELIMINATION OF HABILITATION CENTERS AS LONG TERM CARE HOMES IS BEING PLANNED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

The following statements are from the Department of Mental Health website, quoting Bernard Simons, Director of Developmental Disabilities.

“The Division of DD is focused on and committed to implementing contemporary best practices within the service delivery system across the continuum of supports and services that moves the system:

- from crisis to prevention;
- from provider driven to self-direction;
- from congregate care to flexible individualized supports;
- from compliance to outcomes;
- from regional service delivery to local service delivery; and
- from habilitation centers focusing on long-term care to providing crisis and stabilization resource.**

**All of the six state operated habilitation centers are undergoing a redesign moving from self-contained facilities with a focus on long-term residential services to becoming a crisis and stabilization resource center.** The habilitation centers will provide short-term crisis and stabilization supports for persons who receive community residential supports, as well as intensive behavior support and technical assistance to contracted community providers.

As the system redesign moves forward, and consistent with state statute, we will continue to review individuals who reside in the habilitation centers at least every 180 days and work to transition individuals who can and want to receive services in a more integrated setting. Thus continuing to reduce the census at each habilitation center.”

To see the entire document or watch the video, go to [www.dmh.mo.gov](http://www.dmh.mo.gov), choose Developmental Disabilities, choose video message from the director, or document accompanying video.

**There is strong opposition by the Parents Association, families across the state of Missouri, and across the nation to closing or redesigning habilitation centers as crisis centers only. Missouri habilitation centers are homes for persons who are severely mentally retarded, have multiple physical impairments, extreme behavior challenges, and complex medical conditions. Closing or redesigning habilitation centers as crisis centers is being presented as cheaper and better, but surely will have disastrous results for this fragile population. Habilitation centers are good homes that offer cost effective, comprehensive services. Support for habilitation centers by the Department of Mental Health and the legislature would be a long term fiscally responsible action.**

There is a waitlist of 419 residential and 4,334 in home totaling 4,753 persons waiting for services. Current habilitation homes could be used to reduce the wait list, and more quickly provide necessary resources to struggling families waiting for help. Fragile lives are at stake. Habilitation centers offer comprehensive, cost-effective, live-saving services.

++++  
++++

NEWS FROM SOUTHEAST MISSOURI RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (SEMORS) AND NEVADA HABILITATION CENTERS

Families at SEMORS are being encouraged to move their family members to state run independent supported living (ISL) homes. However, if the move is not successful, it is doubtful the resident could return to a habilitation center since admittance to habilitation centers has been frozen across the state.

In February, it became known that 24 residents living in Benton Hall at the Nevada Habilitation Center would be offered a move to some of the empty homes at SEMORS. The plan is to close Benton Hall.

Strong opposition is being expressed by families at SEMORS in Sikeston and Poplar Bluff, and Nevada Habilitation Centers to proposed changes for these homes.

These actions are part of the overall plan to eliminate habilitation centers as long term residential homes.

Guardians – if you don’t want to move your loved one – just say no. Stay in contact with other families at your habilitation centers.



DANGEROUS DIRECTION OF POLICIES FOR CARE OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION

The book, Madness in the Streets: How Psychiatry and the Law Abandoned the Mentally Ill, by Rael Jean Isaac and Virginia C. Armat, shows how academic, medical, social, legal, and political fields joined forces to develop a national policy concerning persons with mental illness based upon a **false idea**, that mental illness was just another level of reality, not an abnormality. That national policy had disastrous results of neglect, abuse, and death of the mentally ill.

Our national policy concerning the lives of persons with mental retardation also seems to be based on the **false ideas** that ICFs/MR (intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded) are no longer needed, that living “in the community” should be the only option of care. These **false ideas** have been supported by many in academic, legal, and political fields. The attached chart shows how national policies can be based upon **false ideas**, resulting in lack of quality care.

**From Madness in the Streets**

**Current Actions**

CARE OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS	CARE OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION
1940-1960 Good reasons for major reform for more humane treatment	1940-1960 Good reasons for major reform for more humane treatment
1960s <b>The false idea</b> developed in the academic field that mental illness was not an abnormality-just a different level of reality. If the label of mental illness was taken away, somehow the condition improves. This greatly affected the direction of treatment in our national policies.	1980s - present <b>The false idea</b> developed that community placement should be the only option for persons with mental retardation. Community placement is promoted as better but cheaper. The Institute for Human Development, UMKC backs this <b>false idea</b> . Much of our national policy is now based on this <b>false idea</b> .
1960s-1980s Mental health professionals begin to accept this <b>false idea</b> .	1980s - present Mental health professionals use this <b>false idea</b> to advocate for closure of ICFs/MR. Here in Missouri, the vision is to not use habilitation centers as long term residential campuses, but as short term crisis centers as needed by community providers.
1960s-1980s Major organizations such as National Mental Health Association and National Institute of Mental Health accept this <b>false idea</b> .	1990s - present Missouri Planning Council and ARC-US are just two agencies using this <b>false idea</b> to promote closing all habilitation centers.
1960s – 1980s The legal field (ACLU and Protection & Advocacy agencies) begins to use this <b>false idea</b> to sue for rights of mentally ill, especially to refuse treatment and to question need for guardianship, and making it more difficult to be committed involuntarily.	1980s - present The legal field, especially Protection & Advocacy agencies, uses this <b>false idea</b> to pursue class action suits to close ICFs/MR across the nation. Right now if a class action suit is filed, families have no choice to opt out of it.
1960s -1980s Politicians accepted this <b>false idea</b> because they saw a way to save money and expand civil rights. The promise of saving money by doing good was irresistible.	1980s - present Politicians have backed this <b>false idea</b> of community being cheaper and better. Again, the promise of saving money by doing good is very alluring.
1960s – 1980s A national policy developed to encourage mass deinstitutionalization of persons with mental illness. Anything in the community was better than an institution.	Present - A national program, The Freedom Initiative signed by President Bush in 2001, has granted millions of dollars to states to hasten the transfers out of ICFs/MR.
1960s – 1980s Reality was that ill prepared community placements, poor supervision, and lack of oversight resulted in abuse, neglect, and death. 1982 statistics from the National Institute of Mental Health states that of the people living in St. Louis shelters or on the street, 56% were the mentally ill.	1980s - present Community placements can be successful. However, national and state reports are revealing such poor supervision that in 2003 Senator Grassley stated that these community placements “should be put on hold...right now there is no accountability.” 2001 and 2005 audits in Missouri revealed the same poor accountability for Missouri community placements.
1979 <b>Parents formed the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)</b> to educate about the traumatic results policies were having upon the mentally ill and their families. Policies began to be reviewed. Some positive changes began to occur.	1983 <b>Voice of the Retarded (VOR) is formed by parents</b> to advocate on a state and national level for a full continuum of care for persons with mental retardation, including ICFs/MR to ensure availability of appropriate services.
Present We are still seeing the disastrous results of the policies today of a <b>false idea</b> .	Present A <b>false idea</b> has increased inappropriate placements in ill prepared community settings resulting in neglect and abuse.

**Devoted families across the United States are diligently working to keep ICFs/MR open as long term residential campuses.** Closing all ICFs/MR is an unrealistic as a national policy. To eliminate this level of care is unreasonable and life-threatening to many persons with severe mental retardation, multiple physical impairments, and extreme challenging behaviors, and complex medical conditions. **Families, community leaders, government officials, and political leaders should be very wary of promises of “better but cheaper” homes for persons with mental retardation. Fragile lives are at risk.**

**VOICE OF THE RETARDED NEWS** vor.net

New Jersey Survey Supports ICFs/MR as Long Term Care Residential Homes

Background: Earlier this week, Robin Sims held a press conference in her state capitol to announce the results of a residential survey that she helped spearhead. The survey was simple. It was sent to family members and guardians of New Jersey State Developmental Center residents. The survey asked recipients if they were happy with the current placement of their loved ones, or would prefer community-based care instead. The results were overwhelmingly (96%) in support of continued ICFs/MR placement. The press conference at the state capitol was an effort to reach lawmakers and the press with these statistics, and point out the serious flaws of earlier state surveys and studies that have been used to justify downsizing and closure proposals. In coalition with many families, Robin fought fire with fire, developing a survey for families and guardians that asked just one simple, unbiased question.

The following is the press release for the event:

**For Immediate Release  
December 7, 2010  
Contact: Robin Sims, President, VOR**

**ADVOCATES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER RESIDENTS  
ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF SURVEY ON  
RESIDENTIAL CHOICE**

The results of a Survey on Residential Choice conducted by the Advocates for New Jersey Developmental Center Residents (The Advocates) were released today to members of the state's General Assembly and Senate in the State House Annex.

The study, conducted by parents and guardians of the more than 2,400 residents cared for at New Jersey's seven intermediate care facilities for people with mental retardation (ICF/MR), was undertaken because of the concern that these vital facilities may be closed and may force the relocation of the residents to community housing regardless of the individual's capabilities or level of need.

61 percent of the families and guardians receiving the survey responded and of that 61 percent, 96 percent said they wanted their family member to remain at the developmental center in which they are living, findings which are starkly different than figures reported by the state.

The Advocates point to serious flaws in earlier surveys, as well as the practice of the Division of Developmental Disabilities to require treatment professionals to recommend community living, without regard to individual need or choice, in violation of the requirement for individualized treatment planning. In addition, it is a conflict of interest for state employees in the Bureau of Guardianship Services to be used as "advocates" for persons receiving ICF/MR services.

The Advocates are calling upon members of the legislature to review the survey findings and allow for public hearings of their concerns. Cindy Bartman, President of the Association for Hunterdon Developmental Center states, "New Jersey's ICF/MR centers are residences where some of our most fragile citizens receive care and treatment of the highest quality. **We must all work to keep them open.**"

**COMMENT:**

The results of this survey show that families want to retain ICFs/MR (habilitation centers in Missouri), as good homes for their family members. Communication with families across Missouri and the U.S. supports these results.

ICFs/MR offer cost effective, comprehensive services to our most fragile population needing our help to attain and maintain their highest level of ability.

**IF YOU WANT TO KEEP HABILITATION CENTERS AS LONG TERM CARE RESIDENTIAL HOMES, CALL, WRITE, OR E-MAIL DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, AND YOUR STATE AND U.S. LEGISLATORS.**



**YES**



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 "PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC."**

**MAIL TO: ROSEANNE DICKEY #6 HOBBS MILL ST. CHARLES, MO 63303**

**THE HIDDEN TREASURE SHOP**  
**WE'VE MOVED – SAME GREAT SALES – DIFFERENT BUILDING –**  
**NOW IN BLDG #1901 FIRST BUILDING ON THE LEFT AS YOU ENTER BHC CAMPUS.**



**WEDNESDAYS, 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. AT BHC**

Please leave donated items at the Parents Association shed inside the BHC entrance



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

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS**  
**CORRECTION REQUESTED**