

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

PHONE 314-340-6002
WEBSITE www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011



PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011 2:00 p.m.
GYM IN THE MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING, BHC

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
FOR 2012 PARENTS ASSOCIATION

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.

Program: Gina Walsh, former State Representative, has always strongly and persistently advocated for our family members at BHC. Come and listen to her encouragement to keep in contact with your legislators to maintain the health and safety of BHC residents. She will be running for the State Senate in the upcoming election year.

2012 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES:

FEBRUARY 12

MAY 6

AUGUST 12

NOVEMBER 11

Renovation and new buildings on the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center campus are closer to completion. Staff will be in-serviced on the state-of-art equipment being installed. Also staff members are being prepared to help residents get used to their new environments when moves occur.

Thank s to all staff members who have made sure residents continue to receive quality care during the many months of construction, and during the moves into new homes.

A meeting with the Department of Mental Health and representatives from statewide habilitation centers was held on September 19, 2011 in Jefferson City. The main topic of discussion was the **NO NEW LONG-TERM ADMISSIONS TO HABILITATION CENTERS**. Bernard Simons, Director of Developmental Disabilities made this decision, and at this time, **does not offer habilitation centers as a choice** for those on the waiting list. All of the habilitation centers representatives expressed their total disagreement with this decision.

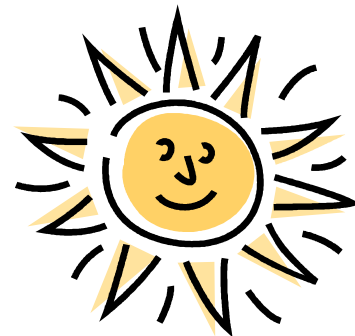
Waitlist, October 7, 2011: 264 residential 4,415 in home 4,679 TOTAL

The BHC Parents Association strongly supports habilitation center homes.

Thriving current residents, new families desperately wanting and needing habilitation centers, a waiting list for services, and renovated buildings all add up to:

OPEN UP LONG TERM ADMISSIONS TO HABILITATION CENTERS!!!!!!!

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



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

\$200.00	Patio set, 1608
\$200.00	Household goods, 1810
\$200.00	Household goods, 1806
\$300.00	Household goods, Apt A
\$1000.00	Halloween candy, decorations, pumpkins

TOTAL FUNDS 2010 FROM HIDDEN TREASURE THRIFT SHOP

Sales at the Hidden Treasure Thrift Shop brought in \$29,933.04 – all for the benefit of the residents living at the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. The many hours spent by volunteers in the thrift shop provide much happiness for the residents

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

Howard & Norma Lingle

In memory of Dona Lingle



BHC PICNIC

Because of construction preparations the annual Bellefontaine Habilitation Center Picnic for the residents was held for half-days on September 14 and September 15. The residents had a fun-filled, ALOHA-HAWAIIAN day at this annual picnic sponsored by the Parents Association. Clowns, magic shows, music, games, caricature artist, mime, belly dancers, food, and drink filled the day with fun activities. Sponsors for our picnic include:

Absopure	Baxter's	BHC Parent's Association	BHC Staff
Casino Queen	City Mime	D&T Funnel Cakes	Dairy Queen
Hampel Clowns	Interlock Pharmacy	MO Botanical Garden	NAEIR
Picnic Committee	Ray Marglous	7 Up Bottling Co	Shop N Save
Sports Energizers			



THANKS TO THE PICNIC COMMITTEE, ALL BHC STAFF MEMBERS, THE SPONSORS, AND THE PERFORMERS FOR THE PICNIC DAYS THAT GAVE THE RESIDENTS SO MUCH JOY!





RESIDENTIAL CHOICE – IT’S THE LAW!!!!!!!

All of the following federal and state laws support **CHOICE** of living arrangements for persons diagnosed with an intellectual disability who are receiving federal and state services.

****The United States Code states:**

**CHAPTER 144--DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS
SUBCHAPTER I--PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Part A--General Provisions Sec. 15001 (c)**

(3) individuals with developmental disabilities and their **families are the primary decision makers** regarding the services and supports such individuals and their families receive, **including regarding choosing where the individuals live from available options**, and play decision making roles in policies and programs that affect the lives of such individuals and their families.

****The Code of Federal Regulations states:
441.302 42 CFR Ch. IV (10–1–08 Edition)**

(d) *Alternatives*—Assurance that when a recipient is determined to be likely to require the level of care provided in a hospital, NF, or an ICF/MR, the recipient or his or her legal representative will be (1) Informed of any feasible alternatives available under the waiver; and (2) **given the choice of either institutional** or home and community-based services.

****June 1999 Olmstead decision by the Supreme Court states:**

This Court emphasizes 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.**

Justice Ginsburg delivered the opinion of the Court with respect to Parts I, II, and III—A, concluding that, under Title II of the ADA, States are required to place persons with mental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions when the State’s treatment professionals have determined that community placement is appropriate, **the transfer from institutional care to a less restrictive setting is not opposed by the affected individual**, and the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others with mental disabilities.

****The Code of State Regulations (Missouri)
9 CSR 45-2.015 Prioritizing Access to Funded Services**

(C) Division treatment professionals shall determine the following:
1. If the individual’s service/support needs can be met in the community;
2. If the individual is eligible for the waiver; and
3. **If the individual chooses** waiver services over institutional services.

****MRDD Combined Waiver Manual section 13 (Missouri)**

e. **Participants are afforded choice between waiver services and institutional care.** Participants are afforded choice between/among waiver services and provider.

Service coordinators explain and offer choice of waiver services and providers for each participant. The DMS and DMRDD Federal Programs Unit waiver audit determines if individuals served are **provided choice between waiver services and institutional care** and choice of provider.

****MRDD Combined Waiver Manual section 14 (Missouri)
14.7 MEDICAID WAIVER CHOICE STATEMENT**

When a person is evaluated as needing the level of care provided in an ICF/MR and the individual’s Utilization Review score is at a priority level that warrants immediate service, the case manager informs the person or a legal guardian of any feasible community alternatives available through a MRDD waiver and **gives the person the choice of either institutional** or home and community-based waiver services.

RESIDENTIAL CHOICE – IT’S THE LAW!!!!!!!



Why does the Department of Mental Health ignore these state and federal laws by continuing with a No New Admissions policy for habilitation centers? This no new admissions policy endangers lives of persons diagnosed with severe intellectual disabilities.

ACTION ALERT: Call, email, or write in support of upholding current state and federal laws, giving families their legal rights concerning choice in living arrangements, and allowing new long term admissions to habilitation centers.



KEITH SCHAFER, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
BERNARD SIMONS, DIRECTOR-DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Department of Mental Health
1706 E. Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-751-4122 1-800-364-9687 www.dmh.mo.gov

GOVERNOR JAY NIXON
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 751-3222

MISSOURI STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

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

VOR NEWS (vor.net)
FEDERAL PROGRAMS MISUSING AUTHORITY AND FUNDING

Both the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead decision embrace individuality -recognizing that people with disabilities have very diverse needs. Yet, time and again, federally-funded organizations, charged with upholding the rights of all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, work in the media, legislatures and the courts to eliminate one of those choices: Medicaid-certified and funded Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/MR, habilitation centers in Missouri). These practices have forced the transfer of thousands of individuals, against individual and family choice, from ICFs/MR that specialize in meeting their extreme needs. In far too many cases, the results have been unnecessary abuse and even death. (see, <http://vor.net/resources/general/abuse-andneglect-document>).

VOR is a national association of families, friends, professionals and providers concerned about the well-being of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. VOR supports the expansion of community-based options, while also maintaining highly specialized and federally licensed facility-based residential care ("ICFs/MR"). For more information, visit www.vor.net.

THE MISSOURI PLANNING COUNCIL IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM THAT IS MISUSING DD ACT FUNDING AND AUTHORITY BY ACTIVELY PROMOTING THE CLOSING OF HABILITATION CENTERS IN MISSOURI

The following goals and objectives show that the Missouri Planning Council is actively promoting the closure of habilitation centers, cutting back on sheltered workshops and State Schools, and attacking legal guardianships.

Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities 2011 and 2012 Goals and Objectives:

FY 2011 Developmental Disabilities State Plan

GOAL 6, Objectives:

1. By 9/30/2011, three state habilitation centers will close.
 3. By 9/30/2011, 20 percent of individuals employed in sheltered workshops will transition into community-integrated employment.
 4. By 9/30/2011, admissions to all state habilitation centers will cease.
- (cont. on page 5)



(cont. from page 4)

9. By 9/30/2011, 100 individuals with developmental disabilities will experience a decrease in full guardianship and an increase in the utilization of other options accorded in guardianship laws.

18. By 9/30/2011, the census of "State Schools for the Severely Disabled" will decrease by 15 percent.

FY 2012-2016 Plan Goals & Objectives

GOAL 2, Objectives:

1. By 9/30/16 increase to 15 percent the number of people with developmental disabilities who are employed in competitive community-based employment.

7. By 9/30/16 at least three of the six state-run habilitation centers will close.

8. By 9/30/16 improve five public policies that limit the rights or opportunities of individuals with developmental disabilities.

9. By 9/30/16 decrease by 15 percent the number of full guardianships and increase the number of less restrictive alternatives to full guardianship.

As is apparent in these goals and objectives of the Missouri Planning Council, reform is needed in the Reauthorization of the DD Act. The DD Act was last reauthorized in 2000. Congressional scrutiny is long overdue. Across the country, individuals with profound intellectual disabilities receive highly specialized, 24/7 quality care in our nation's ICFs. Their families/legal guardians call on Congress to reauthorize the DD Act **with reforms to ensure adherence to the Act's requirement, and Olmstead's mandate - to respect family decision making.**

ACTION ALERT:

These goals and objectives of the Missouri Planning Council do not represent the goals of families that are benefiting from these important programs. __

Voice your opposition to these goals and objectives of the Missouri Planning Council.

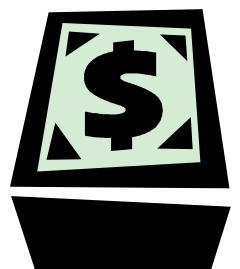
Susan Pritchard-Green, Director
 Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities
 P.O. Box 687
 1706 E. Elm Street
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 Phone: 573-751-8611

Toll free:800-500-7878

Fax: 573-526-2755

FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI 2011

Habilitation Center	FY 2011 ICF/MR Collections
Bellefontaine	18,058,771
Higginsville	6,688,253
Marshall	7,470,787
Nevada	4,362,776
SEMORs	5,311,321
St. Louis DDTC	15,014,623
Total	56,906,532





VOR NEWS (vor.net)

INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES: INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND GOOD NEIGHBORS

(NOTE: ICFS ARE CALLED HABILITATION CENTERS IN MISSOURI)

Federally-licensed Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs) provide highly specialized, life-sustaining supports for our nation's most vulnerable citizens. A typical ICF resident has profound intellectual disabilities, is non-verbal, has the functional abilities of an infant or toddler, and is dependent on compassionate caregivers to meet every need. Most residents are also physically disabled and many residents are also medically fragile or experience significant challenging behaviors.

For the family members, friends and guardians of ICF residents, the consistent provision of highly specialized supports – assured by annual federal oversight surveys – is the highest priority. Beyond care, however, these residents also have a life. They are integral members of their communities – both on campus and off.

A day in the life of an ICF resident

ICF residents have individualized service plans that include community-based activities away from the facility and among their non-disabled neighbors.

A respected research journal featured two "Parents' Perspective," including the inclusive nature of their family members' homes:

1. My daughter, Dianne, age 43, resides in a state-operated ICF . . . the stereotype of "isolation" (a perceived negative outcome of large ICF/MR placement) is defied . . . Activities include community concerts, sporting events, shows, outings to restaurants, special events, Six Flags, the Texas State Fair, and other activities. These opportunities provide entertainment and true integration with the community surrounding our state facilities. Within the [ICF], the staff, families, friends and volunteers join together to provide parties, holiday celebrations, dances, worship services and other social activities.

* * *

2. [W]hen Mary Elizabeth lived at the ICF/MR, she . . . regularly went to local restaurants with staff from the facility . . . [A]t least once a week a group of three to five of the ladies in the day program go to Dunkin' Donuts for mid-morning coffee. They go out another day each week on an excursion that may be a picnic at a local beach, lake or park. In the winter they go to the local malls and shop for small personal items. . . . Annually they go to the New England Flower Show in Spring, the Nutcracker ballet at Christmas, and Topsfield Fair in the Fall. [Source: "Outcomes that Matter: A Parents' Perspective," by Mary McTernan, Ph.D. and Nancy Ward, *Mental Retardation*, Volume 43, Number 3, June 2005, pp. 214–220]

Conclusion:

ICFs are inclusive communities and good neighbors.

VOR is a 501(c)(3) national advocacy organization speaking out for all individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. VOR is the only national advocacy organization that supports a full array of residential and support options, from small to large settings.

BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER: A PRIME EXAMPLE OF AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY AND A GOOD NEIGHBOR

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

** Habilitation centers (ICFs/MR) have the highest level of oversight to prevent abuse and the most recourse to investigate allegations of abuse. Waiver options waive some oversight regulations.

** Habilitation centers (ICFs/MR) require comprehensive mandatory services. Under a waiver option, states can waive services.



A day in the life of a BHC resident

On campus activities:

Therapeutic Swimming:

Residents participate in an on campus therapeutic swimming program. They utilize the pool for 30 minutes as scheduled and up to four times per week depending on their needs. Relaxation, socialization, learning to swim, water exercise, and learning to be safe in the water are part of this program.

Recreation Swimming: The pool is open some evenings for recreation swimming. This is open to anyone who wants to come to relax and have fun in the evening.

Daily Gym Program: The gym is open daily, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for exercise, sports and small group activities. There is an exercise program held three times a week.

Evening Gym Program: The gym is open every evening, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. There is a different program each evening which includes movie night, basketball, volleyball, rollerskating, small group activities on the stage, bingo, and weekly dances.

Evening Activities: There are also additional activities offered in the evening which include cooking dinners, cooking snacks and making crafts. These are held in the Elliott kitchen and are open to everyone at the facility.

Holiday Programs: Four times a year for Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas, a band is hired for a special holiday dance including refreshments, pictures, and lots of decorations.

Vacations: Throughout the year vacations are planned for some of the residents. These vacations include going to Camp Babler in Chesterfield, Carlyle Lake, Lake of the Ozarks, and Pere Marquette.

Community Events: Tickets are purchased to various events in the community such as Cardinal baseball games, circus, and Six Flags.

Picnic: This is an annual event sponsored by the Parent's Association in September. Everyone enjoys a picnic lunch followed by games, music and prizes. Music is played throughout the day by a DJ and there are guest performers. This is a fun filled day of entertainment.

Elliott Pet Room: Animals in the pet room are cared for with the assistance of some of the residents. On a daily basis, all cages are cleaned and animals fed.

Spring and Fall Cleaning: There is organized Spring and Fall grounds cleaning and planting. Everyone is encouraged to participate to enhance the outside of the homes and buildings on campus.

Religious Services: Residents attend various religious services each week.

Off campus outings:

Shopping: Flea Market, Jamestown Mall, Kmart, Walmart, American, Mills Mall, Dollar Store, Game Stop, Radio Shack, Target, Family Video, Men's Warehouse, Shoe Carnival, Union Station, Payless, Best Buy

Parks: Spanish Lake Park, Theis Farm, Creve Couer Park, Zoo, Bellefontaine Park, Forest Park

Restaurants: Culvers, China King, Subway, Golden Corral, Chilis, Cici's Pizza, Incredible Pizza, McDonalds, Stone Cold Creamery, Dairy Queen, Imo's Pizza, Burger King, Sweetie Pies, Ponderosa, Hometown Buffet, KFC, White Castle, Buffalo Wild Wings, Charlie's Steakery, 54th Street Grill, TGI Fridays, Fazolis

Sports events: Special Olympics Softball, Dick Weber Bowling, Bridgeton Sports Complex, Special Olympics, Track & Field events, Swing Around Fun Time

Other: Recycling center, Fair St. Louis, Botanical Gardens, Ameristar, Dave & Busters, St. Louis County Library, Great Clips, Fishing, Slam Football games, Church, Movies, History Museum

CONCLUSION: HABILITATION CENTERS OFFER SO MUCH TO RESIDENTS. WHY ARE THEY NOT OFFERED AS A CHOICE?

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

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SALE IN DECEMBER

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

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC. SLSSH
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ST. LOUIS MO 63137

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED