

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

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

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012



**PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2012 2:00 p.m.
GYM IN THE MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING, BHC**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
FOR 2013 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.

2013 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FEBRUARY 10

MAY 5

AUGUST 11

NOVEMBER 10

Our Parent Newsletter is online at www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com!! Pass it along to friends, family, and political leaders.

Residents are greatly enjoying the renovations and new buildings on the BHC campus.

The work that the staff has accomplished before, during, and after the moves is much appreciated.

Thanks to the Maintenance Crew for all their hard work.

The Administration Offices are now in the newly remodeled Donnelly Building.

Welcome to the Northwest Habilitation Center residents who have moved to homes on the BHC campus. (Northwest is to be completely closed.)

Waitlist, October 22, 2012: 180 residential 1,957 in home 2,137 TOTAL

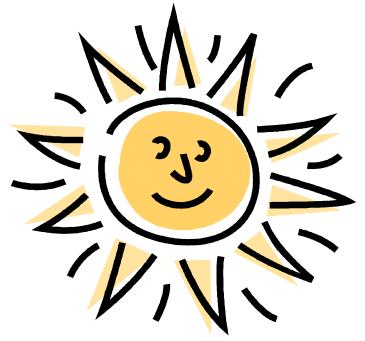
TOTAL DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION of all persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities is the direction our national policy is moving!

The no new long term admissions to habilitation centers policy in Missouri Health is in fact a step towards total deinstitutionalization here in Missouri. This decision was made by Bernard Simons, Director of Developmental Disabilities of the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

The BHC Parents Association and families nationwide strongly support habilitation center homes.

Take time to become more informed and take an action to help maintain a complete continuum of care for persons with severe intellectual disabilities including habilitation centers (ICFS/MR), so that they have safe, healthy, supportive, long-term homes. What will you do in the next few months to give a voice to those who have no voice of their own?

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



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

\$700.00 Halloween candy, decorations, pumpkins
\$150.00 Patio furniture, home 1801

\$31,643 was the total funds raised by the Hidden Treasure Thrift Shop for 2011. All funds are used for the benefit of BHC residents. The volunteers at the BHC Hidden Thrift Shop deserve a huge thanks of appreciation for their dedicated work. Stop by the Hidden Treasure Thrift Shop and find GREAT HOLIDAY bargains.

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

Joan Murphy
Laurie Danavan
Cathy Berkley
William & Sarah May
William & Sarah May
William & Sarah May
William & Sarah May
The Wells family

RECIPIENT

Jim Mulvaney family
E. Zieha
Marion Dotson
Anna Brinley family
Mary Jane Gamache
Betty Coll
Betty Coll

OCCASION

In memory of Page Ellen Murphy
In memory of Jim Mulvaney
In memory of Lee Palme
In memory of Larry Brown
In memory of Anna Brinley
Get well wishes
Get well wishes
Get well wishes

+++++



BHC PICNIC-SEPTEMBER 2012

The annual Bellefontaine Habilitation Center Picnic for the residents was held on Wednesday September 12 for Unit 3 and Thursday September 13 for Unit 1. The residents had a fun-filled, PROUD TO BE AMERICAN 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.

Thanks goes to: BHC Parent's Association BHC Staff Picnic Committee

The entertainers were: Hampel Clowns Brophy Clowns Mime Caricature Artists

Face Painting by No Limit Beauty Keland Scher (clown) Latrisa Avery (Belly Dancer)

DJ (Richard Watson)

Companies who donated were:

Absopure Baxter's Dave & Busters MO Botanical Garden

7-Up Bottling Company Sports Energizers Casino Queen

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!!

FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI 2012**HABILITATION CENTER****FY 2012 ICF/MR COLLECTIONS**

BELLEFONTAINE	20,411,703.58
HIGGINSVILLE	6,553,403.82
MARSHALL	10,561,658.46
NEVADA	1,500,121.85
SEMORS	6,699,423.84
ST. LOUIS DDT	21,250,266.50
TOTAL	66,976,578.05

**COMMUNITY LIVING WAIVERS COSTS**

Community living waiver costs are not all inclusive as are habilitation center costs, and the federal reimbursement funds go to the private providers.

According to the Developmental Disability Division Guideline #11 Title: Implementation Guidelines for Comprehensive and Community Support Waivers, these costs are not included in this waiver:

- Monthly rental or mortgage expense
- Food
- Regular utility charges
- Household appliances
- Items that are intended for purely diversional or recreational purposes

Also any therapies needed are billed separately, transportation many times is provided by staff in their private cars, and complete furnishings of a home may depend upon donations.

QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR BHC RESIDENTS

Frequent observations are made in BHC homes, programs, and activity areas by the Quality Staff. Information collected is reviewed and sent to the Unit Manager for follow up.



Observations include:

Staff Knowledge and Support – to ensure that staff have resident plan information for meaningful activities, and to ensure staff are able to explain purposes and outcomes

Activities-Engagement – to ensure that meaningful activities are occurring that relate to each resident plan

Environment, Equipment, Supplies, and Life Safety – to ensure a completely safe environment for residents, to ensure equipment is working properly, and to ensure necessary supplies are available

Data Collection – to ensure proper data are recorded concerning residents

Level of Supervision – to ensure residents are receiving needed supervision

Consumer Appearance – to ensure that residents are well-groomed

The Quality Assurance staff and all BHC staff are commended for this work.

These frequent BHC staff observations are in addition to the annual federal survey required for Title 19 federal funding for ICFS/MR habilitation centers. This detailed oversight ensures that the residents enjoy their highest quality of life.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH OFFERS INADEQUATE PRIVATE HOMES AS SOLUTION TO ABIDE BY STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS OF CHOICE

In a letter dated December 8, 2011, Dr. Keith Shafer, Director of Mo. Department of Mental Health, states:

"We agree that families are the primary decision makers and families must be offered a choice of support service options including home and community based waiver services or Intermediate Care Facilities for the MR (ICF/MR) services. However, the Division is not required to use the state habilitation centers to provide ICF/MR services. The Division can purchase ICF/MR services through private ICF/MR providers to meet the individual's needs and satisfy the family's decision. We do not believe the Division is in violation of any state or federal laws."

After researching private habilitation center ICFS/MR, board member Patrick Wells stated:

"My overall view of these facilities is that they are NOT what you would want for the care of your loved one. The Missouri Department of Mental Health and the Division of Developmental Disability has FAILED to provide a "SAFE and APPROPRIATE private care facility as an alternative to State run ICF/ MR Habilitation Centers."

Missouri Statute 630.615 states:

Program standards to be considered--prior to placement.

630.615. Before placing any client in a particular residential facility or day program, the department shall consider each of the following criteria:

(3) The ability to provide to the patient or resident that individual degree of care and treatment which is required for that patient or resident and which is of comparable quality to the existing care and treatment based upon investigation of the alternative place and its program of care and treatment;

The private ICFS/MR that Dr. Shafer states would satisfy state and federal laws of CHOICE, clearly are totally inadequate, and violate the Missouri Statute 630.615 requirement of "comparable quality."

To express your opinion about:

- 1) opposition to the Department of Mental Health's freeze on long term admissions to habilitation centers and
- 2) concern about offering the extremely inadequate private habilitation centers to fulfill the **CHOICE** mandate in current law, CONTACT:

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Keith Schafer, Director of Department of Mental Health
Bernard Simons, Director-Division of Developmental Disabilities
April Maxwell, Director-State Operated Services
Jeff Grosvenor, Adminstrative 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 JAY NIXON

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

Your MISSOURI STATE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE

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



NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL SUBMITTED

The September 29, 2012 article “After Decades of Institutions, a Bumpy Journey to a New Life” highlights a crucial national issue: the care of our citizens who are severely intellectually, physically, and behaviorally disabled.

It also highlights what I see as strong-armed actions by the Department of Justice (DOJ) that are a gross misuse of federal power, and reflect a gross misinterpretation of the Olmstead decision and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Most families affected by these strong-armed tactics of the DOJ are in distress and disbelief that their loved ones are being evicted from homes that have been carefully chosen by their legal guardians.

Families are informing their state and national political leaders of these misguided, detrimental actions by the DOJ in hopes of maintaining a complete continuum of care for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities including in-home care, community living, and residential campus ICF/MR homes.

Shame on the DOJ for trampling the rights of loving legal guardians and for evicting persons with severe intellectual disabilities from their homes where they are receiving services that allow them to thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Mary Vitale – President, BHC Parents Association

To read the article, go to nytimes.com. To send comments of 150 words or less go to letters@nytimes.com.

COMMENTS TO NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO SUBMITTED

These comments are concerning the program “Disabled Kids Living Isolated Lives in Institutions” aired on NPR on October 16, 2012.

To the extent that persons are wrongly placed in nursing facilities, I agree that there should be alternatives for their care so that they can thrive despite their disabilities.

However, the program lumped together all long term care facilities. My severely intellectually and physically disabled brother lives in a long term care facility called an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICFMR). Most of these ICFS/MR are residential campuses that are a real part of the surrounding community of neighborhoods, schools, churches, and businesses.

I know first hand that ICFS/MR 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. strict federal oversight and service requirements for quality care

An ICF/MR is my brother’s home. It is his least restrictive, most integrated environment for him to thrive despite his severe disabilities.

The national movement towards total deinstitutionalization is putting thousands of persons like my brother in harm’s way. Families are in daily distress fearing that their loved ones will be forced to move out of their ICF/MR homes.

It is just common sense that our national policies concerning people with a wide range of disabilities must include a complete continuum of care with a wide range of choices including in- home services, community living, and long term care facilities like ICFS/MR.

Mary A. Vitale, President, BHC Parent Association

To read the transcript or listen to the program, go to npr.org, and search the title of the above program. To send comments, click on Contact Us. To phone comments, 202.513.3232

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DISABILITY (NCD) CALLS FOR TOTAL DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION IN A POLICY PAPER AND IN AN ANNUAL REPORT DATED AUGUST 2012

NCD is an independent federal agency charged with advising the President, Congress, and other federal agencies regarding policies, programs, practices, and procedures that affect people with disabilities.

From the policy paper "Deinstitutionalization: Unfinished Business"

The unfinished business of **closing state-run institutions** and other public and private institutional settings that have traditionally served people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) is an important first step and **should be a top public policy priority** in every state where such institutions exist. Equally important is ensuring that these people have access to services and supports in their communities that will enable them to lead rich and meaningful lives.

From the August 12 annual report: "Chapter 1. Community Living"

"Olmstead Enforcement"

NCD Recommends:

1.2 DOJ should maintain and expand its efforts to ensure state compliance with the Supreme Court's Olmstead v. L.C., focusing its efforts on the **closure of institutions both large and small** and advancing the ADA's integration mandate and the application of the Olmstead decision in other types of public programs, such as employment.

"Developmental Disabilities and Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act)"

NCD Recommends:

1.5 DD Network partners should be required to coordinate their planning through the establishment of a joint strategic planning process under the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' review. This would allow AIDD to select particular areas of emphasis for systems change activities, which in turn would allow the DD Network Partners to pick a particular focus area to coordinate around, such as building state Employment First infrastructure or **working to eliminate ICF-MR within the state."**

To read the full report, go to WWW.NCD.GOV under Progress Reports.

Individuals may provide public comment by sending their comments concerning the August 2012 Annual Report in writing to Lawrence Carter-Long, Public Affairs Specialist, at PublicComment@ncd.gov, using the subject line of ``Public Comment."

VOR NEWS (vor.net)

VOR EMAIL UPDATE 10-12-12

A report from a committee monitoring the closing of the Jacksonville facility in Illinois found:

of the 47 residents moved from April to mid-September,
4 had run-ins with police,
14 were admitted to the hospital,
4 more received psychiatric hospitalizations,
and 1 resident returned to a state-run center.

Officials called these a "few bumps in the road." !!!!!!!!



PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMENTS: THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY DISGRACEFUL NATIONAL EXAMPLES OF MOVING RESIDENTS TO ILL PREPARED ENVIRONMENTS FROM THEIR HOMES IN A STATE RUN ICF/MR HABILITATION CENTER.

NOVEMBER 2012 PAGE 7

VOR NEWS (vor.net) continued

VOR EMAIL UPDATE 9-7-12

The Community First Choice Option of the Affordable Care Act offers states more Medicaid dollars for community living. Under rules issued earlier this year, states which opt to participate can qualify for a 6 percentage point bump in funding to provide community services for Medicaid beneficiaries who would otherwise require care in an institution. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, California will be the first state to participate in the Community First Choice Option.

PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMENTS: OFFERING STATES MORE FEDERAL DOLLARS TO MOVE PEOPLE OUT OF ICFS/MR HABILITATION CENTERS IS A VERY BIASED USE OF FEDERAL FUNDING.

VOR SUBMITS WRITTEN TESTIMONY

In September 2012, VOR submitted written comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Community Living. VOR opposed the deinstitutionalization goals of many state Protection and Advocacy programs.

On June 28, 2012 VOR submitted written testimony for the record for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Hearing, "Olmstead Enforcement Update: Using the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to Promote Community Integration." An excerpt from the written testimony follows: "Contrary to the decision itself, 'Olmstead enforcement' initiatives impose community placement on individuals, without regard for choice and the fundamental differences between individuals with physical or mild intellectual disabilities and those with profound intellectual disabilities."

In May and June, 2012, VOR submitted concerns with regard to the lack of objective oversight of state Developmental Disabilities Councils and state Protection and Advocacy programs. In the comments, VOR recommended that performance reports for these two programs be subject to an independent audit to ensure accuracy.

VOR IS THE ONLY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS A FULL CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, INCLUDING HABILITATION CENTERS!!

EVERYDAY VOR WORKS AS OUR NATIONAL VOICE!!

JOIN AND HELP WITH THIS WORK. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

\$40 per year per individual;

\$200 per year per family organization; or

\$250 per year per provider/professional organization

Thank you for joining or renewing!

Send completed form with payment to:

VOR

836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Family/Professional Organization Affiliation (if applicable): _____
Location your loved one calls home: _____ State: _____
Gifts to VOR are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law, as no goods or services are provided in consideration of a gift.

NOVEMBER 2012 PAGE 8

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
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS MO 63137

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED**

