

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER**

10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137

PHONE 314-340-6002

WEBSITE www.ParentsAssociationBHC.com



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015 2:00 p.m.

GYM IN THE MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING, BHC

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, email a message, 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.

2015 PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES – Mark your calendars

FEBRUARY 8

MAY 17

AUGUST 9

NOVEMBER 8

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The Parent Newsletter is online at www.parentsassociationbhc.com. Pass it along to friends, family, and political leaders.

The new switchboard number for Bellefontaine Habilitation Center is **314-264-9100** or **314-264-9101**.

BHC residents have been busy with special events in the last few months. They have enjoyed pumpkin decorating, Halloween festivities, a Bob Kramer Marionettes Christmas puppet show, Christmas decorating and a Christmas party. Staff and residents show their creative side in developing these extra programs.

Sincere thanks to the Mulvaney family for their generous donations to the Hidden Treasure Thrift Shop, and to Celeste and Elizabeth Ludwidge for donations to the Thrift Shop. Cookie donations came from Helen McGillen of Church Women United and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Deming of Overland Baptist Church. Their thoughtfulness made Christmas a little bit merrier for BHC residents.

The 2015 legislative session began on January 7, 2015, and ends on May 15, 2015. There are many new legislators because of the November 2014 elections. Education of legislators is vital to advocating for our family members and other residents living in habilitation centers. Invite them to visit a habilitation center home. To find your legislators call the Missouri Capitol Switchboard at 1-573-751-2000 or go to www.mo.gov. Also at www.mo.gov, choose Government, then Legislative to follow actions on bills and listen to live debates.

Habilitation center homes 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. being a part of the surrounding community of neighborhoods, schools, churches, and businesses. Habilitation center homes are successful, stable, sustainable, comprehensive, consistent and cost-effective.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This is a good time to educate others about the excellent services available in habilitation center homes.

Everyone must speak up to allow new long term admissions to habilitation centers.

Do you know of a family that might need the services of a habilitation center? Call the Parents Association at 314-340-6002.

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

2015 BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD ST. LOUIS, MO 63137 314-340-6002
www.parentsassociationbhc.com

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Mary Vitale
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Natale Lucido
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Members of the Parents Association of the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center enhance the lives of the residents. Examples of resident support by the Parents Association include:

BIRTHDAY CAKES AND GIFTS
HOLIDAY PARTIES
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
HOME FURNISHINGS
SPECIAL PROGRAM FUNDS
PICNIC FUNDS
DANCE BANDS
CAMP FUNDS
STAFF APPRECIATION

A Parent Newsletter is published 4 times a year, and can be accessed on our website, www.parentsassociationbhc.com. For questions about the Parents Association, call 314-340-6002.

Do you have a relative, friend, or community leader that would be interested in the Parent Association? 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$5.00 annually. Pass along the membership form on the following page.

We support keeping habilitation centers open and allowing new long-term admissions to these centers. These centers provide comprehensive, **very cost effective care** to Missouri citizens with the severest degree of intellectual disability and the highest degree of medical, physical, and behavioral impairments.

**FAMILIES IN MISSOURI SUPPORT LONG TERM ADMISSIONS
TO HABILITATION CENTERS!**

**WHAT ACTION WILL YOU TAKE TO ENSURE HABILITATION
CENTERS REMAIN OPEN AND OFFERED AS A CHOICE?**

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.

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>
Linda Presgrave	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Stan Chovnick	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Steve & Mary Vitale	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Mike & Doris Brophy	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Donna & Joe Bernett	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Larry Eckhoff	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Francis & Ann Knaebel	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Joe & Julie Buschjost	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
George & Rosie Dorge family	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Bill & Doris Dorge family	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Leonard&Willine Niekamp family	Brophy family	in memory of Loretta Brophy
Paul & Sandra Kuchera	Bettie Meyer	in memory of Norm Meyer
Tom & Caroline Kemper	Bettie Meyer	in memory of Norm Meyer
Howard & Susan Gage	Bettie Meyer	in memory of Norm Meyer
Steve & Mary Vitale		in memory of Dee Baldetti
Rosemarie Coll		in memory of Thomas Coll
Bob & Evelyn Ruzensky		in memory of George Minstermann
Sharisse Seidel Bush		in memory of Al, Rosemary, Stan Seidel
Jim & Carla Hart	Carolyn Campbell	get well wishes
Harry & Helen Ramatowski		donation

Sincere sympathy to the Michael Brophy family upon the death of Loretta Brophy who served on committees of the BHC Parents Association for many years. All the BHC residents benefited from her work.



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

- \$5275 Christmas gifts, trees, decorations
- \$ 750 Household goods for resident homes
- \$ 710 Birthday gifts Jan-Jun 2015
- \$ 500 Bob Kramer Marionettes



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PARENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YEAR 2015

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

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NEW MEMBER yes no

Mail to: JOHN AHLQUIST 7711 Bonhomme Ste 850 Clayton Mo 63105

If you are a new member, please let us know so that you can receive our newsletter.

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
314-264-9100 or 314-264-9101

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Keith Schafer, Director of Department of Mental Health
Valerie Huhn, Director-Division of Developmental Disabilities
April Maxwell, Director-State Operated 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

MISSOURI STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

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

U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

United States Capitol Switchboard: 1-202-224-3121
www.house.gov
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

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

2419B Hyde Park Rd.
Jefferson City, MO 65109
Telephone: (573) 635-9145
Toll-free: (800) 554-2054
www.afscmecouncil72.org

VOR (a national organization representing a full continuum of care for persons diagnosed with an intellectual disability, including ICFs/IID, habilitation centers in Missouri)
1-877-399-4VOR
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

2015 MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2015 Missouri House of Representatives has 163 representatives: 118 Republicans, 45 Democrats.

The 2015 Missouri Senate has 34 senators: 25 Republicans, 9 Democrats.

LEGISLATIVE DATES OF INTEREST 2015

December 2014

Pre-filing of Bills

January 2015

7 Session begins – 12:00 p.m.

19 Martin Luther King Day – Holiday – No Session

February 2015

26 Last day to introduce Senate Bills

March 2015

19 SPRING BREAK BEGINS – Upon Adjournment

30 SPRING BREAK ENDS – Reconvene – 4:00 p.m.

April 2015

2 EASTER BREAK BEGINS – Upon Adjournment

7 EASTER BREAK ENDS – Reconvene

May 2015

8 Appropriation Bills must be Truly Agreed and Finally Passed – 6:00 p.m.

15 SESSION ENDS – 6 p.m.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEES TO KNOW ABOUT (www.house.mo.gov)

BUDGET

The Committee on Budget shall have the responsibility of filing all appropriation bills, assigning of those bills to the appropriate appropriation committees and shall report upon all bills recommended to it by the respective appropriation committee and any other bills, measures, or questions referred to it pertaining to the appropriation and disbursement of public money.

APPROPRIATIONS – HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Committee on Appropriations – Health, Mental Health and Social Services shall report to the Budget Committee upon all bills, measures, and questions referred to it by the Budget Committee pertaining to the appropriations and disbursements of public money for the funding of the Department of health and Senior Services, the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Social Services.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Committee on Children, Families, and Person with Disabilities may consider and report upon bills and matters referred to it relating to the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Senior Services, and other matters relating to the fostering and promotion of children, families, and persons with disabilities in this state.

HEALTH CARE POLICY

The Committee on Health Care Policy may consider and report upon bills and matters referred to it relating to the health care of the citizens of the State, including mental health, and Departments of Health and Mental Health. The Committee may also consider and report on bills and matters referred to it relating to Medicaid and related matters.

MISSOURI SENATE COMMITTEES TO KNOW ABOUT (www.senate.mo.gov)

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

The Committee on Appropriations shall consider and report upon all bills and matters referred to it pertaining to general appropriations and disbursement of public money.

SENIORS, FAMILIES AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Seniors, Families and Pensions shall consider and report upon bills and matters referred to it concerning the preservation of the quality of life for senior citizens, nursing home and boarding home operations, alternative care programs for the elderly, and family and children's issues. It shall also consider and report upon bills and matters referred to it concerning retirement and pensions and pension plans, income maintenance, social services, and child support enforcement.



BHC STAFF TRAINING

Bellefontaine Habilitation Center staff members have training and re-training requirements that include:

Electronic instruction through the Missouri Employee Learning System (MELS Electronic Learning): Education offered using electronic delivery methods such as web-based learning, computer-based learning, virtual classrooms, and digital collaboration. It includes the delivery of content via Internet, intranet/extranet (LAN/WAN), audio-and videotape, satellite broadcast, interactive TV, and CD-ROM.

A partial list of topics covered during training are: Missouri Quality Outcomes, Working with Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Person Centered Planning Overview, Positive Behavior Support, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Standard First Aid and CPR, Abuse/Neglect Reporting, Infection Control, Occupational Therapy Review, Physical Therapy Review, Speech Therapy Review, Dietary Issues, Driver Safety, Fire Safety, Emergency Preparedness, HIPPA privacy, and Consumer Rights.

New Developmental Assistants (DAs) are overseen by a mentor upon being assigned to resident care, and must become competent at a checklist of duties.

For a complete list of training requirements go to Developmental Disabilities Division Directives: "New Employee Training" at <http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/directives/2130.pdf> and "Annual Training" at <http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/directives/2140.pdf>

HABILITATION CENTERS UPDATE

Residents of the Marshall Habilitation Center (MHC) are moving into the Higginsville Habilitation Center (HHC) or choosing homes in the community, preparing for the closing of the Marshall Habilitation Center.

Marshall and Higginsville's off-campus waiver programs will become one entity known as Northwest Community Services and will be operated through the MHC superintendent.

In recent years, the Nevada Habilitation Center, and the Northwest Habilitation Center have closed.

Current state operated habilitation centers in Missouri are:
Bellefontaine, St. Charles, South County, Southeast Missouri Residential Services, and Higginsville

The Director of State Operated Programs overseeing all the habilitation centers is April Maxwell.

Families searching for services are not told about habilitation centers, denying them their legal right of choice among available options. Federal and state laws support choice, but are being ignored by federal and state policymakers.

Do you know of a family that might need the services of a habilitation center? Call the Parents Association at 314-340-6002.

MISSOURI DEVELOPS REQUIRED PLAN FOR NEW "COMMUNITY" DEFINITION

On January 10, 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a final rule about home and community-based services provided by Medicaid's waiver program.

The ruling declared what CMS defines as "community" living to qualify for HCBS waiver funding from Medicaid, and what is not considered "community" living. States have 5 years to become compliant with the new rule.

All Missouri HCBS Waivers administered by Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Department of Social Services (DSS) are being reviewed for compliance with the final rule as required by (CMS)

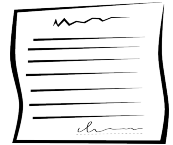
A draft of the Missouri Transition Plan outlines the proposed process that Missouri will utilize to ensure implementation of the new HCBS requirements. Stakeholders are being asked to provide public input and comment in order to allow Missouri to develop a comprehensive assessment plan.

To see the complete plan go to: <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/general/pdf/missouri-transition-plan-cms.pdf>

There is widespread concern over the consequences of this new rule for all long term care services.

QUOTE: "The goal was completely laudable." said Martha Roherty, director of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, which works to help elders and people with disabilities live in their

communities for as long as possible. "Unfortunately, what's happened is that it is limiting individuals' choice of what and where to receive long-term care services rather than broadening it..."



VOR LANGUAGE INCLUDED IN THE 2015 U.S. APPROPRIATIONS ACT

VOR is a national nonprofit organization advocating for high quality care and human rights for all persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). VOR advocates for the right of individuals with I/DD and their families and legal guardians to choose from a full array of high quality residential and other support options including own home, community-based, and facility settings.

VOR has long been concerned about the Department of Justice's Americans with Disabilities Act enforcement actions, purportedly in furtherance of the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead v. L.C. decision.

VOR has consistently urged the Department of Justice to adhere to individual choice, according to need and family input, when enforcing Olmstead as required by Olmstead. These concerns were brought to U.S. Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

Below is language included in the Conference Report that accompanied the 2015 Appropriations by the U.S. Congress. VOR submitted this language relating to appropriations for the Department of Justice: "Deinstitutionalization - There is a nationwide trend towards deinstitutionalization of patients with intellectual or developmental disabilities in favor of community-based settings. The Department (of Justice) is strongly urged to continue to factor the needs and desires of patients, their families, caregivers, and other stakeholders, as well as the need to provide proper settings for care, into its enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act." VOR is grateful to Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) for championing this report language. Thanks also for support Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), who chair the Senate and House Appropriations' Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies.

The approved report language strongly urges the Department of Justice to consider individual need and choice -as required by Olmstead - and the input of families, in decisions impacting an individual's ability to access necessary services and supports in proper care settings.

VOR will continue to build on this progress in the current Congress.

VOR IS OUR NATIONAL VOICE. BECOME A MEMBER. ASK OTHERS TO BECOME MEMBERS.

GO TO VOR.NET FOR MEMBERSHIP FORM.

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VOR's 2015 Annual Conference, "Advocating for Choice by Expanding Opportunities," will be held on Sunday, June 7 in Washington, D.C., with Congressional visits beginning on Monday, June 8.

Speakers will focus on an advocate's role in making residential and employment choice a reality by expanding opportunities according to individual need.

Be part of the national voice for persons with intellectual disabilities. Think about attending this conference. Go to vor.net for complete information.

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VOR QUOTES:

"When you remove fragile people from specialized care, tragedies are predictable, widespread, and well-documented."

"Without question, deinstitutionalization has failed many people."

"For 31 years, VOR has advocated that families are the most effective voice for their disabled loved ones."

"They know best. It is critical that families be on the frontlines educating legislators and state officials about the unparalleled, comprehensive and highly specialized care their loved ones receive."

WHAT ACTION WILL YOU TAKE TO ENSURE HABILITATION CENTERS REMAIN OPEN AND OFFERED AS A CHOICE?

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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 "Bellefontaine Habilitation Parents Association"

MAIL TO: BHC PARENTS ASSOCIATION 10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD ST LOUIS MO 63137



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.

Thanks to the generous hearts and hard work of all the volunteers in the Thrift Shop.

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

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

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

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED