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October 4, 2012

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board:

The Arc represents all infants, children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The Arc believes it is imperative that state institutions be closed in Illinois. We strongly support the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

In Illinois, thousands of individuals have successfully transitioned from institutions to community living. We believe that many of the current individuals now living in CILA have successfully transitioned from state institutions and nursing homes. We know how to do this.

Community living offers people with disabilities a safer way of living with quality, independence and equality.

Let's review what state and national experts on intellectual disability systems have to say about Illinois. All of their reports state that Illinois needs to be re-balanced by closing state institutions and supporting community living.

1. **A Quest for Equality: Breaking the Barriers for People With Disabilities, A Call for Action For Illinois Leaders, The Chicago Community Trust, 2011.**
2. **The Blueprint for System Redesign in Illinois, Human Services Research Institute, 2008.**
3. **State Funding of Community Agencies for Services Provided to Illinois Residents with Mental Illness and/or Developmental Disabilities: Final Report to the Illinois General Assembly, Elizabeth T. Powers, Ph.D., University of Illinois, 2006.**

Achieve with us.

4. **Financing Service to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in the State of Illinois, Robert Gettings, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, 2003.**

In addition, there are also two recent Legislative Resolutions calling for re-balancing the Developmental Disability System in Illinois:

1. **Senate & House Joint Resolution 15 – 2011**
2. **House Joint Resolution 28 – 2009**

There is also tremendous editorial support for re-balancing the disability system by closing state institutions including the Chicago Tribune's Sept 30, 2011 editorial, **Moving to Community Care – State-Run Centers for Developmentally Disabled Finally on the Way Out!**

Other editorial boards supporting re-balancing include:

1. **Chicago Sun Times – June 15, 2011**
2. **Chicago Tribune - May 23, 2011**
3. **State Journal Register – May 22, 2011**
4. **Pantagraph – May 22, 2011**
5. **Rockford Register Star – April 27, 2011**

There are now 14 states without state institutions, including our neighbors:

1. **Minnesota – 2000**
2. **Indiana – 2007**
3. **Michigan – 2009**

Nationally, the trend is very dramatic in states closing their state institutions from a high of 194,650 individuals in state institutions to 33,732 in 2009. Ask yourself, "Is this where we, as public servants, should be investing scarce resources for our state?"

The national research of outcomes of closures and deinstitutionalization is extensive dating back to 1982 through 2011. The findings are quite conclusive on outcomes regarding quality of life, adaptive behaviors and health of individuals, and satisfaction of families:

- 1) **Improved quality of life, including more choice-making opportunities, more friends, greater community participation, and greater residential satisfaction.**
- 2) **Improved adaptive behaviors, including social skills, self-care, and domestic skills and inconsistent results regarding challenging behaviors.**

- 3) Similar or improved health status and health care access, with some difficulty in accessing some types of health care such as dental services, and less polypharmacy.
- 4) Greater satisfaction of families with community placement versus the previous institutions, despite the fact that many families initially opposed deinstitutionalization.

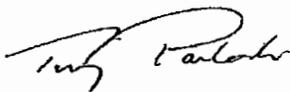
Illinois has a "Blueprint" to re-balance the disability system. It was developed in 2008 and updated in 2012 as a seven-year guide to move to an integrated community system. It is time to implement the "Blueprint for System Redesign in Illinois."

Everyone can live in the community with the proper supports. It is imperative that the individuals at Jacksonville be properly supported for a successful transition to community living.

We already know how to do this.

What we need now is the political will to do the right thing and move this antiquated institutional system into a community system that supports everyone based upon their individual needs.

Very truly yours,



Tony Paulauski
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FAX



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Mark Your Calendar

September 7, 2012 "Legal & Future Care Planning" PACT, Inc. Lisle, IL

September 19, 2012 "Dreaming New Dreams" United Presbyterian Church Peoria, IL

September 27, 2012 Autism Conference Temple Grandin Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, IL

October 4, 2012 "Update on Health Care for Illinois Children with Special Needs" Shriners Hospital, Chicago, IL

October 6, 2012 "Planning for Children & Adults with Special Needs" Livingston County Mental Health Board Pontiac, IL

October 10, 2012 "Dreaming New Dreams", University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

November 9, 2012 "Legal & Future Care Planning" Arc of Quad Cities Rock Island, IL

November 28, 2012 "Dreaming New Dreams" Roland Lewis Community Building Mt. Vernon, IL

November 30, 2012 "Planning for Children & Adults with Special Needs" The Association for Individual Development Aurora, IL

December 4, 2012 "Planning for Children & Adults with Special Needs" SouthSTAR Services, Chicago Heights, IL

January 17, 2013 "Legal & Future Care Planning" Park Lawn Oak Lawn, IL

January 29, 2013 "11th Annual QIDP Leadership Conference" Doubletree Hotel Alsip, IL

February 7-8, 2013 The Arc of Illinois Leadership Conference" Hilton Hotel, Lisle, IL

March 1, 2013 Planning for Children & Adults with Special Needs" Seguin Services, Inc. Cicero, IL

March 5, 2013 The Shift to Personalized Employment Tinley Park Convention Center Tinley Park, IL

April 24-25, 2013 The Arc of Illinois 63rd Annual Convention, Hilton, Lisle, IL

May 3, 2013, "Legal & Future Care Planning The Arc of Adams County, Quincy, IL

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DATE: 10-4-12 TOTAL PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE) 4

FAX TO: ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES Bd

COMPANY NAME: _____

FAX #: 217-785-4111

FROM: TONY PAULAUSKI

MESSAGE:

NO CLOSURE OF JACKSONVILLE
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

May 17, 2013 "Planning for Children & Adults with Special Needs" PACT, Inc. Lisle, IL

June 7, 2012 Planning for Children & Adults with Special Needs" PACT, Inc. Lansing, IL

Call 815-464-1832 for more information on Training Events!