



12-074

THE STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

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

October 3, 2012

RE: Closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center

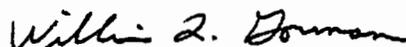
On behalf of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois, we urge you to support the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center. The facts to support the closure are overwhelming. Fourteen states have already closed all of their state institutions. Illinois institutionalizes more people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities than 48 other states with our eight (8) state developmental centers. All of the national studies conducted regarding Illinois' developmental disability system clearly state the need to move away from institutional spending and invest in community services.

Numerous national studies indicate that the vast majority of parents: 1. changed their attitudes about community living after their family member had moved to the community; 2. after experiencing community living, parents viewed the institution less positively than they did when their family member lived there; 3. parents observed improved quality of life and relationships for their family member after the move out of the institution. Overall, individuals served in the community are safer, healthier and have a higher quality of life than individuals living in institutions.

In addition to the programmatic benefits of serving individuals in the community, we must address fiscal considerations. We cannot continue to justify maintaining and old and deteriorating infrastructure at the Jacksonville Developmental Center and overall, community services are more cost effective. We are also cognizant and sensitive to the concern over job loss; however, jobs lost at the Developmental Center will be created in the community to serve individuals transitioning from JDC to community services. Regardless, the preservation of state jobs cannot trump the rights of individual with disabilities to live in the community. We cannot use individuals with disabilities as economic commodities to maintain state employment.

We urge you based on both fiscal and programmatic reasons to support the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center. In short, individuals with disabilities, like all citizens, want and need to live in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William L. Gorman".

William L. Gorman
Executive Director



STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Send To: *Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board*

Company:

Fax: *217-785-4111*

From: *William Gorman*

Date: *10-4-12*

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Input to Board

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