

FAX COVER SHEET

Transmission from:



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OCT 05 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board

Date: 10-5-12

From: Cathy Contarino

FAX #: 217-785-4111

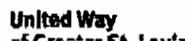
Title(s) of Document(s):

Letter re: closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

Total number of pages sent (excluding this page):1

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Proud member of





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October 5, 2012

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

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to support the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center. As the Director of a Center for Independent Living and as an individual with a physical disability, I believe that all individuals should have the opportunity to live in the community with supports. Should my situation be different, I could be living in an institution or a nursing home and not be a contributing member of my community who also pays taxes.

An institution such as the Jacksonville Developmental Center segregates individuals and fosters the misnomer that it is acceptable to lock people with disabilities away from society. Every American has the right to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness". In addition closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center will save the State money. Supporting an individual in their own place is significantly less expensive than paying the costs of an institution including the cost of operating an aging facility.

I ask that the Board support and uphold the Governor's decision to close the Jacksonville Developmental Center. Please do not back down because political pressure is mounting to keep the Center open. Closing the Center is the right thing to do.

Sincerely;

Cathy Contarino
Executive Director

Proud member of



United Way
of Greater St. Louis

IMPACT promotes pride and respect of people with disabilities by sharing the tools that are necessary to take control of one's own life. IMPACT advocates full community participation, with supports, of all citizens.

United Way Partnership/INCIL Member

Options Center for Independent Living

22 Heritage Drive Suite # 107
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 936-0100 (Voice) (815) 936-0117 (Fax)

FAX COVER SHEET

**To: Illinois Health Facilities Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761.**

Fax: 1-217-785-4111

From: Donald R. Mitchell, Independent Living Specialist

Date: October 5, 2012

Total pages, including transmittal sheet: 2

**Comments: Attached Advocacy Letter in Re: Closing Jacksonville Developmental Center
Donald R. Mitchell, Independent Living Specialist**

Options

Center for Independent Living

October 5, 2012

Illinois Health Facilities Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761.

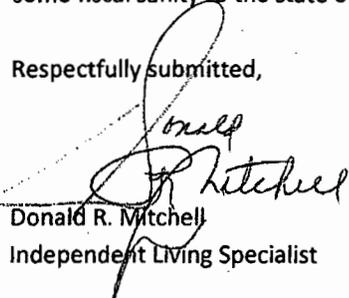
Members of the Board:

As an advocate for people with disabilities I am writing to you today to encourage you to close the Jacksonville Developmental Center and transition the residents to community based care.

According to a recent analysis of the facilities Jacksonville Developmental Center was built over 150 years ago, the center is in bad shape. Over the years there has been an estimated \$ 100,000,000 in deferred maintenance to the buildings and roads, and the state of Illinois does not have the money to make those repairs, even after raising state income taxes by 67%. In addition, the center currently houses 200 residents at an annual cost of \$ 200,000 per resident bringing the cost of care for the residents to \$ 40 million dollars per year. The state of Illinois simply can no longer afford to provide these services when the costs of care in the community would be less than half the cost to operate Jacksonville.

I encourage you to vote to close this facility, transition the residents to community based care, so that we can restore some fiscal sanity to the state of Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,


Donald R. Mitchell
Independent Living Specialist

File



United Way
of Kankakee County

22 Heritage Drive, Suite 107 • Bourbonnais, IL 60914
Voice (815) 936-0100 • TTY 936-0132 • Fax 936-0117

Our Mission:
We serve people
with disabilities
through support
and advocacy



Winnebago, Boone and
Ogle Counties

Our Vision:
A Society For All
Equal Access
Equal Opportunity
Empowerment

Achieve with us.

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

October 5 2012

To The Board
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board

I am writing in support of the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center.

As the mother of an adult with multiple developmental disabilities, my heart goes out to the families and staff who are invested in Jacksonville. This is a difficult time for them. I also know that this system of residential care is outmoded, not person friendly, and this change is long overdue. My son lives successfully in a community CILA. He has a far better life than if he had been institutionalized.

Change is difficult but necessary. The State of Illinois lags behind in providing community based person centered care and the system must be rebalanced. The time is now.

The Arc has helped many make this transition and is prepared to help everyone make this transition. The Family Support Network has transition specialists who are parents and siblings of people with intellectual disabilities working with families to navigate this transition.

Please support the rebalancing of the system in Illinois.

Sincerely,

Jacki Neil Boss
Executive Director and Mother of Alex

Candice Goldstein
620 Forest View Drive
Geneva, Illinois 60134

October 4, 2012

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board
2nd Floor
525 W. Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761
By Fax: 217-785-4111

Re: Jacksonville Developmental Center Closure

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board:

I am writing because I have learned you are considering keeping the Jacksonville Developmental Center open. I am a parent of a 23 year old man with autism and intellectual disabilities who lives in a small (four person) CILA-funded group home in Aurora. He has been living there for two years. He has many challenging behaviors, including darting and pica, and is non-verbal. He has become more independent in the activities of daily living and seems very happy since moving to his group home. He has been able to continue his recreation programs and therapeutic horse riding since he moved from home. He has started some new activities as well.

My husband and I believe if our son can live in the community, anyone can. It all depends on the supports. There is no reason to keep a "facility" open if a "home" is the alternative.

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. Other states have been able to make this change.

Sincerely,



Candice Goldstein

BLOOMINGTON OFFICE

2201 EASTLAND DRIVE
 SUITE 1
 BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704
 VOICE/TTY: 309/663-5433
 TOLL FREE: 888/543-3245
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**PONTIAC OFFICE**

318 WEST MADISON STREET
 PONTIAC, IL 61764
 VOICE/TTY 815/844-1132
 FAX 815/844-1148

October 8, 2012.

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

RE: Closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center

The Board of Directors and staff of LIFE Center for Independent Living urge you to support the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

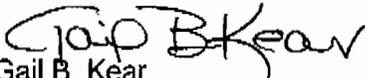
Illinois relies on institutional care for persons with developmental disabilities to a far greater extent than 48 other states. In fact, fourteen other states have already closed all of their state institutions. Their experience has proven that persons with developmental disabilities can be served better, more safely, and with better quality of life, in community-based settings. National studies have also shown that the vast majority of parents, once their family member experienced community living, believed that their love one was better off in the community-based setting.

Fiscal considerations must also be taken into account. Other states that have reduced or ended their reliance on institutional care experienced significant cost savings. When our state is struggling financially, how do we justify continuing to provide more-expensive institutional care, and how do we justify maintaining the old and deteriorating buildings on institutional campuses?

We empathize with state employees who fear loss of jobs, but recognize that jobs will be elsewhere to serve individuals who moved to community settings. And the preservation of state jobs cannot trump the rights of individual with disabilities, as outlined in the Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision, to live in the community. We cannot use individuals with disabilities as economic commodities to maintain state employment.

We urge you, for all these reasons, to support the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center. Individuals with disabilities, like all citizens, want and deserve to live in the community of their choice.

Sincerely,


 Gail B. Kear
 Executive Director

Web site: www.lifeccl.org

Advancing equality and integration of all persons with disabilities.

MEMBER OF
INCIL

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board:

I support the closure of the Jacksonville Development Jacksonville Development Center on October 30-31!

Hello my name is Robert Peterson I am in a wheelchair.

I live in the community in a group home I can go out to the movies and I can go store and buy a computer. And go to ARC of Illinois meeting, I can go to the pool.

Robert Peterson

October 4, 2012

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

Board Members:

As you take up the closure of the Jacksonville Development Center on October 30-31 in Bollingbrook, I ask you to close JDC. Both state and national experts on intellectual disability systems report that Illinois needs to be re-balanced by closing state institutions and supporting community living. 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."

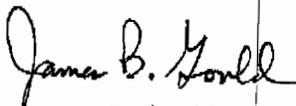
First, closing institutions like JDC is better for individuals living in them. Community living offers people with disabilities a safer way of living with quality, independence and equality. In Illinois, thousands of individuals have successfully transitioned from institutions to community living.

Second, closing institutions is better for the 21,000 individuals who are on the waiting list for state services. Institutional settings like JDC are four times more costly financially than community living arrangements. Four times the number of people with disabilities can be served by closing institutions like JDC.

My son David is 19. He is developmentally disabled as a result of a prenatal brain injury. He is completely non-verbal. His mental age is between 3 and 5. David will never live independently and will need living arrangements, employment assistance and other disability services his entire life. Currently the chances of David receiving services in Illinois in two years are virtually non-existent, due to lack of funding. Closing institutions like JDC will free up funds to provide services to the thousands, like David, who are desperately in need of assistance.

Are expensive institutions like JDC the place where public servants such as yourselves should be investing scarce resources for our state – resources that could better serve those in need?

I believe it is imperative that state institutions be closed in Illinois, and I strongly support the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.


James B. Gould

309 Sedgewick Street
Carpentersville, IL 60110