



12-074

**RECEIVED**

OCT 10 2012

**Office of the President**  
1101 West College Avenue  
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650  
217.245.3001 | [www.ic.edu](http://www.ic.edu)

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 10, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

We ask that you would consider the following key points about JDC:

- Maintains a solid certification record
- Remains in good standing with the federal government
- Had \$2 million in Life Safety Code construction recently
- Has a Health Care Center with a setup similar to a doctor's office which trains residents to go to a doctor's appointment in preparation for life in our community
- Provides a Short Term Assistance Program which works with statewide crisis teams and admits people who have psychological or behavioral needs
- Coordinates work programs within the facility and partners with two agencies in the Jacksonville community, once again in preparation for life outside of JDC

We would like to propose the use of JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program.

JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience we have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Most cordially,

Axel D. Steuer  
President



1101 W College Avenue  
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET**

Total pages including cover sheet: 2

To: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
Institution:  
Fax: 217-785-4111  
Date: October 10, 2012  
From: Ann Marie Stahel, Assistant to the President/  
Assistant Secretary to the Board  
[amstahel@ic.edu](mailto:amstahel@ic.edu), Tel: (217) 245-3001 or (217) 245-3261  
Fax: (217) 245-3008  
Comments:

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## JDC likely to stay open past October 31st deadline

Written by Nick Kovatch

Wednesday, 10 October 2012 07:24

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With over 100 residents still at Jacksonville Developmental Center it appears the facility will stay open past its October 31st closure deadline.

State spokeswoman Januari Smith says there are currently 127 residents on campus and 19 on pre-transition visits. She says "JDC will not close until each and every resident is placed in a safe and secure community setting. We are continuing to work toward the closure date; however, adjustments to that date will be made as necessary to ensure a safe and secure transition for our residents."

She says a rumor that residents remaining at JDC October 31st will be moved to the Shapiro Mental Health Center in Kankakee is untrue.

In previous e-mails, Smith says the group contracted by the state to transition residents – Community Resource Associates - is working closely with the family members of JDC residents. She says community-based care has proved most effective in providing quality care but guardians interested in having their family member transferred to a state facility will be heard.

Lonnie Johns, chairman of the Committee to Protect the Residents of the JDC, argues that claim. His group is pushing a last ditch effort to save the facility.

He points to certified letters from DHS sent to parents of JDC residents last month giving them four days to tell the department where they would like their children relocated. If a preference wasn't given, the letter said DHS would take steps to move residents to an intermediate-care facility.

## JDC likely to stay open past October 31st deadline

Written by Nick Kovatch

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"Almost everything we hear about this contradicts what the state is saying," says Johns. "We now find out that JDC declared a medical emergency in January because so many registered nurses were leaving or planning to leave. So, [the state] wanted to spend almost \$500,000 on contract nurses who knew nothing about the developmentally disabled."

"It appears the Department of Human Services is purposefully creating a crisis at JDC trying to make things as bad as they can so staff leaves and parents are scared," says Johns.

Greg Shiver is executive director at Kaskaskia Workshop in Centralia where the Murray Developmental Center is scheduled to close after JDC is shutdown. He's closely watching the job Community Resource Associates is doing at JDC.

"What we're seeing happening in Jacksonville is, for lack of a better term, a group of carpetbaggers come into Illinois and do everything they can do to just simply get people out of this facility and where ever they can in Illinois," says Shiver. "I guess the proof of that is if you look at the quality of providers that they've been able to attract and it's not any of the better and bigger providers in Illinois because, frankly, as near as I can tell there's just simply a lack of trust by all the providers as to what's going on there."

The Committee to Protect the Residents of the JDC has taken out advertisements in the Springfield Journal-Register and Chicago Tribune telling Governor Pat Quinn "Shame on you...for creating a chaotic and potentially dangerous situation" at JDC.

"This whole fight is about who will evaluate the residents," says Johns. "Will it be this \$150,000 a month firm whose only purpose is to move them into community homes and won't even talk to the parents about anything else. I know that for a fact. I've spoken at some depth to a team leader at CRA. The staff at JDC should do the assessment and the evaluation."

The public has one more chance to voice their opinion on the planned closure of JDC. The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board will have the final recommendation in whether or not the facility stays open. They'll discuss the topic at a meeting at the Bolingbrook Golf Club in Bolingbrook on October 30th and 31st and are tentatively scheduled to discuss the

## **JDC likely to stay open past October 31st deadline**

Written by Nick Kovatch

Wednesday, 10 October 2012 07:24

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closure of JDC. Those wishing to make a written comment must do so today and fax their letter to 217-785-4111.

DHS contends it would cost less to put those with developmental disabilities in smaller community settings which has been a point of contention for many families and advocates of JDC residents.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** Fw: Pleas do not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs

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**From:** Sandra Drake [mailto:donsandradrake@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 12:47 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Pleas do not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Sandra Drake

Sent from my iPhone. Sandra Drake



October 9, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

We ask that you would consider the following key points about JDC:

- Maintains a solid certification record
- Remains in good standing with the federal government
- Had \$2 million in Life Safety Code construction recently
- Has a Health Care Center with a setup similar to a doctor's office which trains residents to go to a doctor's appointment in preparation for life in our community
- Provides a Short Term Assistance Program which works with statewide crisis teams and admits people who have psychological or behavioral needs
- Coordinates work programs within the facility and partners with two agencies in the Jacksonville community, once again in preparation for life outside of JDC

We would like to propose the use of JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program.

JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience they have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beaux D. Cole".

Beaux D. Cole, PharmD., R.Ph.

**"Going Well Beyond Your Traditional Pharmacy"**



133 North Grand East  
Springfield, IL 62702  
(217)525-0058  
Fax (217)525-0034

Beaux Cole PharmD, R.Ph

# Fax

**To:** IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board      **From:** Beaux Cole  
**Fax:** 785-4111      **Pages:** 2  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Date:** 10-10-12  
**Re:** JOC closure      **cc:** \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent       For Review       Please Reply       Please Recycle

**Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** Fw: Fwd: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board upcoming vote on Jacksonville Developmental Center

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**From:** georgea1@comcast.net [mailto:georgea1@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 02:27 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fwd: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board upcoming vote on Jacksonville Developmental Center

Ms. Avery - I am resending the E-mail to you as I used an incorrect address this morning.

Respectfully, George Amann

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**From:** georgea1@comcast.net  
**To:** "Courtney Avery" <Avery@illinois.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:21:32 AM  
**Subject:** Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board upcoming vote on Jacksonville Developmental Center

Ms. Avery - Please include this E-mail below as part of the correspondence on this issue. Thank you,

George Amann, Parent of a developmentally disabled son residing at an Illinois SODC.

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October 10, 2012  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board  
2nd Floor  
525 Jefferson Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board:

You are about to vote on the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center, the long time home of profound and severely developmentally disabled Illinois citizens. Full disclosure requires me to inform you that my wife and I are the parents of a son who resides in another State Operated Development Center (SODC) in Illinois.

Your vote on this action would seem to be the final word on the proposed closure of the Jacksonville SODC, thereby placing a heavy responsibility on you. While the Illinois Legislature has provided full funding for the residents of the Jacksonville SODC in the current budget, Governor Quinn and his Administration remain insistent on moving forward with this closure under an unnecessarily short timeline instituted by a small consulting company, Community Resource Associates (CRA). This consultant is dedicated to the belief that residential community service should be the only choice for SODC residents and their families. This process is discriminatory on its face and certain to cause

injury to the Jacksonville residents.

With just three weeks to go on the "closure timeline" , current published statistics dated 10/04/12 shows that 71% of the residents are still receiving services at the Jacksonville facility. This can only conclude with a rush to judgment for community services incapable of providing the necessary support to these most vulnerable Illinois citizens.

I urge you to reject the Jacksonville closure proposal.

Respectfully,

George Amann  
5901 Willow Court  
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** Fw: Please do not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs

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**From:** donald drake [mailto:donsandradrake@me.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 01:02 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Please do not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sent from my iPhone. Sandra Drake

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 12:00 PM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** Fw: KEEP MURRAY CENTER OPEN

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**From:** Marge Winkeler [mailto:margewinks@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** KEEP MURRAY CENTER OPEN

PLEASE HELP KEEP MURRAY CENTER OPEN. THE PEOPLE WHO RESIDE THERE ARE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE WITH VERY SPECIAL NEEDS. MANY WILL DIE IF MOVED TO COMMUNITY HOMES. CILLAS ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE SPECAL NEEDS THESE RESIDENTS REQUIRE. YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME VISIT MURRAY AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. THE COGFA COMMITTEE AGREED WHOLE HEARTEDLY THAT MURRAY CENTER IS A SPECIAL UNIQUE FACILITY WITH SPECIAL UNIQUE RESIDENTS. PLEASE DON'T BE APART OF THE PLAN TO ABUSE AND KILL THOSE RESIDENTS.

MARGARET WINKELER  
PARENT  
BREESE, ILL. 62230

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: JDC

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**From:** Julie Shafer [mailto:jshafer9@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** JDC

To Whom it May Concern

I have a profoundly handicapped son who has been a resident at JDC for 2 1/2 years. He was transferred there from Howe in Tinley Park. I can't begin to tell you how he has thrived at JDC, their care has been excellent. I will only be interested in another SODC for my son if JDC is closed. I truly believe a SODC (JDC preferred) is the best place for him. To me, they offer a safe, secure, and stable environment, especially for the profoundly handicapped. I hope and pray you will rethink your decision to close this facility. Thank you.  
Juliann Shafer

P. S. Since all other SODC's have been instructed not to talk with me, it is impossible to get any information from them, regarding availability.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: JDC permit application

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**From:** Anne Irving [mailto:AIrving@afscme31.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 2:21 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** RE: JDC permit application

Hi Courtney,

If JDC is the final agenda item on the first day, does that mean whatever family members drive in from central IL will have to stay all day to be heard? Also, is it possible it could get pushed over to the second day?

Folks are asking questions and I would like to give them a better sense of how it works.

Thanks,

Anne

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**From:** Avery, Courtney [mailto:Courtney.Avery@Illinois.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 11:33 AM  
**To:** Anne Irving  
**Subject:** RE: JDC permit application

Hi Anne,

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – last application before recess. The final agenda will be posted by the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Is AFSCME planning to have members or other interested parties to provide testimony at the meeting? Thanks.

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**From:** Anne Irving [mailto:AIrving@afscme31.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** JDC permit application

Hi Courtney,

Do you know what day (Oct. 30 or 31) the JDC permit will be voted?

Thanks,

Anne

Anne Irving

Director of Public Policy  
AFSCME Council 31  
312-641-6060 ext. 4324

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: AGAINST CLOSURE of JDC and Murray CTR.; FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY DUST!!!!  
**Attachments:** Dear Honorable Governor Patrick Quinn.docx; DSCN4882.JPG

-----Original Message-----

From: mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 3:20 PM  
To: Avery, Courtney  
Subject: AGAINST CLOSURE of JDC and Murray CTR.; FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY DUST!!!!

Subject: AGAINST CLOSURE of JDC and Murray CTR.; FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY DUST!!!

To: Director Avery and board of review:

Hello! I am Melba Gonzalez, the mother of Stefani who resides at Murray Center in Centralia, IL. I am begging for help to keep Murray Center and Jacksonville Developmental Center open and fully funded. Those who believe 'rebalancing' is the way to go for the profoundly retarded and disabled are not facing reality. Their goal is to put these individuals into 2,3,or 4 bedroom group homes with, in my words 'babysitters'; but oh, yes, there will be a 'support system' in place. Whatever that is!! Maybe 911!! Director Casey cannot tell us where these group homes are. He says, 'TRUST US. WORK WITH US'. Believe me, this is an experiment that will implode with disastrous results.

Attached is a letter I sent to Governor Quinn for your perusal.

We, parents and guardians, need your help to keep JDC and Murray open. My daughter and her friends will not survive a group home. Her and their specialized needs are too great.

Please, I pray, help her and her friends at JDC and Murray Center keep their home. COGFA'S decision should be accepted.

We can't rely on, 'FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY DUST'!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Loving mother of Stefani who lives at Murray,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 62, Red Bud, IL

62278

618-282-2858

Dear Honorable Governor Patrick Quinn:

Do you even hear us parents and guardians of residents of Murray Center? I have sent you so many emails pleading for you to visit with us and our children and learn how special Murray Center is to our profoundly retarded and disabled. They are provided with care far beyond what a community group home will do for them.

My daughter cannot withstand the trauma of such a move. I will not allow her to be a guinea pig for anyone!!The complexities of her disabilities will be met with such minimal care as to be a death sentence .

Is it so difficult for you to make a visit to Murray??? You were within 30 miles when you were at Waltonville to see the dead corn crop and prop up the farmers. I was there but you did not want to see me. I am ashamed for your lack of consideration, for my husband and I drove an hour and a half to get there. You went to console the folks of Freeport because their jobs are being outsourced to China. What's with that when you will kill hundreds of jobs; hurt many businesses and worsen the state's economy with the closing of Murray and other facilities. How about your weekend out east to coax business to come to Illinois? Hey, how about that visit to East St. Louis. OMG, now, you are in Brazil!!! Murray Center, oh no!! Out of sight, out of mind!! The word 'hypocritical' describes my assessment.

By the way, send the CRA back to all those states they come from. They are a useless tool, yet you give them thousands and thousands of dollars each month for doing nothing. Talk about wasteful spending!! Their role in 'rebalancing' should be under investigation. They were hired without the bidding process, an ethics violation. I will not give them the time of day!!!

Why pick Murray Center to close? The poppycock you've been fed by Director Casey and Tony Paulauski and others is just that. Director Casey's mantra is, 'TRUST US, WORK WITH US.' Maybe it should be: 'FAITH, TRUST, and FAIRY DUST.' Murray residents will never be independent nor thrive in a community setting. They don't know the world turns or if it is night or day. Murray Center could be a jewel in the DHS system for the profound if you would just have the fortitude to step back and say 'Wait a minute, so many are protesting my decision and applauding Murray Center, could I possibly be making a mistake?' Pension chaos is one thing, but the lives of the most vulnerable are another.

Please reconsider your decision to close Murray. Even Supreme Court Justices change their minds. It does not make you any less of a man.

**PLEASE KEEP MURRAY CENTER OPEN AND FULLY FUNDED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Loving mother of Stefani of Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: CLOSING SODC.S

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**From:** Anita R. Becherer [mailto:arbpfb@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 5:03 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fw: CLOSING SODC.S

**From:** Anita R. Becherer  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 4:56 PM  
**To:** COURTNEYAVERY@ILLINOIS.COM  
**Subject:** CLOSING SODC.S

ILLINOIS HAS NO PLAN FOR RESIDENTS OF SODC,S.

GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND FIGURE IT OUT. SODC'S ARE THE BEST THERE IS FOR OUR D.D. RESIDENTS SEVERE AND PROFOUND MULTI-HANDICAPPED AND THE CHEAPEST FOR THE STATE TO OPERATE. THERE IS NO WAY THE COMMUNITY CAN HANDLE THIS SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: closing of SODCs

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**From:** Stacia Watson [mailto:staciawatson@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 5:39 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** closing of SODCs

I am writing again to ask you to not support closures of stated operated developmental centers. My son, Rigney, whom I have written to you before about asking for your help, has been helped so much by Murray Center and continues to thrive there. Please do not close and take away the only place where he has been safe. I even as a RN could not keep my son safe in his own home because of his self injurious behavior and him destroying our home. It took a contractor 3 days to put our home back together after one of Rigney's outbursts all because he could not have a third glass of milk. PLEASE I am begging now at this point, don't close my son's home. I love him so much and he will not make it out in the community, We had him at Murray 4 months, brought him home and in the course of a year his behavior started to fall apart and he assaulted his caregiver. He returned to Murray Center and has lived there since 2005. Please Help us to save our son and all the other resident's home.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.  
Stacia Watson Woods

## Constantino, Mike

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Do not close SODCs without resources in community.Any action without plans will be nightmare.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mannil Ravin [mailto:mannil@midwest.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 5:53 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Do not close SODCs without resources in community.Any action without plans will be nightmare.

M.Ravindranathan MD  
1505.N.Smith  
Marion,Il 62959  
6189932413

Sent from my iPhone

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closing Sodc

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mannil@midwest.net [mailto:mannil@midwest.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 6:05 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closing Sodc

Please do not close. Community living is not for severe behaviors, Autism and very sick residents.

Please save lives. Thank you for your help.

Indira Ravin 618-694-3822

Sent from my iPhone

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: closing of Murray Center

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**From:** richard lapolice [mailto:dickandangie@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 6:18 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** closing of Murray Center

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is a plea to keep SODC'S open for the sake of the residents who have lived there for many years and are HAPPY there.

My daughter has lived in 4 different group homes and been kicked out because they were afraid of her. Each time this happens, she states she wants to go back home (Murray Center).

She has also been turned down at 2 other facilities.

I DO NOT want CRA to do things with my daughter that Murray Center does every year. The staff of Murray Center knows her as a person, Not a number.

Please keep the SODC'S open for my daughters well being and all of the residents who are physically and mentally challenged.

BE HEROES TO THESE SPECIAL HUMAN BEINGS

Thank You For Your Time

Angelina Lapolice  
Mother and Legal Guardian of Pamela K. Truax

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: CLOSING SODC'S

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**From:** Mary Ann Brand [mailto:granny-67@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 7:59 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** CLOSING SODC'S

ILLINOIS HAS NO PLAN FOR RESIDENTS OF SODC'S.

GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND FIGURE IT OUT. SODC'S ARE THE BEST THERE IS FOR OUR D.D. RESIDENTS, SEVERE AND PROFOUND MULTI-HANDICAPPED AND THE CHEAPEST

AND SAFEST FOR THE STATE TO OPERATE. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY THE COMMUNITY CAN HANDLE THIS SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION. I HAPPEN TO KNOW THIS FOR A FACT

AS I HAVE A STEP-SON AND A NIECE THAT HAVE WORKED AT CILA'S AND THEY HAVE TOLD ME MY DAUGHTER WOULD NOT BE SAFE AND COULD NOT BE PROPERLY CARED FOR IN A

CILA. THANK YOU FOR READING THIS AS I HAVE MANY CONCERNS FOR MY DAUGHTER WHO RESIDES IN A SODC AND HAS SINCE SHE WAS 4 YEARS OF AGE. HER MENTAL AGE NOW

(AT AGE 46) IS 15 MONTHS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME, I WOULD CERTAINLY BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THEM FOR YOU. MY E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ON THIS CORRESPONDENCE.

THANK YOU. Mary Ann Brand Phone # 417-592-0033.

**Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Murray Home

---

**From:** Jane Petre [mailto:papjpk@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 12:35 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Murray Home

PLEASE do everything possible to keep the Murray Home open. My nephew is a resident there, and it is by far the best place he has been. The care and concern for the residents is excellent. That facility is definitely needed. Jane Petre

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: sodc's closure

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**From:** denise schoppet [mailto:dschoppet@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:04 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Cc:** ritawreads@gmail.com  
**Subject:** sodc's closure

The miss leading statements about the cost of sodc's needs to be brought to your attention. The average mean cost per resident at Murray Center is \$142,000.00. Not \$200,000.00 as reported by Tony Pulaski and others. The cost comparibles to community placement is like comparing apples to oranges. The mean cost at the community level only includes room, board, and some staffing. Murray is the only Center that receives the federal matching dollars and puts money back into the Illinois General Fund.

The care that residents receive is second to none. They have the top rated public health record among all sodc's. The 24hr nursing that residents receive is of the utmost importance to our most fragile residents and those who can not verbally communicate. Also included is dental, OT, PT, speech services, school and work related programs.

Stop putting the cart before the horse. Make sure community living offers the SAME services before you shut down any more sodc's.

Finally the community of Centralia embraces the Murray Center population as apart of the community. Denise Schoppet, 200 Meadow Dr. Bethalto, Il. 62010

## Constantino, Mike

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closing of SODCs

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**From:** Marsha Holzhauser [mailto:mholzhauser@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:06 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closing of SODCs

You must go back to the drawing board and figure it out. SODCs are the best place for our developmentally disabled residents. They are the cheapest for the state to operate. The community will not be able to handle this segment of the population. The police, EMS, firefighters and the community as a whole do not know how to handle our loved ones at the SODCs.

Thank you,

Marsha D. Holzhauser  
Attorney at Law

## Constantino, Mike

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closing of SODCs

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**From:** Whitney Kampwerth [mailto:wkampwerth@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:12 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closing of SODCs

The so-called "plan" you have is not working. There is no plan, and that is the problem.

SODCs are the best place for our developmentally disabled residents. They are the cheapest for the state to operate. The community will not be able to handle this segment of the population. The police, EMS, firefighters and the community as a whole do not know how to handle our loved ones at the SODCs. Take another look, and you'll see there is no way your "plan" will work.

Thank you,

Whitney  
Concerned Citizen

--

*Whitney H. Kampwerth*  
Attorney at Law & Certified Mediator

Associate  
Law Office of Marsha D. Holzhauer  
276 N. Main St., P.O. Box 371  
Breese, IL 62230  
Phone 618-526-8178  
Fax 618-526-2118  
[wkampwerth@gmail.com](mailto:wkampwerth@gmail.com)

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## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: IL-ADD Letter to Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board  
**Attachments:** IL-ADD\_Health\_Facilities\_and\_Services\_Board\_re\_JDC.pdf

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**From:** Rita Burke [mailto:explorerra@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** IL-ADD Letter to Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board

Dear Ms Avery,

Please distribute the attached IL-ADD letter to members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board. IL-ADD is a state-wide family/guardian organization which supports the full array of quality services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thank you.

Rita Burke

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: SODC versus Washington County Lake

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**From:** Connie Stellhorn [mailto:connie@stellhornrealty.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 11:02 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** SODC versus Washington County Lake

Washington County Lake has a 3 Million earmarked to improve roads to a small lake not utilized by many. Yet, the State wants to close a facility that is giving care to citizens that can not take care of themselves? Really? The lake's roads are for us to enjoy recreation, the residents of SODC- just want to enjoy the first two tier's of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs- Shelter, Food and Security.

Remember everyone our votes count every election!!!!!!

ILLINOIS HAS NO PLAN FOR RESIDENTS OF SODC,S.

GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND FIGURE IT OUT. SODC'S ARE THE BEST THERE IS FOR OUR D.D. RESIDENTS SEVERE AND PROFOUND MULTI-HANDICAPPED AND THE CHEAPEST FOR THE STATE TO OPERATE. THERE IS NO WAY THE COMMUNITY CAN HANDLE THIS SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.

Connie Stellhorn, GRI, BPOR,  
Stellhorn Realty, Inc  
Managing Broker/Owner  
309B East Main  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618 234-6622  
800 591-4882 fax

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.  
Ronald Reagan

Connie Stellhorn, GRI, BPOR,  
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Ronald Reagan

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:51 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: sodc's closure

---

**From:** denise schoppet [mailto:dschoppet@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** bill brady; dtrotter@senatedem.ilga.gov; enekritz@repnekritz.org; info@senatordavesyverson.com; michaelfrerichs@gmail.com; mike@miketryon.com; poer@housegopmail.state.il.us; rep.riley38@sbcglobal.net; rep@pbellok.com; whaine@senatedem.ilga.gov; dvbeiser@sbcglobal.net; dwightkay112@gmail.com; seatorsam@frontier.com; johnjones@sbcglobal.net; john@johncavaletto.com; david@davidreis.org; mcarter51@att.net; staterepbrown@gmail.com; ron@ronstephens.com; naomi@naomijakobson.com; chad@chaddhays.com; shanecultra53@yahoo.com; jason@jasonbarickman.org; sommer@mtco.com; drigher@consolidated.net; reddyunit1@aol.com; 1s@chapinrose.net; jclayborne@senatedem.ilga.gov; sendavel@midwest.net; rep.bost@hotmail.com; repreitz@egyptian.net; gforby@senatedem.ilga.gov; repjohnbradley@mychoice.net; bphelps@yourclearwave.com  
**Cc:** ritawreads@gmail.com; Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fw: sodc's closure

Earlier today I sent this to Courtney Avery. Please take a look. Thank you, Denise Schoppet, 200 Meadow Dr., Bethalto, Il. 62010

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** denise schoppet <dschoppet@att.net>  
**To:** COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV  
**Cc:** ritawreads@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tue, October 9, 2012 10:03:32 AM  
**Subject:** sodc's closure

The miss leading statements about the cost of sodc's needs to be brought to your attention. The average mean cost per resident at Murray Center is \$142,000.00. Not \$200,000.00 as reported by Tony Pulaski and others. The cost comparibles to community placement is like comparing apples to oranges. The mean cost at the community level only includes room, board, and some staffing. Murray is the only Center that receives the federal matching dollars and puts money back into the Illinois General Fund.

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## Constantino, Mike

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:51 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closure of SODCs  
**Attachments:** Introduction Letter.doc; 1- Resident Perspective.doc; 2 -Delivery of Care Overview.doc; Community Model Assessment Process.doc

---

**From:** Gerald Haar [mailto:gbhbusiness@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 12:39 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closure of SODCs

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the closure of SODCs because an adequate plan to make the transition to a community setting doesn't exist. Their community care delivery model is not adequate to address the residents in SODCs with heavy health/medical needs.

It is my position that if the community care delivery system can meet all the care needs of a developmental disabled person the person *should* live in a community setting.

However, the real situation is a high percentage (estimated at 60 to 70 % ) of residents currently living in SODCs require care services that the community setting model cannot deliver. They have many complex medical and behavioral care needs. The closure of SODCs because of the absence of a comprehensive transition plan is an irresponsible act. The plan is that bad. I am a retired licensed long term administrator with a career of over forty years and I have never - never been exposed to such an irresponsible plan that will hurt so many helpless disabled persons. This whole situation is like a train accident ready to happen and no one wants to stop it.

The attached are several one page emails. Please read them. These will detail my reasons for opposing the closing of SODCs until an adequate transition plan is developed that will meet the needs of **all** the residents in SODCs.

Sincerely,

Gerry Haar

Dear Legislator:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Gerald Haar. I am the father of Brian who resides at the Murray Center for over thirty five years.

The reason for this communication is to introduce myself to you and explain my reasons for wanting to send you future *one page documents* about key issues pertaining to the proposed transition of my son and others from State Operated Developmental Centers (SODCs) to a community setting.

I will communicate why the proposed two or four bed community care delivery model will not meet the care needs of many of the residents residing in SODCs including my son. Based on my long term health care career experiences I have serious concerns.

I am a retired licensed Illinois Long Term Care Administrator with a career of over forty years with multiple exposures to specialized care delivery. I have been a facility administrator of both large and medium size facilities; skilled and intermediate care facilities; facilities certified for both the Medicare and Medicaid programs. I have worked in both the proprietary and non of profit industries. The last twelve years of my career I was a senior consultant for a long term care management consulting firm. I managed and consulted with facilities for catholic religious organizations on a national level. During this time I was associated with a ICD/DD facility for six years. I understand the care delivery programming for both long term health care and the developmental disabled. I also believe I understand the care requirements between different care delivery systems.

Because of these unique experiences I believe I can evaluate this complex care delivery issue from several different perspectives. I have insights most people will not have. I would like to share these with you. Some, like the attachment with this document, will be from a resident perspective. In the future the perspective will change with each document with a primary focus on the 2 or 4 bed community care delivery system proposed by the State of Illinois.

I would like to share my personal belief that I am in agreement with the position of the United States District Court when deciding the Stanley Ligas vs the Illinois Department of Human Services class action suit. In essence, the court decided a developmentally disabled resident whose care needs can be met within a community setting *and* desires to live in a community setting should live in the community. It is important that a resident or their parent/guardian has the right to decide what is an appropriate care setting and that the care setting has the capacity to meet their care needs.

The issue of closing SODCs and the transfer to small 2 – 4 bed community houses is a complex endeavor. It requires analysis from many perspectives. If you believe these different perspectives may increase your knowledge and understanding about this important state wide issue please inform your office staff you would like these future communications forwarded to you.

First Perspective – a Resident Perspective – Attached to this email

Thank you.

Gerry Haar – Father of Brian

## # 1 - Resident Perspective

Dear Legislator:

My son Brian was born with a diagnosis of Down's Syndrome. He now is an adult with a mental age of 17 months. I will not list all of his health care needs but believe me they are extensive. He is total care.

Many of the residents in State Operated Developmental Centers have similar mental ages and have lived at their respective facility for 10, 20, 30, 40+ years. This is their home. If they are moved to a community setting it will have a great impact on their daily quality of life. To understand how great this impact will be you need to understand the mental and emotional profile of a typical developmentally disabled person.

Due to their developmental disability they are not flexible to environmental change. They have a hard time adjusting to change. Their daily routine of living is set in stone. Their lives are very structured. For some reason they were created by God to be this way. A simple change in their daily routine is very difficult and upsetting to them.

I understand, yet, cannot imagine how upsetting it will be for Brian and the other residents to be placed in a totally strange environment. To have a special needs resident move to a community setting would be traumatic. Most of them live only within the *current moment*. They understand only the current moment. They cannot rationalize or understand the "why" of what is happening to them. They will be instantly confused when confronted with something they do not know or understand. They are helpless because they do not know how to adjust to their situation. They will not know how to act. They will not know how to defend themselves. They will only be able to react!

If they are confronted with a lot of changes at one time they will experience "mental anguish". I chose the word "anguish" very carefully because it defines a state of pain, distress, anxiety and sorrow. This will be their frame of mind. They will be upset, agitated and unhappy for a long period of time because they cannot understand "what" is happening to them. In most cases their reaction will be expressed as negative behavior. Some will fight the staff when defending themselves.

This mental anguish will not last for only a few weeks or months. This mental anguish could last years for some of them. A single change in their daily routine affects their quality of life. What do you believe their quality of life will be when they are placed in an entirely new environment where their *entire* daily routine would be turned up side down? I predict their future life will be a private internal hell and they will not be able to cope with.

Think about the last time you were upset. Think, again, about your state of mind. Eventually, you and other normal people will analyze the situation, adjust and move on within a short period of time. A developmentally disabled resident usually doesn't have the ability to do this. Their mental state of mind can get "stuck" in a negative frame of mind for an extended period of time. They are unable to move on easily. They are truly defenseless against things they are not accustomed to.

Don't all developmentally disabled residents deserve to live within an environment where they feel safe and are assured that all their care needs are met? Think about what their lives will be day after day for each one of them.

Next Perspective - #2 – Overview of the proposed Community Care Delivery System

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closure of SODCs  
**Attachments:** Introduction Letter.doc; 1- Resident Perspective.doc; 2 -Delivery of Care Overview.doc; Community Model Assessment Process.doc

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**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 12:39 PM  
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**Subject:** Closure of SODCs

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However, the real situation is a high percentage (estimated at 60 to 70 % ) of residents currently living in SODCs require care services that the community setting model cannot deliver. They have many complex medical and behavioral care needs. The closure of SODCs because of the absence of a comprehensive transition plan is an irresponsible act. The plan is that bad. I am a retired licensed long term administrator with a career of over forty years and I have never - never been exposed to such an irresponsible plan that will hurt so many helpless disabled persons. This whole situation is like a train accident ready to happen and no one wants to stop it.

The attached are several one page emails. Please read them. These will detail my reasons for opposing the closing of SODCs until an adequate transition plan is developed that will meet the needs of **all** the residents in SODCs.

Sincerely,

Gerry Haar

**Constantino, Mike**

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board - JDC closure  
**Attachments:** Illinois\_Health\_Facilities\_and\_Services\_Board.docx

---

**From:** Gayle [mailto:[gmunie@aol.com](mailto:gmunie@aol.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 12:40 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board - JDC closure

Gayle  
[gmunie@aol.com](mailto:gmunie@aol.com)

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

525 W. Jefferson Street

Springfield, Illinois

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board:

I am a member of the Murray Parents Association, and I have 2 sisters who currently reside at Murray Development Center in Centralia. My experience with an Illinois Development Center is PERSONAL and direct. I am not spouting what research tells us; I am speaking of the facts I know.

My sister Angela is 47 years old and has lived at Murray for 12 years. She has had many diagnoses, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, oppositional behavior disorder, endometrial cancer, and osteoporosis resulting in the fracture of ribs, leg, hip, and arm. She became a resident of Murray as an emergency placement after 2 group homes were unable to handle her behavior disorders and asked that she be removed. At both homes she was sexually and physically abused. She has thrived at Murray and loves her cottage and the employees. This is her home and a second family!

Angie is recognized and welcomed in the community of Centralia when we take her out. There are so many outings for the residents of Murray, many more than are available to the residents of group homes. So often communities resent and are fearful of residents of group homes, but that is not the case in Centralia! The community of Centralia WANTS Murray to remain open and has joined Murray Parents Association in its efforts to keep Murray open. What will happen to my sister Angie when she is returned to a group home situation where she has been abused and resented? I know. Do you?

My sister Madonna is 55 and has lived at Murray for 30 years. She was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome about 11 years ago. The life expectancy for females with Rett is around 45. Madonna is one of the OLDEST Rett females in the United States! That is due to the excellent care she has received at Murray. Madonna is one of the medically fragile residents of Murray. She can do nothing on her own. She must be bathed, dressed, fed a soft diet, and moved from her specially designed wheelchair to her bed by others and equipment, but she is fully aware of her surroundings and needs the stimulation of activities provided at Murray. NO GROUP HOME CAN DO THIS, much less at a smaller cost as Kevin Casey claims.

Murray is unusual in that it has such a large percentage of medically fragile and extreme behavior disordered residents. Only 10% of the residents have the state as guardians. The 90% with family guardians chose Murray over all the other facilities in the area because it was best equipped with trained employees, programs and medical services. We, the family, have decided that Murray offers Madonna and Angela "a safer way of living with quality, independence and equality". Tony Paulauski, Kevin Casey, CRA, and Governor Quinn can't override our decision without endangering the lives of my sisters! There IS a need for CILA's. One shoe does NOT fit all! SODC's are the best fit for some. A group

home will NOT be able to offer the same level of care to everyone at a savings. The decision to close Jacksonville has resulted in a rush to meet an unrealistic timeline which has already caused harm to a resident and employee. Please stop this madness!

Finally, I ask you to look at the report prepared by the Attorney General of Pennsylvania several years after the closure of all the SODC's in that state. The closure plan was designed by Kevin Casey and is the same plan being used in Illinois by Kevin Casey again. He hasn't learned anything from his mistakes, but WE can.

Thank you,

Gayle Munie

[gmunie@aol.com](mailto:gmunie@aol.com)

7937 Ingram Road

Rockford, IL 61108

815-985-4803

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: CLOSING SODC.S

---

**From:** Monica Sobczak [mailto:mosobczak@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** CLOSING SODC.S

For public comment in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Hello, Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thanks,

Monica Sobczak  
11 North 50th St  
Belleville Illinois 62226  
618-407-2912

[www.murrayparentsassociation.com](http://www.murrayparentsassociation.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Murray-Parents-Association/176485659071311>

#saveilmurraycenter

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: KEEP SODC'S OPEN

---

**From:** Barbara Conyers [mailto:barbaraconyers@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Cc:** barbaraconyers@att.net  
**Subject:** KEEP SODC'S OPEN

Please keep SODC'S open. The community is not a appropriate setting for individual's with complex medical and behavioral issue's. The state of Illinois does not have a feasible plan of action in place for these individual's.

Thank You,

Barbara Conyers

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: SUPPORT TO KEEP SODC'S OPEN

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**From:** Barbara Conyers [mailto:barbaraconyers@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Cc:** barbaraconyers@att.net  
**Subject:** SUPPORT TO KEEP SODC'S OPEN

I AM WRITING TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP SODC'S OPEN. THEY ARE A IMPORTANT SERVICE ON THE SPECTRUM OF PROVIDING SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. COMMUNITY SETTINGS ARE GOOD FOR SOME, BUT ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL.

## Constantino, Mike

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closure of State Operated Developmental Centers  
**Attachments:** Brian Haar's Care Needs.doc

---

**From:** Gerald Haar [mailto:gbhbusiness@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:11 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closure of State Operated Developmental Centers

Please refer to the attached document.

Sincerely,

Gerry Haar

To: Courtney Avery

From: Gerry Haar – On behalf of Brian Haar

I would like to change from my discussion about care delivery systems and add a touch of reality from my personal perspective.

The following is my son's care needs as taken from his Annual Care Review several months ago. Brian was born with a diagnosis of Down's Syndrome. He now is now 43 years old with a mental age of 17 months. His adaptive behavior age equivalent is 8 months. He is severely retarded and is considered developmentally disabled. This is why he needed and continues to need the services offered by the Murray Center.

As he has grown older he has acquired additional health/medical problems.

No self health maintenance skills

Difficulty communicating because he cannot speak

Unable to eat because of an esophageal stricture, requires a feeding tube

Bronchitis with acute exacerbation of reactive airways

Requires total staff assistance with regard to medication administration

Suffers from continuous respiratory problems.

Impaired vision

History of cardiac issues.

Small to moderate pericardial effusion with an identified circumferential to the heart

Generalized encephalopathy such as may be seen with bi-hemispheric.

Requires staff supervision during all activities

Unaware of dangers in his environment

Often uses a wheelchair for short/long distances.

Require total staff assistance for most of his basic care needs like bathing, dressing, toileting, dental hygiene, etc.

Not unusual to require hospitalization for health related problems several times a year.

Based on these health/medical needs would you not agree Brian needs some type of health/medical nursing oversight ? The community custodial model does not offer a daily nursing oversight component.

I have not completed my research but so far my findings from knowledgeable sources has estimated only about *thirty* percent ( an estimated 600 persons) of residents residing in SODCs *may* be able to function in a community setting. The remaining *seventy* percent (an estimated 1400 persons) are residents with complex medical or behavioral care needs that will not have all their care needs met for the rest of their lives.

This is the primary issue why the lack of a responsible (addressing all current and future care needs) transition plan by the Department of Human Services will eventually hurt these people.

Gerry Haar – On Behalf of Brian Haar

Dear Board,

Our son Mark (age 27, severely handicapped, IQ of 12) lives at Murray Center in Centralia, an SODC. I also have a brother, whom I am guardian for, who lives in a community home (CILA) who has an IQ of 75, and functions like a 7 year old. My son is not able to talk, and needs total round the clock care. My brother is able to communicate verbally, and is able to use a phone and take care of his personal needs. A CILA is the appropriate placement for him. The Governor's plan to move the residents of JDC and Murray Center to small 2-4 bed homes is ludicrous, and goes against every tenant of special services....that one size fits all. When Kevin Casey visited the Murray Parents' Association meeting he told us that we could choose a larger facility, a 16 bed, another SODC, or even a nursing home. We had a court reporter at our meeting who taped and documented all of this. He also told us he had a list of providers who would be willing to take in our loved ones. This meeting occurred over a month ago, and I requested he send me a list of these providers. To date I have not received the list, even though I have repeatedly emailed Mr. Casey requesting the list. He did email me stating that we would develop these homes....once again he is pushing the 2-4 bed homes, without even knowing what our loved ones' needs are. He promised the residents of JDC that they too could move their loved ones to another SODC, and now he is telling them this is not what will be done. Many of these JDC parents/guardians have visited over five community homes and none of these homes were willing to take the residents because of the many needs, both physical and emotional, that these residents required. Already there have been a document case of assault by a JDC resident who moved in to a community home, because of lack of the proper type of staffing. Another resident who was moved to a community facility broke her femur within two days of being moved because of lack of proper staffing and training. Kevin Casey and CRA dismiss all these incidents, and ignore our questions when we ask them about these incidents. I have talked to many quality providers and they have told me that there is no way they will be part of the Kevin Casey/CRA process because it is not financially feasible (even with the new increase of funding for community based facilities), and it is not possible for a community based home to give these residents the 24 hour round the clock nursing and psychiatric care they need. They have documented for me how it could cost up to \$350,000 per year to provide adequate care for some of these highly needy residents, as some require 2 to 1 staffing to prevent them from hurting themselves or others. Kevin Casey/CRA ignore our questions about this. SODCs are needed for these very fragile medically and psychologically needy residents. Talk to quality

providers and see what they say. I have documentation from state records showing that at least two of the providers where JDC residents have been moved had over 30-50 reported allegations of neglect/abuse against them for the past two calendar years. And these are the places are loved ones being moved. I have talked to everyone I can at DHS from Michelle Saddler, to Mark Doyle, and Michael Gelder about developing quality homes in the community, keeping them running and funded for several years, and then attempting to move the people out of the SODCs. Even Michelle Saddler says that there will always be a need for SODCs.....one size does not fit all.....please keep JDC and Murray Center open. Murray has consistently been one of the highest rated facilities in the state of Illinois. Don't throw away all this knowledge and care ....keep the SODCs open and funded.

Rita Winkeler  
P.O. Box 222,  
Bartelso, IL  
[ritawreads@gmail.com](mailto:ritawreads@gmail.com)  
618-210-9678  
[www.murrayparentsassociation.com](http://www.murrayparentsassociation.com)  
#SaveILMurrayCenter

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Vote NO to closing SODC'S  
**Attachments:** unnamed\_file

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Vote NO to closing SODC'S

Dear Ms.Avery and review board:

Please, I beg you with every common sensical bone in your body vote NO on closing Jacksonville and Murray Center. These facilities are the last option we have as parents and guardians of profoundly disabled individuals. They CANNOT be forced into these group homes and survive.

Governor Quinn has been sold a bill of goods. He has no idea the specialized care our children need. He has listened to Director Casey, Tony Paulauski and their ilk. The whole 'rebalancing' act smells of a conspiracy. It's past time for him to visit with us and our children and he has FAILED us big time.

I plead with you to vote as COFGA did and send Governor Quinn a message that he is making the biggest mistake of his administration. He will carry the 'stench of death' with him the rest of his life if he does not change his mind. My daughter will not survive a transition to a group home.

Thank you for your NO vote and may God be with you.

The loving mother of Stefani whose home is Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** mebgzz@htc.net on behalf of mebgzz [mebgzz@htc.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 6:08 PM  
**To:** courtney.aavery@illinois.gov  
**Subject:** Do Not Close SODC'S

Dear Ms.Avery and review board:

Please, I beg you with every common sensical bone in your body vote NO on closing Jacksonville and Murray Center.

These facilities are the last option we have as parents and guardians of profoundly disabled individuals. They CANNOT be forced into these group homes and survive.

Governor Quinn has been sold a bill of goods. He has no idea the specialized care our children need. He has listened to Director Casey, Tony Paulauski and their ilk. The whole 'rebalancing' act smells of a conspiracy. It's past time for him to visit with us and our children and he has FAILED us big time.

I plead with you to vote as COFGA did and send Governor Quinn a message that he is making the biggest mistake of his administration. He will carry the 'stench of death' with him the rest of his life if he does not change his mind. My daughter will not survive a transition to a group home.

Thank you for your NO vote and may God be with you.

The loving mother of Stefani whose home is Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278  
618-282-2858

## Constantino, Mike

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Vote against facility closures

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 3:39 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fwd: Vote against facility closures

Dear Ms. Avery and Members of the Review Board:

It is time that common sense enter into the decision to close Jacksonville and Murray Center. Just as nursing homes and alzeiheimer's units are a necessity, these two homes are a necessity for Southern and Central Illinois profoundly disabled individuals. Profoundly developmentally disabled individuals need specialized 24/7 nursing care just as these facilities provide. My daughter resides at Murray Center and receives the best care I can imagine. I have peace of mind with her there. A group home cannot provide this care and will in short order cause my daughter's death. Why is it that one man, the Governor, can evict my daughter and her friends out of their home without even speaking with us or visiting these centers? He has been fed an agenda that makes no sense and will be a noose around his neck if he gets his way. He will always have the 'stench of death' around him.

Please find it in your heart and use the common sense God has given you to vote AGAINST the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center and Murray Developmental Center.

I am pleading with you and praying you will send the Governor a message that he is making one of the biggest mistakes of his life.

I am the loving mother of Stefani who lives at Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278  
618-282-2858

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: sodc's closure

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**From:** denise schoppet [mailto:dschoppet@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 4:12 PM  
**To:** senatorsam@frontier.net; naomi@naomijakobsson.com; Is@chapinrose.net; mccarter51@att.net; sara@staterepsara.com; repreitz@egyptian.net  
**Cc:** Avery, Courtney; ritawreads@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Fw: sodc's closure

Please take a look @ the following e-mail sent earlier today. The cost figures are per year. Please note that the cost figures that the ARC of Illinois states that they can provide the same services as the sodc's are around \$60,000.00 per year. It just does not add up! Thank you for your time.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** denise schoppet <dschoppet@att.net>  
**To:** COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV  
**Cc:** ritawreads@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tue, October 9, 2012 10:03:32 AM  
**Subject:** sodc's closure

The miss leading statements about the cost of sodc's needs to be brought to your attention. The average mean cost per resident at Murray Center is \$142,000.00. Not \$200,000.00 as reported by Tony Pulaski and others. The cost comparibles to community placement is like comparing apples to oranges. The mean cost at the community level only includes room, board, and some staffing. Murray is the only Center that receives the federal matching dollars and puts money back into the Illinois General Fund.

The care that residents receive is second to none. They have the top rated public health record among all sodc's. The 24hr nursing that residents receive is of the utmost importance to our most fragile residents and those who can not verbally communicate. Also included is dental, OT, PT, speech services, school and work related programs.

Stop putting the cart before the horse. Make sure community living offers the SAME services before you shut down any more sodc's.

Finally the community of Centralia embraces the Murray Center population as apart of the community. Denise Schoppet, 200 Meadow Dr. Bethalto, Il. 62010

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: sodc's closure

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**From:** denise schoppet [mailto:dschoppet@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 5:28 PM  
**To:** representativesandycole@comcast.net; flowersme@ilga.gov; rephammond@macomb.com; Dmell@hds.ilga.gov; hsteans@senatedem.ilga.gov; repcurrie@sbcglobal.net; wdelgado@senatedem.ilga.gov; collinsar@ilga.gov; rayhanania@senatorlandek.com; mhunter@senatedem.ilga.gov; tom@tomcross.com; pamela@pamelaalthoff.net; senatorbivins@grics.net; senatorlahood@att.net  
**Cc:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fw: sodc's closure

Please read the following e-mail sent earlier today. Note that the cost are on a yearly basis. Also the ARC of Illinois states that community placement can provide the same services for \$60,000.00 a year. That just does not add up! Follow us at [www.murrayparentsassociation.com](http://www.murrayparentsassociation.com) and on twitter hashtag #SaveILMurrayCenter. Thank you for your time! Denise

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** denise schoppet <dschoppet@att.net>  
**To:** [COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV)  
**Cc:** [ritawreads@gmail.com](mailto:ritawreads@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Tue, October 9, 2012 10:03:32 AM  
**Subject:** sodc's closure

The miss leading statements about the cost of sodc's needs to be brought to your attention. The average mean cost per resident at Murray Center is \$142,000.00. Not \$200,000.00 as reported by Tony Pulaski and others. The cost comparibles to community placement is like comparing apples to oranges. The mean cost at the community level only includes room, board, and some staffing. Murray is the only Center that receives the federal matching dollars and puts money back into the Illinois General Fund.

The care that residents receive is second to none. They have the top rated public health record among all sodc's. The 24hr nursing that residents receive is of the utmost importance to our most fragile residents and those who can not verbally communicate. Also included is dental, OT, PT, speech services, school and work related programs.

Stop putting the cart before the horse. Make sure community living offers the SAME services before you shut down any more sodc's.

Finally the community of Centralia embraces the Murray Center population as apart of the community. Denise Schoppet, 200 Meadow Dr. Bethalto, Il. 62010

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Review Board for SODC closures

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**From:** Sarah Mitchell [mailto:ssobcza@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 5:43 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Review Board for SODC closures

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Mitchell

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Review Board for SODC closures

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**From:** Jeff Mitchell [mailto:jeffmitch86@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 5:47 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Review Board for SODC closures

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeffrey Mitchell

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Developmental Center Closure

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**From:** Alicia Creed [mailto:acreed@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 7:44 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Developmental Center Closure

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Alicia Creed and I work as a Registered Nurse at Murray Center in Centralia, IL. I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed plans to close Jacksonville, and Murray Developmental Centers. I have worked at Murray Center for 2 1/2 years now, and also work as a Registered Nurse at Centralia Correctional Center. The type of nursing care provided at Murray Center is from my experience not sufficiently provided in community settings. To work in the SDOC setting takes a special and understanding type of staff. For instance, Murray Center houses many individuals with severe behavior needs. To take them on an appt., to the hosp., and for testing many times requires multiple staff or even medication to calm the individual. Will community homes be able to provide adequate care for those individuals with such demanding needs? With Murray Center individuals, during a hospital stay a staff member is sent to stay with the individual due to many people do not understand the proper way to handle, provide care, and prevent injury to staff or the individual who is developmentally disabled. Will that care be provided in community homes? I urge you to look at the population we serve and see what special care it takes to provide for them. Would you be willing to be punched, spit on, yelled at, kicked, bit, chased, etc. at work on a daily basis much less have that person be your neighbor in the community. Not even including the sexual behaviors and history of some individuals. Don't get me wrong, I love my job and wouldn't trade it for the world, but SODC's provide a safe and loving home for the challenging needs of those we serve. Please help save their homes and our communities!

Sincerely,  
Alicia Creed R.N.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Vote against facility closures  
**Attachments:** SHE CANNOT TALK.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 8:37 PM  
To: Avery, Courtney  
Subject: Fwd: Vote against facility closures

Dear Ms. Avery and Members of the Review Board:

It is time that common sense enter into the decision to close Jacksonville and Murray Center. Just as nursing homes and alzeiheimer's units are a necessity, these two homes are a necessity for Southern and Central Illinois profoundly disabled individuals. Profoundly developmentally disabled individuals need specialized 24/7 nursing care just as these facilities provide. My daughter resides at Murray Center and receives the best care I can imagine. A group home cannot provide this care and will in short order cause my daughter's death. Why is it that one man, the Governor, can evict my daughter and her friends out of their home without even speaking with us or visiting these centers? He has been fed an agenda that makes no sense and will be a noose around his neck if he gets his way. He will always have the 'stench of death'.

Please find it in your heart and use the common sense God has given you to vote AGAINST the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center and Murray Developmental Center.

I am pleading with you and praying you will send the Governor a message that he is making one of the biggest mistakes of his life.

I am the loving mother of Stefani who lives at Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278  
618-282-2858

PS: Please see the attached. Thank you.

## Constantino, Mike

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: JDC closure

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Anne Westart [mailto:westart4@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 8:53 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** JDC closure

Hello, I am just writing this email to you to let you know that my family is one of many with grave concerns about the closure of JDC.

My oldest brother Andrew, has been a resident of JDC for several years. During the time that he has been at JDC, he has blossomed! That is the best word I can say! His weight is so much better and just his overall health and demeanor. Andrew has been severely mentally and physically handicapped since birth and requires around-the-clock care. He is wheelchair-bound and has to be re-situated if in bed or in his chair every hour on the hour. This requires the number of attendees that JDC has and the quality of the care they can provide and the compassion with which they give it. The employees are wonderful and you can tell of their loving concern when talking about Andy.

Andrew is not a fit for community placement because of the care he needs, which is constant and he truly cannot do anything for himself. My mother, who is his guardian has had a terrible time getting correct answers and people to talk with her except for the employees of JDC, they have been there for her through this whole process.

Andrew is just one of the many residents who need the care that JDC gives. Community placement is not the answer and please if you only could meet Andrew for one, to see the difference in his physical well-being that has changed ten-fold for the better since he has arrived at JDC, you would see how he is just one example of why this facility must stay open! Thank you for your time and concern in this matter and please help the board to reconsider and keep JDC open!!!

Sincerely,

Anne Westart, sister of a JDC resident

Sent from my iPhone

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: prevent closure Murray Center

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**From:** Pam Phillippe [mailto:fkpjp0869@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 9:00 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** prevent closure Murray Center

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Project 12-074: Jacksonville Development Center, Jacksonville, IL  
**Attachments:** 2012-10-09 Letter re. closure of JDC.pdf

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**From:** Roger [mailto:[440wedge@gmail.com](mailto:440wedge@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 9:49 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Project 12-074: Jacksonville Development Center, Jacksonville, IL

Dear Ms. Avery,

Attached is a letter stating my opposition closure of the Jacksonville Development Center. Please take this into consideration prior to the October 30, 2012 vote on the permit.

Thank you,

Roger Wallace  
630-289-4405  
[440wedge@gmail.com](mailto:440wedge@gmail.com)

Date: October 9, 2012

To: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

From: Roger Wallace  
1315 Blackhawk Ln.  
Bartlett, IL 60103

Subject: Objection to Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

Dear Board Members,

Please DO NOT grant the permit for discontinuation of services and facility closure for the Jacksonville Developmental Center in Jacksonville, Illinois.

Community living is appropriate for certain individuals, but not for all. Some residents of JDC, including my cousin who has been a resident of JDC for 23 years, need more care than can be provided in a community setting.

The design of JDC's facilities provides a safe and structured environment for its residents. Various police departments have expressed concern that in community living arrangements some residents with extreme medical, mental and/or behavioral disabilities will wander or run from their home and put their own lives in danger. Workers at JDC are specially trained in how to care for residents with all levels of medical, mental and/or behavioral needs. Caregivers in a community will require even more training to control and keep safe these same residents when they will frequently travel to various offices for required services and support. Adding many more people to the resident's care will also result in more inconsistent care. Residents at JDC are provided with a structured environment, given consistent care, protected from various dangers they would otherwise experience in a community, and treated with respect to provide the best living environment possible.

It is clear that Jacksonville Developmental Center provides the best living environment for certain residents. I therefore again ask you to NOT grant the permit for discontinuation of services and facility closure for JDC.

Thank you for your time,

Roger Wallace

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Project 12-074: Jacksonville Development Center, Jacksonville, IL  
**Attachments:** 2012-10-09 Letter re. closure of JDC.pdf

---

**From:** Roger [mailto:440wedge@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 9:49 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Project 12-074: Jacksonville Development Center, Jacksonville, IL

Dear Ms. Avery,

Attached is a letter stating my opposition closure of the Jacksonville Development Center. Please take this into consideration prior to the October 30, 2012 vote on the permit.

Thank you,

Roger Wallace  
630-289-4405  
[440wedge@gmail.com](mailto:440wedge@gmail.com)

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:00 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closures of SODC's

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**From:** Scott Howell [mailto:showell269@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 9:58 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closures of SODC's

Hi. My name is Tracy Howell and I work at Warren G. Murray Dev. Center. I'm in my 27th year of service. I started as a Mental Health Tech and in 1993 began working as a RN. As a nurse, I am involved in the daily medical care of the individuals that I serve. This includes administering medications, consultations with specialty physicians, participating in annual Individual Support Plan meetings, etc. As a member of the Interdisciplinary Team, I, along with other professional disciplines strive to maintain the safest and least restrictive living environment for the individuals that we serve. It is terribly heartbreaking to hear others speak of SODC's as "institutions". We are HOME to these individuals. We are their extended family, as they are to us. At Murray's we provide for every need of each individual. We provide several clinics on grounds so individuals have easier access to these specialists. We provide clinics for Podiatry, Dental, Ophthalmological, Gynecological, Psychiatric, and Neurological Tele-Health. We have several physicians in the community who also serve our individuals. We have traveled all over the state to provide the best care available.

I know there are groups who say it would be cheaper and better to care for our individuals in CILA homes or group homes, but can they provide the care that we do? The population of developmentally disabled individuals are living longer, mostly in part, I believe, because of the care they receive in SODC's. It is a team effort. I'm not saying that CILA or group homes are not good options for the DD population. They are. In the time that I've been at WGMDC, we have transitioned people into the community. It has always been part of their Individual Support Plan. But not everyone can benefit from community placement. We have individuals who have severe behavior disorders or complicated medical issues that cannot be cared for as good in the community as at Murray's, or Jacksonville for that matter. There was a troubling incident that occurred recently at Murray's. An individual that was transferred to the community a few years ago ended up back at Murray's. The troubling and sad part is that he ended up homeless, on his own, with no one to help him. He managed to make it back "home" to Murray's in search of his sister, who also lives at Murray's, and in hopes of having a home again. Before he made his way back to Murray's, he had been sleeping outside in bushes, etc., literally homeless. To our despair, DHS would not let him be readmitted to Murray's. Instead, he went to the local hospital to be evaluated, then released. On his own, homeless again. Here is an individual who has slipped through the cracks, one of many. I'm afraid if Gov. Quinn and the Dept of Human Services have their way and close the SODC's. there will be so many more individuals who will "slip through the cracks".

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Facilities Review Board.

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**From:** stclairguy50@juno.com [mailto:stclairguy50@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:16 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Facilities Review Board.

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thomas Munie  
109 Diamond Ct  
Shiloh, Illinois 62269  
618-447-5000

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent deadline 10-10-12 CLOSING SODC.S

---

**From:** Riley Sobczak [mailto:sobczakr21@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:10 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent deadline 10-10-12 CLOSING SODC.S

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Monica Sobczak <mosobczak@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** October 9, 2012 5:39:31 PM CDT  
**To:** Sarah Sobczak <ssobcza@gmail.com>, dylan sobczak <sobczakd11@yahoo.com>, "sobczakr21@yahoo.com" <sobczakr21@yahoo.com>, Jan Sobczak <jsobczak21@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent deadline 10-10-12 CLOSING SODC.S  
**Reply-To:** Monica Sobczak <mosobczak@yahoo.com>

Everyone, Please forward the statement below from your email to [COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV) deadline is 10-10-2012 to submit public comments on why the State Operated Developmental Centers should not be closed. Please please do it today or tonight. Thank you so much, Monica have you kids send anyone with an email address should send it on.

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closeing of Murray Center

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**From:** Mary Lou Wright [mailto:mar34lu@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:30 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closeing of Murray Center

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Mary Lou

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Murray Center

-----Original Message-----

**From:** gooby [mailto:gooby@htc.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 1:21 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fw: Murray Center

>  
> Hi,my name is Donna Guebert and i have a brother Darryl Mavers at  
> Murray Center. Our mom passed away, and her only worry was for Darryl,  
> and to keep him at Murray Center. Darryl started at AlBowen Center in  
> Harrisburg, then Gov, closed it down and turned it into a prison!  
> Darryl was then put into "3" different "Community homes"! One broke  
> out front tooth,other drugged him,3rd almost killed him!! If paramedics  
> would have been a minute later , he would not be here! Murray he is  
> happy,loved doesn't have near as many behavoir problems,They are  
> trained and know more about Darryl than we do! They go above and  
> beyond to make sure Darryl and ALL others are well taken care of ! No  
> matter what their special needs are!! PLEASE DON'T LET THEM CLOSE  
> MURRAY CENTER !! They care ! And one shoe does NOT FIT ALL !! Thank you.  
> Donna Guebert  
> 10690 Huntfield Road  
> RedBud,IL., 622

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Health Board hearing

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**From:** Rita Winkler [mailto:[rwinkler@clinton.k12.il.us](mailto:rwinkler@clinton.k12.il.us)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:24 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Health Board hearing

This is in regard to the hearing about Jacksonville Dev. Center. I have a son residing at Murray Center in Centralia, the next center slated to be closed by Gov. Quinn. I have been working closely with the parents/guardians of JDC residents. Even though Kevin Casey and his group will tell you that there are programs available in the community these programs do not exist, or if they do they have minimal services. The vast majority of medical providers will not deal with the severely disabled, particularly those with severe behavioral problems. If the state wants to continue with this plan they need to develop quality programs in the community, and THEN move the residents. They are doing this totally backwards! It is not a safe, nor right decision. Talk to quality providers in the community and they will tell you the same. The quality providers have NOT gone along with CRAs plan because they know they will not be able to safely care for these residents. Thank you, R. Winkler

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: SODC

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**From:** peterpeg@aol.com [mailto:peterpeg@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:47 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** SODC

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: CLOSING SODC.S

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**From:** Kay Munie [mailto:kaymunie@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** CLOSING SODC.S

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thanks,  
Kay Munie

[www.murrayparentsassociation.com](http://www.murrayparentsassociation.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Murray-Parents-Association/176485659071311>

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: SODC  
**Attachments:** image001.png

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**From:** Diane Schmeling [mailto:[dschmeling@digital-direction.com](mailto:dschmeling@digital-direction.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:50 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** SODC

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

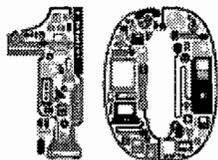
Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Diane Schmeling &*

digital Direction  
344 North Ogden  
Chicago, IL 60607  
t: 312.267-4492 | f: 866-826-1133  
**[dschmeling@digital-direction.com](mailto:dschmeling@digital-direction.com)**  
**[www.digital-direction.com](http://www.digital-direction.com)**



A Celebration  
of Service

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closures

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**From:** Jane Klep [mailto:jy.klep@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:53 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closures

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jane Klep  
Rockford, Illinois

**Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Letter in opposition to closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

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**From:** David Iacono [mailto:david\_iacono@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Letter in opposition to closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

Please add this letter to permit #12-074.

Thank you.

David A. Iacono-Harris, MSSW, PH.D.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closing of Illinois SODC's

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**From:** mhamel@comcast.net [mailto:mhamel@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 9:13 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Cc:** GMunie@aol.com  
**Subject:** Closing of Illinois SODC's

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michele M. Hamel  
Byron, IL

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Do Not Close Facilities

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**From:** Kris Bomgarden [mailto:plskris@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 9:17 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Do Not Close Facilities

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristine E. Bomgarden  
2015 Kendall Rd  
Winnebago, IL 61088

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closing of facilities

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**From:** Meredith Townsend [mailto:mertownsend@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 9:24 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closing of facilities

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** Fw: sodc's, please do not close

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**From:** Barbara Conyers [mailto:barbaraconyers@att.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Cc:** barbaraconyers@att.net <barbaraconyers@att.net>  
**Subject:** sodc's, please do not close

I am writing as a parent that has a child that lives at a SODC. These homes provide service's that cannot be provided in the community. SODC'S should remain a option for individual's with complex behavioral and medical issue's. They are important on the spectrum in caring for those that require these service's. The State of Il is not prepared to care for these individual's in the community.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** Fw: PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND EMAIL A LETTER "TODAY IS THE LAST DAY"!! TO: COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV ON CLOSING SODC.S

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**From:** Peggy Minemann [mailto:peggy10381@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** Jyneane Stellhorn <jas@herzogcrebs.com>; Barb Jones <barbjo77@yahoo.com>; Vic and Iris Buettner <bitts@htc.net>; Debbie Hahn <gracie@htc.net>; Amy Wilson <awilson@wmnobbbe.com>; Annette Riechmann <ar6701@hughes.net>; Chris Korves <sportsstarcrk1@hotmail.com>; Cathey Newhouse <cat\_dale@yahoo.com>; Charlie Leeper <unclchas@htc.net>; Clete <sschgo97@yahoo.com>; Jena Oakley <codeitright13@hotmail.com>; Jim Jackson <harley071976@hotmail.com>; Joe Candler <jrc@htc.net>; Emily Niederbrach <lil\_niederbrach4@hotmail.com>; Eric Robert <eric\_robert@me.com>; Sarah Griffin <sgriffin04@gmail.com>; Hannah Mayberry <hmayberry@bilbreylawoffice.com>; Julie Imming <julie.imming@bellevilleboot.com>; Jeanie Niemeyer <jniemeyer@stltittle.com>; Kim Luberda <kimluberda@yahoo.com>; Linda Wood <lmwood@htc.net>; Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND EMAIL A LETTER "TODAY IS THE LAST DAY"!! TO: COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV ON CLOSING SODC.S

Dear [Courtney.Avery@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Courtney.Avery@Illinois.Gov),

Our state seems to be able to allocate our monies for recreation and so many other unimportant things but cannot find the Funds to keep the Residents at SODC open!?! Please re-evaluate your position on this. Everyone of these residents NEED to be cared for in one way or another. None of the Residents there asked to have all the handicaps they have and in their time of need you want to SHUT THE DOORS IN THEIR FACE!?! Please put yourself or one of your family members in their shoes and I bet YOU WOULD COME UP WITH A WAY TO KEEP SODC.S OPEN!! Reach inside your gut and do what it is telling you to do.. The RIGHT thing..Keeping this Home OPEN!

Sincerely,

Peggy Minemann  
10381 Conservation Road  
Baldwin,IL 62217

---

CC: alkwk2@frontier.com; audgirl2383@yahoo.com; ccstipe46@yahoo.com; rogersdave23@yahoo.com; drowold@gilsternmarylee.com; dmstmpf97@aol.com; dee\_dee825@live.com; gretz59@frontier.com; jasonwade3@hotmail.com; jessicarequena@yahoo.com; jodi\_stout@yahoo.com; jstellhorn@hotmail.com; kcguebert@gmail.com; kendra5410@gmail.com; kims781@yahoo.com; kimmijohnson86@gmail.com; kyleburgess7@yahoo.com; laini.nordeste@gmail.com; nxcup20@frontier.com; nordie0686@sbcglobal.net; lak61260@yahoo.com; posimrx@hotmail.com; mebgzz@htc.net; mchandler@gilsternmarylee.com; mrkpetre@yahoo.com; d90901@netzero.net; springtinker@att.net; nrahn1@hotmail.com; n\_geller@hotmail.com; peaches2289@yahoo.com; pamhaley@yahoo.com; peggy10381@hotmail.com; ritawreads@gmail.com; daniellemccarthy11@gmail.com; stpats@htc.net

From: [conniestellhorn@gmail.com](mailto:conniestellhorn@gmail.com)  
Subject: Re: CLOSING SODC.S  
Date: Tue, 9 Oct 2012 11:03:18 -0500  
To: [gooby@htc.net](mailto:gooby@htc.net)

Washington County Lake has a 3 Million earmarked to improve roads to a small lake not utilized by many. Yet, the State wants to close a facility that is giving care to citizens that can not take care of themselves? Really? The lake's roads are for us to enjoy recreation, the residents of SODC- just want to enjoy the first two tier's of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs- Shelter, Food and Security.

Remember everyone our votes count every election!!!!!!

ILLINOIS HAS NO PLAN FOR RESIDENTS OF SODC,S.

GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND FIGURE IT OUT. SODC'S ARE THE BEST THERE IS FOR OUR D.D. RESIDENTS SEVERE AND PROFOUND MULTI-HANDICAPPED AND THE CHEAPEST FOR THE STATE TO OPERATE. THERE IS NO WAY THE COMMUNITY CAN HANDLE THIS SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.

Connie Stellhorn, GRI, BPOR,  
Stellhorn Realty, Inc  
Managing Broker/Owner  
309B East Main  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618 234-6622  
800 591-4882 fax

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.  
Ronald Reagan

Connie Stellhorn, GRI, BPOR,  
Stellhorn Realty, Inc  
Managing Broker/Owner  
309B East Main  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618 234-6622  
800 591-4882 fax

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.  
Ronald Reagan

On Oct 9, 2012, at 12:16 AM, "gooby" <[gooby@htc.net](mailto:gooby@htc.net)> wrote:

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Anita R. Becherer  
**To:** Rita Winkeler  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 5:16 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: CLOSING SODC.S

PER RITA WINKELER,S REQUEST AT YESTERDAYS MPA MEETING - THAT WE ALL E-MAIL OUR OBJECTIONS TO THE SODC,S BEING CLOSED - PERSONALIZE IT IF YOU LIKE BUT KEEP IT SHORT.

You only have time to e-mail - letters would not arrive on time - Oct 10th final date for response.

[COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV)

**From:** Anita R. Becherer  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 5:03 PM  
**To:** [COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:COURTNEY.AVERY@ILLINOIS.GOV)

**Subject:** Fw: CLOSING SODC.S

**Subject:** CLOSING SODC.S

ILLINOIS HAS NO PLAN FOR RESIDENTS OF SODC,S.

GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND FIGURE IT OUT. SODC'S ARE THE BEST THERE IS FOR OUR D.D. RESIDENTS SEVERE AND PROFOUND MULTI-HANDICAPPED AND THE CHEAPEST FOR THE STATE TO OPERATE. THERE IS NO WAY THE COMMUNITY CAN HANDLE THIS SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:37 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Jacksonville comments  
**Attachments:** Document.pdf

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**From:** Barb Cozzone [mailto:[bcozzone@yahoo.com](mailto:bcozzone@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 9:45 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Fw: Jacksonville comments

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "Cozzone-Achino, Barbara" <[Barbara.Cozzone-Achino@harrisbank.com](mailto:Barbara.Cozzone-Achino@harrisbank.com)>  
**To:** "'[bcozzone@yahoo.com](mailto:bcozzone@yahoo.com)'" <[bcozzone@yahoo.com](mailto:bcozzone@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 5, 2012 9:42 AM  
**Subject:** FW:

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cozzone-Achino, Barbara  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 9:42 AM  
**To:** Cozzone-Achino, Barbara  
**Subject:**

*Barbara Cozzone Achino  
7280 West Ridge Ln  
Cherry Valley, Il 61016*

*This letter is in regards to the Jacksonville Developmental Center closing. There are many individuals with disabilities that need the special care they receive from an SODC verses a community placement. Medical, sensory, and the most involved behaviorally. These individuals, unlike the individuals that live in a community placement, need structure and consistency in their lives to survive. These are crucial components and without them they will experience extreme difficulties which will not be accepted in the community. Have you read an add advertising for help in a community group home? It reads is no experience necessary, a high school or GED is all that is required. These individuals need more experience than that.*

*The decisions being made to close Jacksonville is all about money, not about the safety of individuals who are counting on you to support and protect them. Don't let them down, don't take their home from them, and DON'T PLACE THEM IN AN UNSAFE SITUATION.*

*Barbara Cozzone-Achino  
Concerned Parent*

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:35 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: The closing of Jacksonville and Murray Center

---

**From:** Bobbi Gormann [mailto:bgormann@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 12:42 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** The closing of Jacksonville and Murray Center

My name is Bobbi Gormann. Ive been a registered nurse for 16 years and have worked at Murray Center on Elm cottage- the most physically disabled residents for 9 years. Ive been blessed to care for 100s of people with disabilities. I was honored to care for a young man named Lyndall Mcdaniel. These are words from his sisters mouth concerning the care Lyndall recieved once transioned to a higher level of care. " My brother lived at MC for over 22 years. It was not just a place where he lived it was his home where he was surrounded by qualified caregivers who understood his physical disabilities and loved him as if he were their own family. Because his health had deteriorated and the doctors felt it was medically necessary he required "skilled care" he was moved to a Belleville nursing home. He received the worst care ever and was dead within 6 weeks at the young age of 39! My family took shifts throughout each day to make sure he was taken care of , we gave constant verbal and written care instructions to the staff but still we would find him with his face lodged against the bedrails. Daily he was laying in urine and feces soaked sheets and clothing and sometimes choking on his vomit and tube feedings backing into his lungs. He suffered emotionally, was homesick and wasnt physically able to speak to make his needs known to these strangers. He was vulnerable and at their mercy and they failed him. Nursing assistants are certified to care for the elderly, they are not qualified or educated to handle the special needs required for the mentally and physically handicapped individuals. Please do what is right for the people who call murray center their home. dont force them to be displaced and suffer any more than they already have, allow them the right to stay in the only home most of them have ever known and receive the love and care provided by the qualified staff. Respectfully Tammy Stollard." I myself agree and there are a certain amount of developmentally disabled individuals that would benefit from qualified homes but there arent enough homes out there! For years the State of Illinois has enforced the highest standard of care for these individuals and now the State wants to displace these people into lesser care facilities... shame on them! Please reconsider closing these facilities. Theres a better way. Murray Center has an awesome campus with room to expand.. If you have to close places to save money... reconsider just relocating them to to another State Operated facility that has qualified care givers. Thank you for your time and consideration. Bobbi Gormann RN

**Constantino, Mike**

---

**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:35 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Closure Date for JDC

---

**From:** Countrybreezin@aol.com [mailto:Countrybreezin@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:00 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Closure Date for JDC

Dear Committee Members,

As a guardian and parent of a former JDC resident I would like to express the concern I have about the October 30th closure date. I have transitioned my daughter from JDC to a ICF-DD due to her medical needs that I felt could not be met in the community. Due to the fact that the governor has insisted that JDC is closing at the end of October, I felt it was in her best interest to move her rather than leave her at JDC. Fortunately, my daughter is not combative, does not elope, nor does she have pica. I mention these behaviors because finding a home or a ICF-DD to accept these residents and having the necessary needs met is difficult. I have listened to other parents that are looking and being declined because of these behavioral issues. Being a parent and having your child cared for and in a safe environment, away from harm and protected from harming themselves is the most important thing in the parents/ guardians minds. As a parent, not a day goes by that I don't worry about my daughter as I am sure that it is the same for the other parents/guardians that have residents at JDC. Now, as the closure date nears and close to 120 residents are still at JDC, it seems if they proceed with the October 30th date, it will be a massive move, which surely needs to be reconsidered. Please give the parents/guardians extra time to ensure their loved ones are placed in the environment that meets their needs.

Thank you,  
Respectfully,  
Sharon Pfeiffer  
Cantrall, IL 62625

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:45 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: hearing about JDC

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**From:** Millie Korzenewski [mailto:korzewm@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 8:25 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** hearing about JDC

This is to tell you that JDC and other state facilities must be kept open. Murray Center is the next center to be closed, and there is nothing in place to care for these very fragile residents. The communities of Jacksonville and Centralia do not have the supports to keep our loved ones safe and cared for. There are particularly no supports for the mentally retarded, mentally ill residents who reside safely at these homes. Right now, the answer to residents having psychiatric outbursts is to call 911. Kevin Casey has told us that these supports are being "worked on", but they are NOT yet in place. How many of these residents must die in the community before DHS figures out they need to develop these programs before they release our loved ones out into placements that will not work for them. They will not be safe, nor will the community they are being forced into. Kevin Casey, we have found, will tell us anything, but rarely answers us directly. Please help us keep these SODCs open for our loved ones.

Thanks, Mildred Korzenewski

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: JDC Hearing

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**From:** Margaret Schomaker [mailto:lengermag@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** JDC Hearing

My grandson Mark resides at Murray Center in Centralia. It is an SODC....one of the best in the state. The Governor is working to close JDC now, and then Murray Center. As someone who also has a disabled son who lives in a community CILA I am well aware that the community is not at all prepared to deal with the severely disabled like my grandson. My grandson needs round the clock nursing care. My son who is high functioning with few medical problems has still had a very difficult time finding medical and dental providers who will care for him. In our rural southern Illinois area there are few providers. Mr. Casey and his band of henchmen will tell you there are supports in place.....where are they. We searched over 9 months to find a dentist to remove my son's infected wisdom teeth, even though we had the money to pay outright for this service! What will happen to those wards of the state who are placed in a community totally unprepared for them. It is shameful, and not the way to treat those who need our care the most. WE NEED OUR SODCs to care for those severely disabled like my grandson.

Sincerely, Margaret Schomaker  
[lengermag@gmail.com](mailto:lengermag@gmail.com)

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Against closure of JDC and Murray Center; Letter to Director Casey  
**Attachments:** September 15.docx

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Against closure of JDC and Murray Center; Letter to Director Casey

**Subject:** Against closure of JDC and Murray Center; Letter to Director Casey

**To:** Ms. Avery and the board of review:

It's a sad day, everyday knowing our state government is failing us. I pray you have the sanity and good sense to keep Jacksonville and Murray Center open. Our residents and my daughter CANNOT survive community placement, which at the present time does not exist. This 'rebalancing' act aimed at the profoundly disabled is ludicrous and immoral and must be aborted. I plead that you send the Governor this message.

I am the loving mother of Stefani whose home is Murray Center,  
Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278  
618-282-2858

September 15, 2012

Dear Kevin:

On Sunday , September 9, you opened the Murray Parents meeting by saying, 'We are here to explain how we 'THINK' we will go forward with the closure of Murray Center'. You cooked your goose then and there. 'THINKING' how you will go forward...give me a break. You solidified my belief that you do not know where you are going. The plans you laid out are frankly not going to work. 'Rebalancing' is hogwash. Fantasy is fantasy. You keep saying, 'TRUST US, WORK WITH US'. NO THANKS!!

As you left the meeting, you had to know we are not going to play the game and the CRA can go from where they came. As head of DHS, you have to know that Murray Center is second to none in providing specialized care to its profoundly challenged residents and a necessity for we parents and guardians in southern and central Illinois. In fact, the truth is, group homes for the 275 residents of Murray do not exist nor do the 'certified babysitters' and as far as the so called support system—forget it. The physical and medical problems which arise at any moment with these residents need immediate attention, not a 911 phone call.

We did not have any, any input in the decision to close Murray. How gentlemanly of you, Governor Quinn, Tony Paulaski, etc.!! Our resident's lives and their stories didn't matter, they were a number; just throw them out into community group homes. The 'money will follow them' idea will dry up then we'll let society deal with them. Yes, money is the root of all evil and the 'rebalancing act' is a ploy. When it's said and done, the 'WE did it party will begin' and our residents will be dying by your hands. I remember Tony Paulaski said of you, 'He will get it done.' And....I also read that out east you were known as 'a popular advocate for the disabled'. WHAT!!!

In closing, I am appalled at the number of individuals in this country and this state who are pushing astounding radical agendas. The old adage, 'Do unto others as you would have done unto you' seems to have been lost on society. I started my 75<sup>th</sup> year today and have never felt so ashamed of my fellow human beings and fellow Americans as I do today. Governor Quinn, you and your cohorts have failed us in all aspects of this tragedy of errors.

Kevin, you do NOT need to answer this email. TRUST ME, TRUST ME!! You know I will not stop fighting for Murray Center and I will continue to maintain that, 'I am damn mad and getting madder.' My daughter's life is too precious to me to allow misguided individuals to dictate as to where she should live. Her home is Murray Center!!

Loving mother of Stefani of Murray Center,

Melba

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: AGAINST CLOSURE of JDC and Murray CTR.; FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY DUST!!!!  
**Attachments:** Dear Honorable Governor Patrick Quinn.docx; DSCN4882.JPG

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** AGAINST CLOSURE of JDC and Murray CTR.; FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY DUST!!!!

**Subject:** FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY

**To:** Director Avery and board review:

Hello! I am Melba Gonzalez, the mother of Stefani who resides at Murray Center in Centralia, IL. I am begging for help to keep Murray Center open and fully funded. Those who believe 'rebalancing' is the way to go for the profoundly retarded and disabled are not facing reality. Their goal is to put these individuals into 2,3,or 4 bedroom group homes with, in my words 'babysitters'; but oh, yes, there will be a 'support system' in place. Whatever that is!! Maybe 911!! Director Casey cannot tell us where these group homes are. He says, 'TRUST US. WORK WITH US'. Believe me, this is an experiment that will implode with disastrous results.

Attached is a letter I sent to Governor Quinn for your perusal.

We, parents and guardians, need your help to keep JDC and Murray open. My daughter and her friends will not survive a group home. Her and their specialized needs are too great.

Please, I pray, help her and her friends at JDC and Murray Center keep their home. COGFA'S decision should be accepted.

We can't rely on, 'FAITH, TRUST and FAIRY DUST'!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Loving mother of Stefani,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 62, Red Bud, IL

62278

618-282-2858

Dear Honorable Governor Patrick Quinn:

Do you even hear us parents and guardians of residents of Murray Center? I have sent you so many emails pleading for you to visit with us and our children and learn how special Murray Center is to our profoundly retarded and disabled. They are provided with care far beyond what a community group home will do for them.

My daughter cannot withstand the trauma of such a move. I will not allow her to be a guinea pig for anyone!! The complexities of her disabilities will be met with such minimal care as to be a death sentence .

Is it so difficult for you to make a visit to Murray??? You were within 30 miles when you were at Waltonville to see the dead corn crop and prop up the farmers. I was there but you did not want to see me. I am ashamed for your lack of consideration, for my husband and I drove an hour and a half to get there. You went to console the folks of Freeport because their jobs are being outsourced to China. What's with that when you will kill hundreds of jobs; hurt many businesses and worsen the state's economy with the closing of Murray and other facilities. How about your weekend out east to coax business to come to Illinois? Hey, how about that visit to East St. Louis. OMG, now, you are in Brazil!!! Murray Center, oh no!! Out of sight, out of mind!! The word 'hypocritical' describes my assessment.

By the way, send the CRA back to all those states they come from. They are a useless tool, yet you give them thousands and thousands of dollars each month for doing nothing. Talk about wasteful spending!! Their role in 'rebalancing' should be under investigation. They were hired without the bidding process, an ethics violation. I will not give them the time of day!!!

Why pick Murray Center to close? The poppycock you've been fed by Director Casey and Tony Paulauski and others is just that. Director Casey's mantra is, 'TRUST US, WORK WITH US.' Maybe it should be: 'FAITH, TRUST, and FAIRY DUST.' Murray residents will never be independent nor thrive in a community setting. They don't know the world turns or if it is night or day. Murray Center could be a jewel in the DHS system for the profound if you would just have the fortitude to step back and say 'Wait a minute, so many are protesting my decision and applauding Murray Center, could I possibly be making a mistake?' Pension chaos is one thing, but the lives of the most vulnerable are another.

Please reconsider your decision to close Murray. Even Supreme Court Justices change their minds. It does not make you any less of a man.

**PLEASE KEEP MURRAY CENTER OPEN AND FULLY FUNDED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Loving mother of Stefani of Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:45 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: hearing  
**Attachments:** Wink letter to hearing.rtf

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**From:** Rita Winkeler [mailto:[ritawreads@gmail.com](mailto:ritawreads@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 8:08 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** hearing

Please take very seriously your vote about closing JDC. Please read the attached. Thank you, Adam Winkeler

Dear Hearing Committee,

I am writing in behalf of my brother Mark Winkeler who lives in an SODC, Murray Center in Centralia. This is in regard to your voting about the appropriateness of closing Jacksonville Developmental Center. As I have been observing the procedures at JDC, and with Murray Center the next home to be closed by the Governor I have become more and more aware of the total lack of preparedness in the community for these very fragile medically and emotionally residents. The services are NOT available in the community, especially the needs of the mentally retarded, mentally ill residents who reside in these SODCs. Kevin Casey repeatedly tells us that they have supports in the community; but when pressed to tell us specific details he changes the subject or talks about what is being done in the future. **THERE IS NOTHING IN PLACE AT THIS TIME FOR WHEN THESE RESIDENTS HAVE PSYCHIATRIC INCIDENTS!!!!** One time he told us that when a resident is having an incident the state was working to have someone be at the home in thirty minutes. By this time the resident could totally destroy a home, hurt himself, another resident, or staff member. Right now the only real plan in place is to call 911!!!!!!! Police in many areas, Jacksonville included, have told us they are totally unprepared for this influx of (at times) dangerous residents. Get everything in order **FIRST**, then move these residents. It will take years to have a quality program put into place, but the Governor is basically "throwing people to the wolves".....there is a real reason SODCs are available for our very fragile loved ones.....they **NEED THEM!**

Sincerely,

Adam Winkeler  
601 Parker Street  
Bartelso, IL 62218  
618-765-2436

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:45 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: hearing  
**Attachments:** letter for hearing.rtf

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**From:** Jitty Winkeler [mailto:jittywink@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 7:51 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** hearing

Thank you for taking the time to read my attached letter. Bernard Winkeler

Dear Committee,

My son, lives at Murray Center in Centralia. There is a push by Governor Quinn to close the state SODCs. I am writing this to beg you to not approve the closure of JDC and Murray Center. These SODCs are absolutely necessary for those severely handicapped people whose needs cannot be served in the community. Kevin Casey and his cohorts are pushing 2-4 bed homes for our loved ones. These homes are first of all, not even available, and most importantly they are not able to care for the specialized needs our loved ones have. Before even meeting the residents at Jacksonville or Murray the Governor, Kevin Casey, and all have decreed that all could be served in a 2-4 bed home. This is ridiculous, and this has been proven as they have attempted to move people out of JDC. After talking to parents of residents at JDC it is obvious that Kevin Casey and CRA have been far more concerned about moving these residents ANYWHERE more than they have been concerned about quality of care. Several of the facilities where they moved residents have had years of abuse/neglect allegations against them! SODCs are desperately needed. Other states have closed these facilities and are now going back to reopening them, as there will always be a part of society that needs intense, round the clock nursing care. My brother-in-law lives in a CILA and it has been a continual headache to find quality medical/dental care for him, and his needs are minimal. My son's needs are much greater, and he needs the round the clock nursing care provided by Murray Center. Many medical providers, particularly here in Southern Illinois do not serve the disabled. We need the SODC's!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Bernard A. Winkeler  
P.O. Box 222  
Bartelso, IL 62218  
[jittywink@hotmail.com](mailto:jittywink@hotmail.com)  
[www.murrayparentsassociation.com](http://www.murrayparentsassociation.com)

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Jacksonville and Murray Centers

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**From:** Laurie Stengler [mailto:lstengler@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 1:12 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Jacksonville and Murray Centers

Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

We are writing to express our support to keep Jacksonville and Murray Center open. SODCs are much needed facilities and should not be closed. They serve the most disabled citizens of our state. We understand that this labor intensive care is costly, however the Governor's plan to place these vulnerable individuals into small group homes puts them at risk for abuse and neglect. To say that the same service can be provided cheaper in 2-4 bedroom group settings is unrealistic since many of these individuals require 24 hour nursing care. This is absolutely essential ... not an option. How can this level of care possibly be achieved for so many in small group homes throughout the state and be cost effective? The answer is it can't. The facilities don't exist. The group homes that do exist are not equipped to handle the level of care that our loved ones require. Placing our loved ones into inferior facilities is irresponsible and puts lives at risk.

The Jacksonville residents have the disadvantage of having a limited number of private guardians to fight for their needs. Those without private guardians are wards of the state. Murray Center has 240 private guardians who stand united in favor of keeping Murray Center and other SODCs (like Jacksonville) open. We have signed documents which are placed in our loved one's chart to prohibit any involvement by CRA as we do not believe they are acting in the best interest of our loved ones. We are involved with our loved ones and know that these facilities provide the **least restrictive environment**, given the severity of disabilities our loved ones face. The care is excellent and there is clearly a community at work here. The families who are involved in their loved ones care cannot all be wrong. Jacksonville and Murray are essential facilities and should remain open.

Our loved one has been at Murray for 47 years. He is completely dependent on others for every need. The spasticity in his body is so bad that he cannot walk or feed himself. He is repositioned every two hours to prevent sores. He has the mind of an infant, has little knowledge of the world around him and cannot express his needs. He has a mild hearing loss and is partially blind. His food is mashed and he must be positioned properly during feedings to reduce the risk of choking. He has **many** medical issues which are managed proactively by the Murray staff.

The resolution of the Ligas lawsuit provided a much needed push to provide community based services for those who want it. It is not however, a mandate. Our choice, and the choice of many other private guardians who are looking after the needs of their severely disabled loved ones.... is the SODCs already in place and currently providing the necessary care.

We invite you to learn more by visiting our website at [www.MurrayParentsAssociation.com](http://www.MurrayParentsAssociation.com). This website was developed to educate the public on the needs of our loved ones. Included are many useful documents, links and

media reports. We hope you will thoroughly explore the website before making your decision. Then ask yourself.... Can the labor intensive needs of these vulnerable individuals really be met in small facilities all over the state? Do enough community facilities even exist? Is it cost effective? How can they be effectively monitored? How will severe behavior disorders be managed in a small facility with limited staff? What about the safety of these individuals and those around them? Why are the families who have looked after their loved ones for so many years so upset and angry about this plan? Does moving the most severely disabled to small group homes really address the needs of these individuals or is it a short sighted effort to save money?

Then please..... vote to keep Jacksonville and Murray Center open.

Thank you,

Laurie Stengler, guardian Wayne Stengler  
Gary Stengler, brother  
Crete, IL

[www.MurrayParentsAssociation.com](http://www.MurrayParentsAssociation.com)

# Save Murray Center



[www.MurrayParentsAssociation.com](http://www.MurrayParentsAssociation.com)

# Save Jacksonville

Save - Max Photography

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Written Comments for the Closure of JDC  
**Attachments:** Comments to Health Facilities.docx

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**From:** Jim Watson [mailto:jimwatson@localnetco.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 1:21 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Written Comments for the Closure of JDC

Good Afternoon Courtney,

Attached are Representative Watson's comments regarding the vote for the permit to close JDC. Please let us know if you need anything else or have any questions, thank you.

**Jenny E. Geirnaeirt**  
Legislative Director to  
State Representative Jim Watson  
Assistant Republican Leader  
P.O. Box 160  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
217-243-6221  
217-245-2071 Fax  
217-370-0997 Cell

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:40 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Illinois Health and facilities board  
**Attachments:** Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board.docx

-----Original Message-----

**From:** jessicak@siu.edu [mailto:jessicak@siu.edu] On Behalf Of Jessica Conyers  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Illinois Health and facilities board

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

Dear Mrs. Avery,

My name is Jessica Conyers and I am a sister of a resident of Murray Developmental Center. I am writing this letter in concern for the closing of JDC and MDC. Could you please provide this letter to the board for consideration. I appreciate your time. And also could you please email confirming that you got this.

Thank you,

Jessica Conyers

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: SODC closures

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**From:** Wilma Spellman [mailto:wspellman@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 7:29 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** SODC closures

I am the 77 year old mother of a 44 year old son at Ludeman Developmental Center. Prior to his placement at Ludeman he resided at Lincoln Developmental Center, and prior to that he was placed, at age 13, at a private center in Freeport, IL. His behavioral problems there caused his transfer to the SODC at age 17. There seemed to be no other availability for him at the time except Lincoln Developmental Center. On its closing he was transferred to Ludeman (which is, thankfully, closer to our home) and he has remained stable there since 2001. I sympathize with the Jacksonville Center parents under extreme pressure to find adequate care for their loved ones. The State Operated Developmental Centers are the most appropriate placements for our loved ones who require the most comprehensive care for their physical, mental and behavioral disabilities. Having nurses and doctors on site, and a day program available for clients, dietary and recreational provisions made available, and stability in general, is the most optimal way to meet the needs our most profoundly and challengingly disabled individuals. I ardently hope Jacksonville Developmental Center can remain open, and provide the continuum of the range of care our disabled sons, daughters, and other loved ones require. Where two disabled people can live optimally in a family home, fine....it isn't a universal solution. The State of Illinois needs to retain and maintain its Developmental Centers! Sincerely, Wilma Spellman

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Jacksonville and Murray Center closures

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**From:** Rosa Chuck [mailto:cnkrosa@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 8:36 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Jacksonville and Murray Center closures

My name is Karen Rosa. My brother is a resident at Murray Center and has been for 28 or more years. The stories we are getting from Jacksonville families is very shocking. The state and Kevin Casey have done nothing but lie to them from the beginning. With all of the promises they have given and not delivered on. Moving these poor residents out of a safe place just to have them injured in their new homes because of the lack of training that the community group homes give their employees. I know this for a fact. My mother and I are co-guardians of my brother so I took a part-time job at a group home nearby to see if I thought it would be good for my brother. I loved my job and the residents there, but this was not a setting my brother could thrive in. My main concern was the lack of training. Yes they had classes, but it was just common sense thing that anyone would know. My brother had to have his colon removed and now has to wear a bag. And along with all of his other medical needs this would not be the place for him. You very seldom ever saw the nurse at the group home and when you did it wasn't for very long. The medicine was passed out by the employees, and there was med errors that could have been serious. Another problem I found was the BIG turnover in employees. In the 5 years I was their I know there was 30 or more different people that worked there. Not to mention 5 different Q's. The low wages and all of the stress of working with the disabled is alot for some people to handle. And my brother does not handle change well. It upsets him which leads to behaviors. Some of them have been serious behaviors and in the group home we were told to call the police if you thought things were getting out of hand. Then it is hard telling what would happen. There have been a lot of stories about what happens then. One mother was asked to remove her autistic son from the group home I worked at because he was injuring the other residents when he would get upset. If places like Jacksonville and Murray are closed were are we to take our loved ones that need special medical and behavioral attention? They will not get it in a group home. The home I worked in had 16 residents. At one given time there was no more than 3 staff

there. Over night there was only 1. One staff to 16 residents. How safe is that? It didn't take me long to realize what a safe and wonderful place MURRAY CENTER is!!! They have a lot of trained staff, nurses 24/7, and a caring for their residents that can not be met at any group home. Murray is not an institution. Murray center is their HOME. With all the activities they have for their residents my brother is out in the community more than I am!! The community group homes can not match all of the loving care and exceptional care that my brother gets at Murray Center. And to deny him a safe and loving place to live is nothing but criminal. The governer should be in jail with the last two!!!

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Facility closures  
**Attachments:** SHE CANNOT TALK.docx; Murray Rally Picture 001.jpg

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 9:55 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Facility closures

Dear Ms. Avery and board of directors:

I am writing to plead with you to vote AGAINST the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center. My empathy is with the parents/guardians of residents there because my youngest daughter Stefani is a resident of Murray Center and the Governor has also decided to close Murray.

How is it that ONE man can make such a decision? I believe these decisions border on the criminal. The Governor has no knowledge of the intense care my daughter and her friends need and get. The individuals forced from their home are the most vulnerable in our society. Most do not know if it is night or day or the world turns. There is not one iota of fact that their life will be better and as someone who knows her daughter can tell you she will die within a short time of her transition. Please read my attachment I sent to Governor Quinn shortly after his announcement and meet my daughter, Stefani and my husband and I.

I plead with you and pray you will have the common sense to understand the complexities of my daughter's and her friends diagnoses and vote against the closing of Jacksonville Developmental Center and do all you can to prevent the closure of Murray.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I am the loving mother of Stefani,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278  
618-282-2858

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Vote against facility closures

-----Original Message-----

From: mebgzz@htc.net [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]  
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2012 7:26 PM  
To: Avery, Courtney  
Subject: Vote against facility closures

Dear Ms. Avery and Members of the Review Board:

It is time that common sense enter into the decision to close Jacksonville and Murray Center. Just as nursing homes and alzeiheimer's units are a necessity, these two homes are a necessity for Southern and Central Illinois profoundly disabled individuals. Profoundly developmentally disabled individuals need specialized 24/7 nursing care just as these facilities provide. My daughter resides at Murray Center and receives the best care I can imagine. A group home cannot provide this care and will in short order cause my daughter's death. Why is it that one man, the Governor, can evict my daughter and her friends out of their home without even speaking with us or visiting these centers? He has been fed an agenda that makes no sense and will be a noose around his neck if he gets his way. He will always have the 'stench of death'.

Please find it in your heart and use the common sense God has given you to vote AGAINST the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center and Murray Developmental Center.

I am pleading with you and praying you will send the Governor a message that he is making one of the biggest mistakes of his life.

I am the loving mother of Stefani who lives at Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez  
PO Box 61, Red Bud, Il 62278  
618-282-2858

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:44 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Murray Center closure

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**From:** Pat File [mailto:pfile37@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 07, 2012 10:08 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Murray Center closure

My name is Patricia File. My son has been a resident at Murray Center for the past 28 or more years. He is 55 now. Before that he was in Alton til they closed. I am very aware of the term institution. Alton was an institution. Murray Center is NOT. At Murray Center my son is very well taken care of both physically and mentally. The staff are very concerned about the residents safety and well being. They are very,very well taken care of. My son goes to work at the workshop in Centralia every day. He comes HOME, has supper, and then alot of times they have activities either on or off campus for then almost every day. He is out in the community more than I am. He loves Murray Center and all the staff. When he comes home on home visits he is always ready to go back and see what he has missed. Earlier this year he had to have his colon removed. Now he has to wear a bag. While he was in the hospital for almost a week, not a day went by that 3 or 4 of the staff didn't come by on their way to or from work to check and see how he was doing, or if they could bring him anything when they came back. This is dedication and consern and love. And the care he gets can NOT be matched in a group home. They are low staffed and do NOT have a nurse on duty 24/7 as Murray Center does. The medication is even passed by the workers and not a medical staff. And with my sons physical problems he needs 24/7 nursing care. That doesn't count his physical aggression when he gets upset. Group home staff are not trained to handle him. I know all of this because my daughter worked in a group home for 5 years just to see if we thought my son could possibly live in one. He would definetely NOT get the care that he NEEDS and GETS at Murray Center. This is why I and all of the families of the residents at Murray Center believe that the governor is making a BIG mistake by listening to the people who are telling them that group homes will be good for our family members. It will NOT be good. It will be devastating for a lot of the residents at Murray Center who will not get the care that they need. It will be life threatening for a lot of them. My son included. Please KEEP MURRAY CENTER OPEN!!!! Thank you for your time.

**Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 10:44 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Hills, Bonnie  
**Subject:** FW: Hearing  
**Attachments:** hearing letter.rtf

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**From:** Rita Winkeler [mailto:[ritawreads@gmail.com](mailto:ritawreads@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 08, 2012 7:41 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Hearing

Please read the following concerning the closure of JDC and other SODCs. Thank you!!!

Dear Board,

Our son Mark (age 27, severely handicapped, IQ of 12) lives at Murray Center in Centralia, an SODC. I also have a brother, whom I am guardian for, who lives in a community home (CILA) who has an IQ of 75, and functions like a 7 year old. My son is not able to talk, and needs total round the clock care. My brother is able to communicate verbally, and is able to use a phone and take care of his personal needs. A CILA is the appropriate placement for him. The Governor's plan to move the residents of JDC and Murray Center to small 2-4 bed homes is ludicrous, and goes against every tenant of special services....that one size fits all. When Kevin Casey visited the Murray Parents' Association meeting he told us that we could choose a larger facility, a 16 bed, another SODC, or even a nursing home. We had a court reporter at our meeting who taped and documented all of this. He also told us he had a list of providers who would be willing to take in our loved ones. This meeting occurred over a month ago, and I requested he send me a list of these providers. To date I have not received the list, even though I have repeatedly emailed Mr. Casey requesting the list. He did email me stating that we would develop these homes.....once again he is pushing the 2-4 bed homes, without even knowing what our loved ones' needs are. He promised the residents of JDC that they too could move their loved ones to another SODC, and now he is telling them this is not what will be done. Many of these JDC parents/guardians have visited over five community homes and none of these homes were willing to take the residents because of the many needs, both physical and emotional, that these residents required. Already there have been a document case of assault by a JDC resident who moved in to a community home, because of lack of the proper type of staffing. Another resident who was moved to a community facility broke her femur within two days of being moved because of lack of proper staffing and training. Kevin Casey and CRA dismiss all these incidents, and ignore our questions when we ask them about these incidents. I have talked to many quality providers and they have told me that there is no way they will be part of the Kevin Casey/CRA process because it is not financially feasible (even with the new increase of funding for community based facilities), and it is not possible for a community based home to give these residents the 24 hour round the clock nursing and psychiatric care they need. They have documented for me how it could cost up to \$350,000 per year to provide adequate care for some of these highly needy residents, as some require 2 to 1 staffing to prevent them from hurting themselves or others. Kevin Casey/CRA ignore our questions about this. SODCs are needed for these very fragile medically and psychologically needy residents. Talk to quality

providers and see what they say. I have documentation from state records showing that at least two of the providers where JDC residents have been moved had over 30-50 reported allegations of neglect/abuse against them for the past two calendar years. And these are the places are loved ones being moved. I have talked to everyone I can at DHS from Michelle Saddler, to Mark Doyle, and Michael Gelder about developing quality homes in the community, keeping them running and funded for several years, and then attempting to move the people out of the SODCs. Even Michelle Saddler says that there will always be a need for SODCs.....one size does not fit all.....please keep JDC and Murray Center open. Murray has consistently been one of the highest rated facilities in the state of Illinois. Don't throw away all this knowledge and care ....keep the SODCs open and funded.

Rita Winkler  
P.O. Box 222,  
Bartelso, IL  
[ritawreads@gmail.com](mailto:ritawreads@gmail.com)  
618-210-9678  
[www.murrayparentsassociation.com](http://www.murrayparentsassociation.com)  
#SaveILMurrayCenter

10/5/2012

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

Dear members of the IL Health Facilities and Services Board,

I am writing this letter as a concerned sister of a resident of Murray Developmental Center. I just wanted to make you aware of how important SODC's are for Illinois most disabled citizens. My little brother is autistic and bi-polar and can have extreme behavior outbursts that require multiple staff, up to 4 team members, to safely restrain him. In the 4-bed group homes that Quinn is trying to move these individuals what will happen to my little brother if he needs restrained and only one or two staff are on duty? Will he be allowed to hurt himself or others? I have personally worked in a group home and seen firsthand what happens in them. Group homes are typically understaffed, poorly if at all supervised, and the staff are typically paid minimum wage. The staff are overworked, turnover is often very high, and there is no nurse on duty. I understand that these homes may work for individuals who are high functioning and that do not have severe behavioral or medical issues. But these homes are not appropriate for individuals with very serious and complex disabilities.

I have spoken at the COGFA review of the proposed closure and they seem to understand that the state is not prepared to close these facilities. They recommended keeping Murray open. I do not understand how our governor can overturn the decision of the people that have actually reviewed the facts and decided that closure at this time is not a viable option. The state does not have an adequate plan or facilities to move these people into. From my understanding some of the better group homes out there are refusing to take residents from JDC because the state is not reimbursing them enough to provide for the high care needs of the individuals. Wouldn't it be more expensive to move these residents out of a centralized location where they have access to nursing care and trained staff around the clock?

10/5/2012

My little brother is well taken care of at Murray and is not secluded. He is as much a part of the community as he can be. They have a building on the campus where he can go for the day and participate in different "jobs". Also at Murray there is a house where I can visit with him and have privacy while still knowing there are staff close by that could come help in case of a behavioral emergency. He has consistency at Murray center and has built relationships with the staff members. In the community I am afraid that he would be more secluded because his behavior is not stable enough for him to work at a workshop. Also I am scared that he would end up in jail or the hospital if he goes to a facility where there are not enough staff to keep him and others safe. My brother will not succeed in a group home. If anything he will be transferred to another SODC. So why is the state not leaving an SODC open downstate for individuals who are not appropriate for community care? How will I visit with him and check on him if he is moved to a facility near Chicago?

My mother is a technician at Murray Center and she is working many 16 hours shifts and so are her coworkers. She is being mandated to work 16 hours a day weekly sometimes three times a week. Why should I trust the state to take care of my little brother in a community home when he is already being taken care of by tired and overworked staff at a state facility? My mother's scheduled shift is from 6am-2pm in the afternoon. Sometimes she is mandated to stay until 10pm so that is 6am-10pm then she has to come in the next day at 6am and do it all over again. Even worse, sometimes she gets mandated to work 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. So that means she works her typical 6am-2pm shift, goes home from 2pm-10pm, and then has to come back and work from 10pm until 2pm the next day. The staff members are extremely tired and I do not understand how it is legal to have people who take care of individuals with disabilities work under these conditions.

Something needs to be done about the care of these individuals. No one asks to be born with a disability. If it were you or your child wouldn't you want to receive the best care that the state could provide? We should not be cutting these programs. They are extremely essential. My story is very similar to some of the families at JDC. I am writing to ask you to please do your best and stop the closures of SODCs. Community care is not for everyone. While it may be feasible for us to move some individuals into community care it will not

10/5/2012

work for everyone. I really hope that you can do something about these closures and save the lives of these very important individuals who cannot speak for themselves. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I would love to speak to you. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jessica Conyers, M.S ed, CTRS

2316 Parks Edge Place

Columbia, MO 65202

(618) 967-5776

SHE CANNOT TALK; SHE CANNOT CRY

CAN YOU HEAR HER SCREAM INSIDE:

DO NOT CLOSE MY HOME

DO NOT CLOSE MURRAY CENTER

Topic: Opposition to the Closure of Murray Center in Centralia, IL

Dear Honorable Governor Quinn:

Preface: Stefani June Gonzalez

At 5 ½ years of age, Stefani spent six weeks of respite care at Bowen Center in Harrisburg, IL. (I had developed a cardiac arrhythmia caused by stress due to the belligerence of a special education director. With two older children and the 24 hour attention Stefani required we had to make the devastating decision to make Bowen Stefani's home. My health was at risk. ( I still live with the dysrhythmia.) Governor Thompson decided to close Bowen and provide a youth detention center there. We were moved to Anna Mental Health (now Choate). Stefani was there awhile until they told us she needed to go to Murray Center where because of her profound disabilities she could be best cared for. Murray and Centralia were a godsend; it suited her perfectly, medically and physically. No one can duplicate the quality of care she gets at Murray. She would die sooner than later outside of Murray's care.

Subject: Our Stefani and the Closure of Murray Center

We are the parents of Stefani whose home for more than half her life has been Murray Center. Our daughter is 43 years old. She has Axis II, profound mental retardation, Level IV (functioning 0 to 9 months of age); encephalopathy due to unknown influence; epilepsy, tonic, clonic and partial seizures which are poorly controlled; cerebral palsy; moderate spastic quadriplegia; osteoporosis; hypothyroidism; gastrostomy (feeding tube); gastroesophageal reflux disease; bilateral fibrocystic disease of the breast; periodontitis; onychauxis; onychogryphosis; visually impaired OP-object perception; peripapillary atrophy, bil; old presumed ocular histoplasmosis syndrome with low myopia; chronic constipation. Stefani is routinely and when needed seen by her neurologist via webcam through Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Stefani is on multi anti-convulsant medications plus many other medications; she needs routine blood tests to monitor these medications. She does not speak. She does not cry. She is wheelchair bound. She cannot do anything for herself; she needs 24 hour total nursing care.

We dare anyone to find more loving, kind, compassionate, more certified caregivers nor a safer environment than she has at Murray. Their understanding of her is unbelievable; it gives us true peace of mind. With their training, Stefani has the best in quality care. She has had multiple ER visits; surgeries; and inpatient stays at St. Mary's Hospital. The availability of physicians and the hospital

nearby is of ultimate importance. Stefani always has a caregiver with her whether it's an ER visit or hospital stay. Without her caregivers' acute attentiveness in some cases, she would have courted disaster. She has access to a doctor on staff; a neurologist via webcam at SIU School of Medicine; a dentist; a podiatrist; occupational and physical therapist; hearing and speech pathologist; activity therapist; a dietician; nurses; LPN's; educated caregivers; a foster grandparent, other volunteers, etc. Where outside of Murray in a group home can she get the physical and medical attention she receives today? The answer is nowhere; and if we are told differently, someone has a problem with reality. We have been so grateful all these years that we have always been totally involved in all decisions regarding her care. No one can duplicate the peace of mind we have with Stefani at Murray Center.

Her volunteer foster-grandparent visits her during the week and other volunteers offer their services throughout Murray Center. Many organizations and individuals throughout Centralia and surrounding area support Murray and our Parents Association which has done so many things the state does not provide, such as buying defibrillators; other medical equipment; lounge chairs; TV's; cable; etc. Our raffle in October is always a success and allows us to make life better for our children. The cottages calendars are always full of activities, just like if the residents were at home. Even though Stefani cannot participate, she is present to enjoy what she can. You see the employees create a wonderful home environment.

The closure of Murray Center will be devastating for our Stefani and her friends. Our Stefani would not survive community placement; her problems are too profound; she is too fragile. No one and we mean no one will convince us that she will be better off anywhere else. Murray Center's excellence in the care of our children is not questioned. It's the agenda of special interest groups and politics as usual and oh, yeah, always the money. Sure, some disabled can live in group homes. We have two group homes in our rural county for higher functioning individuals. They go to a workshop south of where we live. And do you know not all communities want a group home in their town. That is a fact. My community is living proof. The savings to the state in closing Murray would be so minimal there would be little effect. The costs in closing Murray and placing residents elsewhere would be staggering because we demand the same services we are getting today. As Stefani's parents, at 75 and 78 years of age, the closing of Murray scares us to death. We're stunned to have to defend our daughter and her friends' home against such a merciless decision. To say she should be integrated into a community outside of Murray is absurd; she is already integrated in her own little community plus in the whole community of Centralia. Does Murray Center not consist of group homes? Look at it! Has common sense gone so far astray?

Those whose agenda it is to close all mental health facilities and integrate all disabled into a community have had your attention for too long. We know they have lobbied you and your staff for months, impressing upon you that you would be able to save money on the back of our profoundly disabled children and make business for private corporations. How can your mantra continue to be to create jobs and yet you are killing jobs? What a joke! Where were our children's needs and our input in this decision? We are the experts. No major decision such as this should be made without discussion from both sides of the issue. According to DHS, Murray Center is an institution. No! Murray is home to our children; it not confinement like the old asylums. This is 2012. Institutions are of another era. We

shame you and DHS for not holding up for us and our children over the agenda of ARC and others. You should voluntarily or be forced to visit Murray and spend some time with us and our children and really see what Murray is all about. At the end of the day, you would see you have made a most uninformed and ruthless decision; we believe bordering on criminal. Neglect; abuse; imprisonment for some; and deaths will occur to the most fragile. Look at the statistics across the country. Appalling! Just one incident is one too many.

We beg for your compassion and hope you will see in our compelling stories that you should immediately rescind the decision to close Murray Center. Our daughter's life and her friends' lives are at stake.

Thank you for your attention, we are,

Stefani's parents,

Richard & Melba Gonzalez, PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278

618-282-2858

Addendum: Richard is a retired Illinois State Police Officer of 34+ years on the road. Melba is a retired lab technician; office manager and medical assistant of 23 years for Internal Medicine doctors.

Dear Hearing Committee,

I am writing in behalf of my brother Mark Winkeler who lives in an SODC, Murray Center in Centralia. This is in regard to your voting about the appropriateness of closing Jacksonville Developmental Center. As I have been observing the procedures at JDC, and with Murray Center the next home to be closed by the Governor I have become more and more aware of the total lack of preparedness in the community for these very fragile medically and emotionally residents. The services are NOT available in the community, especially the needs of the mentally retarded, mentally ill residents who reside in these SODCs. Kevin Casey repeatedly tells us that they have supports in the community; but when pressed to tell us specific details he changes the subject or talks about what is being done in the future. **THERE IS NOTHING IN PLACE AT THIS TIME FOR WHEN THESE RESIDENTS HAVE PSYCHIATRIC INCIDENTS!!!!** One time he told us that when a resident is having an incident the state was working to have someone be at the home in thirty minutes. By this time the resident could totally destroy a home, hurt himself, another resident, or staff member. Right now the only real plan in place is to call 911!!!!!! Police in many areas, Jacksonville included, have told us they are totally unprepared for this influx of (at times) dangerous residents. Get everything in order **FIRST**, then move these residents. It will take years to have a quality program put into place, but the Governor is basically "throwing people to the wolves".....there is a real reason SODCs are available for our very fragile loved ones.....they **NEED THEM!**

Sincerely,

Adam Winkeler  
601 Parker Street  
Bartelso, IL 62218  
618-765-2436

Dear Board,

Our son Mark (age 27, severely handicapped, IQ of 12) lives at Murray Center in Centralia, an SODC. I also have a brother, whom I am guardian for, who lives in a community home (CILA) who has an IQ of 75, and functions like a 7 year old. My son is not able to talk, and needs total round the clock care. My brother is able to communicate verbally, and is able to use a phone and take care of his personal needs. A CILA is the appropriate placement for him. The Governor's plan to move the residents of JDC and Murray Center to small 2-4 bed homes is ludicrous, and goes against every tenant of special services....that one size fits all. When Kevin Casey visited the Murray Parents' Association meeting he told us that we could choose a larger facility, a 16 bed, another SODC, or even a nursing home. We had a court reporter at our meeting who taped and documented all of this. He also told us he had a list of providers who would be willing to take in our loved ones. This meeting occurred over a month ago, and I requested he send me a list of these providers. To date I have not received the list, even though I have repeatedly emailed Mr. Casey requesting the list. He did email me stating that we would develop these homes.....once again he is pushing the 2-4 bed homes, without even knowing what our loved ones' needs are. He promised the residents of JDC that they too could move their loved ones to another SODC, and now he is telling them this is not what will be done. Many of these JDC parents/guardians have visited over five community homes and none of these homes were willing to take the residents because of the many needs, both physical and emotional, that these residents required. Already there have been a document case of assault by a JDC resident who moved in to a community home, because of lack of the proper type of staffing. Another resident who was moved to a community facility broke her femur within two days of being moved because of lack of proper staffing and training. Kevin Casey and CRA dismiss all these incidents, and ignore our questions when we ask them about these incidents. I have talked to many quality providers and they have told me that there is no way they will be part of the Kevin Casey/CRA process because it is not financially feasible (even with the new increase of funding for community based facilities), and it is not possible for a community based home to give these residents the 24 hour round the clock nursing and psychiatric care they need. They have documented for me how it could cost up to \$350,000 per year to provide adequate care for some of these highly needy residents, as some require 2 to 1 staffing to prevent them from hurting themselves or others. Kevin Casey/CRA ignore our questions about this. SODCs are needed for these very fragile medically and psychologically needy residents. Talk to quality

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Rita Winkeler  
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Rita Winkeler  
P.O. Box 222,  
Bartelso, IL  
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618-210-9678  
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#SaveILMurrayCenter

# Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled

**IL-ADD**

October 9, 2012

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
525 Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board:

***The Jacksonville Developmental Center "Census Progress Report as of 10/04/2012" indicates that of the 181 people counted in the "starting census," 128 remain on campus with a closure date 3 weeks away.***

Families of State Operated Developmental (SODC) residents across the state are concerned that the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC) is a dangerous blueprint, in concept and method, for Illinois' citizens with the most severe developmental disabilities who are served in these centers. Our loved ones served at Jacksonville and the other SODCs have severe/profound intellectual disabilities, complicated medical conditions, severe behavior disorders or combinations of these conditions and rely on the intensive services provided in our SODCs.

**► Jacksonville Developmental Center is the first target in Governor Quinn's ACCT plan to remove high-needs individuals from ICF/MR level of care and place them in non-comparable community settings. The plan is violative of the law.**

All Jacksonville residents are entitled to Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) level of care which in Illinois includes SODCs and private ICFs/DD.

The right to access ICFs/MR by persons who qualify is an entitlement. Participation by states in the Medicaid program is voluntary; however, if a state elects to provide certain services, the state's provision of those services is "mandatory upon them." 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(1). If a state elects in its Medicaid plan (as Illinois does) to offer qualified individuals services in an ICF/MR, it **must** provide that "all individuals wishing to make application under the plan shall have the opportunity to do so, and that such assistance shall be furnished with reasonable promptness to all eligible individuals." 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(8). The Illinois Administrative Code provides that "[i]ndividuals or guardians shall be given the choice of receiving State-operated developmental center, community ICF/MR or Medicaid home and community-based services." 59 Ill. Adm. Code.120.150(c).

The Home and Community Based Waiver is OPTIONAL, NOT MANDATORY, and cannot be imposed on an individual who qualifies for and chooses an ICF/MR. In fact, the HCBS waiver will not be granted and may be revoked unless the state offers ICF/MR services to those who qualify. It is the state that has an affirmative duty to inform and provide the options of ICF/MR (SODC or ICF/DD) or Home and Community Based Waiver services. The guardian has the right to choose ICF/MR services and is not under a duty to justify his decision, other than that his ward "qualifies."

**► Guardians are being pressured to allow CRA to evaluate their wards for community placement, including those guardians who do not choose community placement for their ward. Guardians are being forced to rescind all previous statements that they object to this process.**

Some guardians objected to evaluations by CRA because they reject a pre-determined outcome that their ward can be served in the community. Those guardians indicated that those best suited to make evaluations and placement recommendations are the members of JDC's inter-disciplinary team. Those guardians sent letters to Director Casey refusing to grant permission for their ward's records to be released to CRA. On September 13, 2012, guardians who had rejected CRA evaluation received a registered letter from Director Casey stating that if they did not either allow a CRA evaluation or have an ICF chosen for their ward by September 17, an ICF would be chosen for their ward and the guardian would then be notified. Some of those guardians responded to Director Casey's letter with a letter agreeing to CRA evaluation, "under duress." Those guardians have now been instructed that they must rescind that letter and all statements of objection to the process in order for the evaluation to commence and the guardian to participate in selection of placement options. Guardians must now sign a permission for evaluation for community placement without any reference to their objections.

► **Guardians are not being given informed choice.**

Despite the requirement that the state inform guardians about their service options, guardians have been told by CRA and some JDC staff that they cannot choose another SODC. They have received little assistance, if any, if they choose a private ICF/DD setting. Those guardians have had to find an ICF/DD on their own. Guardians have received documents from the PAS agency for their signature where the "choice" box is pre-checked for "community." Some guardians have been told that SODC or ICF/DD placement may be provided somewhere in Chicago, rather than close to family.

► **SODC residents who are moving to community or ICF/DD placements are not provided a safety net of an SODC if those placements fail.**

In meetings with the Governor's office, we asked if a person whose setting proved to be inadequate or unsafe could return to an SODC. We were told that the state will not commit to individuals returning to an SODC. Instead, we were told, efforts would be made to keep individuals in their placements. However, many families have tried placements in the community for their loved ones and they have been expelled, in some cases, numerous times. For many, the SODC was a life boat. SODCs must remain available as a safety net.

► **Statistics regarding incidents following transition of the first 47 JDC residents are alarming.**

Documents provided to the JDC Closure Advisory Committee indicate that as of mid-September, 47 individuals, presumably the easiest to place, had been moved out of JDC. Among those 47, over a two month period there were 4 police encounters, or 8.5%. Over a 4 month period, there were 14 hospital admissions or ER visits, or nearly 30%. Though this committee is not permitted to know the specifics of these incidents, the raw numbers are alarming.

► **The ACCT plan is numbers, deadline and dollars driven, not person-centered as the State claims.**

Governor Quinn's rebalancing initiative and Active Community Care Transition (ACCT) Plan calls for the removal of 600 SODC residents to community settings in 2.5 years at the rate of 20 per month. Not only is that plan unrealistic, it does not take into account the fragility and vulnerability of these Illinois citizens whose guardians are now being badgered and pressured into choices they worry may not be in the best interest of their loved ones.

*Please vote to keep JDC open.*

Sincerely,

*Rita Burke*

Rita Burke, President

Date: October 9, 2012

To: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

From: Roger Wallace  
1315 Blackhawk Ln.  
Bartlett, IL 60103

Subject: Objection to Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

Dear Board Members,

Please DO NOT grant the permit for discontinuation of services and facility closure for the Jacksonville Developmental Center in Jacksonville, Illinois.

Community living is appropriate for certain individuals, but not for all. Some residents of JDC, including my cousin who has been a resident of JDC for 23 years, need more care than can be provided in a community setting.

The design of JDC's facilities provides a safe and structured environment for its residents. Various police departments have expressed concern that in community living arrangements some residents with extreme medical, mental and/or behavioral disabilities will wander or run from their home and put their own lives in danger. Workers at JDC are specially trained in how to care for residents with all levels of medical, mental and/or behavioral needs. Caregivers in a community will require even more training to control and keep safe these same residents when they will frequently travel to various offices for required services and support. Adding many more people to the resident's care will also result in more inconsistent care. Residents at JDC are provided with a structured environment, given consistent care, protected from various dangers they would otherwise experience in a community, and treated with respect to provide the best living environment possible.

It is clear that Jacksonville Developmental Center provides the best living environment for certain residents. I therefore again ask you to NOT grant the permit for discontinuation of services and facility closure for JDC.

Thank you for your time,

Roger Wallace

## **Possible Comments to the Health Facilities**

The Jacksonville Development Center was established by the Illinois legislature in 1847 as a facility designed for the care of the mentally ill. The facility serves 152 severely developmentally challenged residents. Most of these individuals are not ready to move to community programs, and 75 of these individuals will have extreme difficulty transitioning safely. JDC was designed to nurture and support the individuals who reside in the facility, and the staff is dedicated and well-trained.

Since Governor Quinn announced last year his plan to close JDC in 2012, very little information on a transition plan has been given to parents and guardians. In some cases, residents have been moved with just 48 hour-notice, and the private contractor hired by the state to place the residents has ignored guidelines and protocols developed at JDC to ensure the residents' best interest is the primary factor in a successful placement.

It has become clear that Governor Quinn does not have a safe and responsible transition plan for the closure of JDC, which is unacceptable. Without question, these vulnerable residents should receive the care and supports they need when being transitioned from facility-based care to community-based care. It is evident that there is a high level of dysfunction within the governor's administration as they are confronted with the complexities of moving and safely placing JDC residents.

My fear is that no safety nets are in place for residents who ultimately do not adjust to community-based care, which is not uncommon for several residents now living at JDC. The facility has also safely treated residents who were not able to be placed in the community.

We are now in the month of October, with an October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to close JDC. With that, 152 residents remain in JDC with no guidance to parents and guardians as to the future of their loved ones. The governor's motivation to close JDC is questionable. The residents should remain at JDC to have access to full-time trained care-givers who make it possible for them to have access to the community and live a full life. JDC is their home. JDC residents work, shop, and go to movies and concerts-all under the supervision of trained staff. The facility should remain open to, at the very least, transition residents only as quickly as safety allows.

Ponderosa Steak House  
1001 W. Morton Ave.  
Jacksonville, IL 62650

October 9, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

We ask that you would consider the following key points about JDC:

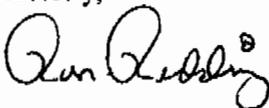
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- Remains in good standing with the federal government
- Had \$2 million in Life Safety Code construction recently
- Has a Health Care Center with a setup similar to a doctor's office which trains residents to go to a doctor's appointment in preparation for life in our community
- Provides a Short Term Assistance Program which works with statewide crisis teams and admits people who have psychological or behavioral needs
- Coordinates work programs within the facility and partners with two agencies in the Jacksonville community, once again in preparation for life outside of JDC

We would like to propose the use of JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program.

JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience they have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be a valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,



12-074



THOMSON, MCNEELY, CREWS, HURST & THIELEN P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

226 WEST STATE STREET  
P.O. BOX 970  
JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS 62651-0970

PHONE (217) 245-7148 • FAX (217) 245-0556  
E-mail: attorneys@thomsonlaw.net

WM. E. THOMSON  
1881 - 1948  
BRUCE THOMSON  
1913 - 1993  
RALPH THOMSON  
1922 - 2007

CHARLES E. MCNEELY  
RICHARD K. CREWS  
JONATHAN D. HURST  
MARK D. THIELEN

October 10, 2012

VIA FACSIMILE  
217-785-4111

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

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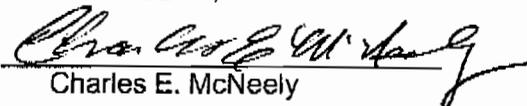
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Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Very truly yours,

THOMSON, McNEELY, CREWS,  
HURST & THIELEN, P.C.

By:   
Charles E. McNeely

CEM:ah



221 East State Street  
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650  
217.479.4627  
FAX: 217.479.4629  
www.jredc.org

October 9, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

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Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Denison, President  
Jacksonville REGIONAL Economic Development Corporation

217-785-4111

Moeller Ready Mix, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1086  
Jacksonville, IL 62650

October 9, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

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Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

  
Cheryl C. Moeller, President  
Moeller Ready Mix, Inc.



October 10, 2012

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Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

*Brittany Henry*  
Executive Director

EXPLORE ■ EXPERIENCE ■ ENJOY

217.243.5678 ■ 800.593.5678 ■ 310 East State Street ■ Jacksonville IL 62650

[www.jacksonvilleil.org](http://www.jacksonvilleil.org)



MORGAN COUNTY

**MORGAN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
300 WEST STATE STREET  
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

Phone: 217-245-4619

Fax: 217-245-8820

Email: [commish@morgancounty-il.com](mailto:commish@morgancounty-il.com)

October 10, 2012

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

Subject: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

As Morgan County Commissioners and residents of the Jacksonville community, we would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

We ask that you would consider the following key points about JDC:

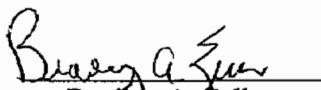
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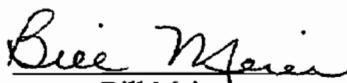
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JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience they have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

  
Bradley A. Zeller

  
Bill Meier

  
Dick Rawlings

**FACSIMILE LEADSHEET**



**Passavant**

**AREA HOSPITAL**

Office of Administration

**Date:** October 10, 2012

**Number of Pages (including leadsheet):** 2

**FAX #:** 217-785-4111

**To:** IL Health Facilities and Services Review Board

**Company:**

**City, State:** Springfield, IL 62761

**Telephone:**

**Note:** Letter against JDC closure.

**From:** Chester A. Wynn, CPA, FHFMA  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*

Should you have any difficulties with receiving this fax, please contact Teresa Jackson-DeGroot, Executive Assistant, Passavant Area Hospital, (217) 245-9541, ext. 3112.

**Passavant Area Hospital, 1600 W. Walnut, Jacksonville, IL 62650**  
**FAX (217) 243-2206, Telephone (217) 245-9541**



1600 West Walnut / Jacksonville, Illinois 62650 / 217.245.9541 / [www.passavanthospital.com](http://www.passavanthospital.com)

October 10, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

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This closure will create a much larger burden on the hospital's Emergency Department to handle patients released into the community, especially without the help of caregivers who know their clients.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chester A. Wynn".

Chester A. Wynn, CPA, FHFMA  
President and Chief Executive Officer

October 9, 2012

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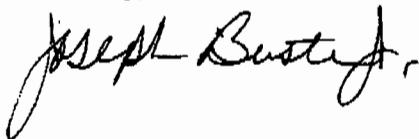
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Sincerely,



**FACSIMILE LEADSHEET****Passavant**

AREA HOSPITAL

Office of Administration

**Date:** October 10, 2012**Number of Pages (Including leadsheet):** 2**FAX #:** 217-785-4111**To:** Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board**Company:****City, State:** Springfield, IL 62761**Telephone:****Note:** Letter against the closure of JDC**From:** David A. Bolen  
*Vice President & Chief Financial Officer*

Should you have any difficulties with receiving this fax, please contact Teresa Jackson-DeGroot, Executive Assistant, Passavant Area Hospital, (217) 245-9541, ext. 3112.

**Passavant Area Hospital, 1600 W. Walnut, Jacksonville, IL 62650**  
**FAX (217) 243-2206, Telephone (217) 245-9541**



1600 West Walnut / Jacksonville, Illinois 62650 / 217.245.9541 / [www.passavanthospital.com](http://www.passavanthospital.com)

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Bolen".

David A. Bolen

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

# FAX

DATE: 10/10/12 PAGES 3

TO: Illinois Health + Services Review Board

FAX # 217-785-4111

SUBJECT: Closing of JDC.

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John Patrick Wayne  
3017 Rudder Lane #101  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
Phone: 309-829-2995  
Cell: 309-310-6995  
Fax: 309-585-2265

John Patrick Wayne, Sr.  
3017 Rudder Lane #101  
Bloomington, IL 61704

October 9, 2012

Illinois Health and Services Review Board  
Second Floor  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

FAX: 217-785-4111

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is John Patrick Wayne, Sr. I am the parent/guardian of my son John Patrick Wayne, Jr. Patrick is 28 years old. He was diagnosed at age three of being severely autistic with a pervasive developmental delay. He is the mental age of a three or four year old. Patrick does communicate on a very limited level. Patrick has been in institutional care, for over ten years in a SODC. First five years he was at the Howe Center and the last five years at the Jacksonville Developmental Center. In the last five years, Patrick has done very well. For his first ten years he was in La Crosse, WI at a facility called Childea Institute that specialized in autistic children. When he aged out of that program, we moved him to Illinois to the Howe Center since we are Illinois residents.

Patrick was then moved to Jacksonville Developmental Center. When he came from Howe Center he had approximately 150 bite wounds which would be considered an SIB (Self Injurious Behavior). In five years at JDC they have got his injuries down to one. That one is still needing attention by doctors and nurses, as it was a rather deep wound. There was a possibility that he might need a skin graft. With the good supervision Patrick gets with the wonderful doctors and nurses, he is doing much better. He also had developed a habit of ripping up clothes and shoes. Because of his severe behavioral and SIB's, Patrick needed 2 on 1 care at JDC.

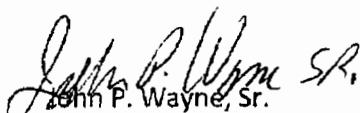
When he was at the Howe Center we tried a CILA home which failed miserably. He was there less than two weeks. They felt they could not deal with his issues. My concern/question is "Where do we go from here"? Patrick has done so well at JDC and I know he will not do well in an Intermediate Care Facility. I feel the only logical place for Patrick is an SODC.

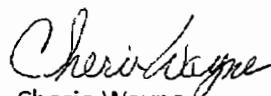
I certainly think the JDC, being the only Central Illinois facility, makes a lot of sense for the parents/guardians that want to have regular visits with their loved ones. We see Patrick every weekend. We are about one hundred miles from the JDC. However as we grow older, traveling may become more challenging. We know this has been a good program for Patrick. He needs what SODC has to offer. We encourage you to keep this facility open. They have spent substantial money in the last eighteen months in upgrading the facility. It seems rather ludicrous that they would want to close it. It is needed! The particular parent/guardians that I have spoken with feel their loved ones have been safe at this facility. Yes, it is far from perfect but the alternative of CILA Homes or Intermediate Care Facilities will not work for these individuals.

I hope everyone thinks seriously as the Society needs to take care of the most vulnerable people. This is an institution that has been opened since 1847. The individuals there need this facility. JDC is the best facility that I have observed compared to others that I have looked at in Illinois.

Again, thank you for your time. I do urge you to vote to keep this Jacksonville Developmental Center open!

Sincerely,

  
John P. Wayne, Sr.  
309-310-6995

  
Cherie Wayne