13-058

September 20, 2013

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SEP 23 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am the guardian of Susan Davison who became a resident of Murray Developmental Center at the age of six and has resided there for the past 47 years.

While Toni Paulauski and the Arc are to be commended for their advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in their letters and other activities in support of these individuals while also advocating the closure of the Warren G. Murray Development Center. As we all are aware there are degrees of I/DD. Many of the individuals described by the Arc are those who have some mental and physical disabilities but are able to work in sheltered workshops, etc. Unfortunately that is not true of many of the current residents of the Murray Center.

My niece is one of those residents. She is 53 and has the mental age of 6 months and is functioning at a retarded age Level IV. Susan is dependent on the staff for all personal care 24/7 since she is confined to a wheel chair and bed due to impaired physical mobility.

Licensed personnel feed Susan through a feeding tube. When her feeding tube must be replaced, licensed personnel must replace it. Susan also has a baclofen pump, a surgically placed pump, that continuously delivers medication to her spinal cord fluid to loosen overly tight muscles. This pump must be administered and monitored by licensed personnel. Due to her physical condition Susan often requires hospitalization at a nearby hospital where doctors are familiar with Susan's needs.

Murray center is a very clean facility and the staff has provided superior care for Susan since she has been a resident there.

Susan can not receive the level of care she needs in a group home; therefore it is imperative that MURRAY CENTER REMAIN OPEN because of the excellent care and service it provides my niece and other residents of Murray Center.

Joann Adcock
Joann Adcock, Guardian
175 W. Brush Hill Rd. #105
Elmhurst, IL 60126

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Sept. 17, 2013

To Whom It Concerns:

I am the mother & legal guardian of Carmen Anthony Pace.
Carmen is 32 yrs old. His birthday is Jan. 5th 1981.
He is a gift from God!

It took me 10 long, hard years of trying & trying to have Carmen!
By age 17 months I knew there was a problem. I had several nieces & nephews by that time, so I knew what to look for in him.
When he was 4½ he finally had a diagnosis of Austin with educably mental retardation. They told me he might never walk or talk or have any social skills. I proved them wrong!
At age 11½ he started to have aggressive behaviors. He doesn't understand about sex and never saw anything related to sex so that was not a problem.
I kept him home. We tried different types of ~~sch~~ schooling & we tried Class. Within 24 hours in the CILAS we were asked to pick him up as they did not have the "people" power they needed to care

(2)

for him. He stopped talking & stopped smiling, etc.
By age 21 I thought he would get accidentally killed by someone because no matter what I did there were times he managed to run out of the house & into someone ~~than~~ else. He would & still sometimes get "out-of-control" out of nowhere. He can get this way upon waking up in the morning or just sitting doing something he wanted.
At age 25 his 2 yr younger brother had to practically choke him from behind while getting him to stop ripping out my hair & hitting me. He would cry the whole time he was hurting me or out of control saying, "I have to stop this", but he just could not.
His brother came to me in tears at age 19 & said "Mom, I don't want to have to kill my brother to save you". I knew ~~then~~ then & there I had to make a drastic change.
It took a few months of checking out CILRS & facilities before we finally found W.G. Murray Center in Centralia.
As much as it killed me, we placed Carmen Anthony there.

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~~The~~ It was the best place for him & they showed true caring from day one!

Carmen went into Murray ~~Center~~ Center with having between 20 & 25 aggressions a month.
He will be 33 on Jan 5th. His aggressions have gone from 20+25 a month to about 2 or 3.
Change is drastic for him.

Taking his "home" away from him will cause him to regress!
He sings, he laughs, he socializes with the caregivers.
We bring him home ~~3 times~~ every 3 weeks from Wed afternoon to Thursday evening. His dad picks him up & they come to my house & stay. As the time goes by he comes to want to "go back" to Murray Center earlier & earlier.

He loves it there!!
I am begging you with all my heart & soul & being!

Don't Close Murray Center! Please!

Ms. J. Pace
27 Duplex Court
Collinsville, IL 62234-4910

Mrs Jo-Angela Pace
618-789-4930

I am sorry for the errors & shakey hand writing.
It is hard to write this without crying.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Carmen also gets ill sometime & lethargic. The nurses on staff at that time have always caught it & sent him to the hospital.
Carmen needs a nurse around at all times where he is.

(4)

My son Matthew & daughter-in-law Keri are also becoming co-legal guardians of Carmen in case something happens to his dad or me.

They too have seen first hand what a wonderful place that W. C. Murray Center is.

The grounds where all the residents get to go outside & have picnics & go for golf cart rides (if possible) and my son Matthew even commented how he noticed how loving & caring the people that care for Carmen on a daily basis are.

Jo Angela Pace

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One very important factor which I forgot to add is that the staff "aides" & "nurses" & "caregivers" know Carmen Anthony very well.
They know his moods & his anxiety and his agitation.
They can get him calm by several ways... going to his room & listening to his music, or walking with him & so forth.
They know what he is like. They love him. I honestly believe that he is loved there.
Surely you must realize how important that is for his dad, his brother & me, to know when we close our eyes at night, that he is being well taken care of!

Thank you for understanding.