The Arc.
Illinois

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Frankfort, IL 60423
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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 30, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Constantino:

This letter is in regard to Project 13-058, "Application for Permit for the Discontinuation of Services and Facility Closure for the Warren G. Murray Developmental Center, Centralia, Illinois." Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board should vote to support the closing of Murray because the administration has developed a comprehensive and progressive plan for closing Murray.

The Arc represents infants, children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The Arc of Illinois strongly supports Governor Quinn's Rebalancing Initiative. This Initiative is truly rebalancing the disability system in Illinois by focusing on community living and closing antiquated state institutions. This Initiative Is long overdue in Illinois and honors the intent of the Olmstead decision and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We know everyone can live a full life in the community with the proper supports. It is imperative that the individuals at Murray be properly supported for a successful transition to community living. We already know how to do this. Recently, the Jacksonville and Howe Developmental Centers were closed with great success.

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

Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board should vote to support the closing of Murray because the administration has developed a comprehensive and progressive plan for closing Murray.

Sincerely,

Tony Paulauski
Executive Director

Achieve with us.

Andrea Kindseth
1801 Truman Drive
Normal, IL 61761-2210

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 1, 2013

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

Re: Hearing on Murray Center on Oct 9

Dear Mike Constantino:

To: The Health Facilities and Services Review Board

I am writing about the proposed closure of Murray Developmental Center.

The yearly cost to keep someone living in an institution like Murray Developmental Center is about $181,000 per person per year. The cost of community services is about $80,000 per person per year, which is less than half, and serves people with disabilities in the most integrated setting possible.

Jobs at Murray won't be eliminated; they'll transfer to the private sector, which will reduce the size of government.

The Olmstead decision says that people with disabilities should not be confined to an institution if they can be accommodated in the community with the right services and supports. People with disabilities, of any severity, can live independently in the community with the proper services and supports. Fourteen states, including Indiana, Minnesota and Michigan have closed all of their institutions. These states are similar to Illinois in size and population. People with disabilities here are no more difficult to serve than people there. If it can be done there, it can be done here.

Closing Murray Center is the responsible thing to do for the state's finances, but jobs and state finances shouldn't be the basis for decisions regarding people with disabilities. More importantly, closing Murray Center is the right thing to do for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kindseth

Andrea Kindseth