13-058

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 8, 2013

Dear Mike Constantino, Supervisor,

In regard to Project # 13-058, we are , OPPONENTS. Our autistic son, Mark Bridges, lives at Murray Center. We know of no other place that could care for our severely handicapped son's complex needs. Mark, who is 43 yrs. old; functions socially less than a 3 yr. old, his speech communication is very limited, and his behavioral problems of physical aggression can be dangerous to himself and others. Murray Center staff is able to care for all his needs.

Mark must take psychotropic medications for his behavioral problems to reduce the number and severity of physical agression. These are Zyprexa 20 mg. and Buspar 30 mg. Murray staff monitors the medication with regular lab blood tests and monthly reviews the meds benefits and side effects. They have a registered nurse on duty everyday to check on Mark. Murray tries to administer the level of medication needed to give Mark the best quality of life.

Since taking Zyprexa can lead to Type II diabetes, a Murray Center dietitian provides Mark a diet avoiding this.

Mark's behavioral problems have decreased to fewer and less violent occurrences. We attribute this not only to his proper medication, but also to Mark's feelings of satisfaction while living at Murray Center.

Supervisor Constantino, please oppose Project # 13-058 and keep Murray Center open for Mark and the many other very handicapped disabled residents.

Sincerely Yours,
Edward Bridges
Carolyn Sue Bridges

Edward Bridges
Carolyn Sue Bridges
(Parents and Guardian of Mark Bridges)

October 7, 2013

Mr. Mike Constantino, supervisor
Project Review Section of the
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board

Dear Sir;

This letter is to inform you of my very deeply held opinion that the closing of the Murray Center in Centralia Illinois is among the most outrageously foolish decisions that this governor of this state has proposed.

It is outrageous that he thinks some of the beloved individuals who live at Murray Center can function more fully in another setting. If that were true, they would never have been placed there by their loving families and/or caregivers in the first place. Families of these precious people wanted the very best care that could be provided for their loved ones and that is why they chose this necessary facility.

The caregivers at Murray Center exhibit a heart for giving the best possible care to the people who know Murray Center as their home. The staff provides loving, professional care for their charges and thereby provide a sense of security to those who call Murray Center and their own special cottage, "Home".

The individuals who live at Murray Center are my main concern, but there is however also concern for the economic impact that the proposed closure would have on this already economically strapped community.

Surely someone in the state government has the common sense to see what closing this facility would mean to the city and ALL of its citizens..... And by ALL, I include the residents of Murray Center who are \just as much citizens of Centralia, Illinois as any other person who lives within the city.

Sincerely,

Sharon Campbell

Sharon Campbell
13 Oak Park Drive West
Centralia, Illinois 62801

Oct. 6, 2013

Mike Constantino, Supervisor

Object Review Section

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson Street – 2nd. Floor

Springfield, IL. 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am writing this letter concerning the closure of Murray Center. I feel very strongly that Murray Center should not be closed. Many of these residents have lived at Murray Center for all of their lives or most of their lives. This is their home! These residents do not understand why they must leave the home that they know and love. The people who work at Murray Center are devoted to the residents. They love and take excellent care of the residents.

People and families, like myself, move into new residents because it is what we want to do. Sometimes we move because of jobs, sometimes we move because we want to be closer to family or friends, sometimes we move because we need a larger house or because we need a smaller home. We choose!! These residents and their families don't have that choice if you insist that Murray Center be closed.

I know someone who is working in one of the homes you have transferred some residents to live. This person tells me they are not adjusting to their new environment. They feel insecure and confused. Please keep Murray Center open for the welfare of the residents.

For your information, I do not work at Murray Center, do not know anyone who works at Murray Center, do not know any of the residents. I am a concern citizen of Centralia, Illinois. I am also opposed to DHS' applications.

Let the Murray Center residents live out their lives at Murray Center. Don't take any new residents. Close one building at a time as the residence die and the population gets smaller and smaller.

This I believe is the best for the Murray Center residents.

Sincerely yours,

Shirley Blouman
327 W. KERR
Centralia, Il
62801

Resident of Centralia
for 50 years

Dear Mike Constantino,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my brother Charles Andraski. Charlie is my older brother and we grew up together, after he went to Murray Center he still came home most weekend. As a young child it was hard for me to comprehend that Charlie could not do the things that I could, with the naïve optimism of a child I assumed that with patience he could be taught anything. As you can imagine this did not go well for Charlie. He broke his arm learning to climb trees, the two wheel bicycle got him stitches. The day I strapped roller skates on him would have been laughable if it hadn't been just heart breaking and also earned him a large goose egg on his forehead. Many trips to the emergency room for Charlie and numerous whippings for me, oftentimes with the switch of my choice, I finally realized that there are some things Charlie cannot and never will be able to do.

Fast forward over thirty years. Our parents and grandparents are gone leaving my little brother Roger and me in charge. My sister in law, Shelly has gone to work at a community home called Sutton House. Shelly is often there for family dinners and she sees how calm Charlie is and thinks he would be a good candidate to live there. I went and checked it out and realized my cousin worked there as manager and I really liked the home. With the naïve optimism of childhood I transferred Charlie out of Murray Center and in to Sutton House in Mt. Vernon.

Things went well the first couple months but then started downhill fast. The situation deteriorated to the point that Charlie was agitated and aggressive. Nobody could do anything with him and several trips were made to the emergency room by staff, residents and Charlie himself. Throughout all of this I was assured by everyone but Shelly and the staff who worked daily with Charlie that this could be worked out. The year ended with Charlie having broken his ankle and a petition by the staff to have him removed from the home. It reached the point where Charlie even attacked me and for a time I was a little bit scared of my own brother. Once again I was faced with the realization that there are some things Charlie cannot do no matter who wishes and prays differently.

I understand the position of Governor Quinn and the state, in an ideal world there would be no handicaps or mental disability. I have wished my whole life that things could have been different for Charlie. The fact is he cannot do some things and I know from experience living in a community home is one of them. He is going to get hurt. At this point in time all we can do is pray that you have the wisdom to see things as they are, and the courage to make the right decision for the residents of Murray Center.

Guardian and Sissy

Laura E Graham

Laura E Graham

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

Dear Mr Constantino

I oppose the closure of Murray Center. I support Murray Center but oppose the DHS application project.

I worked at Murray Center from July 1966 to December 2003. I always felt that if I had a child or a grandchild that needed that kind of service, Murray Center would be the place I would want them to live. While working at Murray Center, I visited other facilities in the state. From my observation, Murray Center is the best facility in the state of Illinois.

Many of the people who live at Murray Center are very fragile medically, have lived there most of their lives, have an IQ equivalent to an eight month

to one year old child and do well because of the consistent care they receive. It is not morally right to move someone with the mentality of a child to another facility, taking them away from the only home they know and from people they regard as family.

Group homes usually have frequent turn over of staff. The individuals at Murray Center have a stable home with staff who know them well. Staff know when something is wrong with the individual eventhough the individual cannot communicate. This takes experience and familiarity with the individual, which takes time.

I oppose the closure of Murray Center. Many of the individuals at Murray Center previously lived in a group home, but due to their behavior did not do well and were placed at Murray Center. At Murray Center these individuals medications are reviewed by the interdisciplinary team, adjustments made in the medication behavior modification programs started, and

ultimately the behavior becomes manageable. This is a slow process. Medications alone cannot control behavior, unless so much medication is given and the individual kept in a stuporous state. Behavior at Murray Center is controlled with the least amount of medication possible, keeping the individual alert and able to function. Individuals with behavior disorders function better in a structured environment versus a least restrictive environment. Staff at Murray Center are well trained and can often divert behavior outbursts. When there is frequent turn over of staff as there is in many group homes and behavior outbursts occur an increase in medications is often the first avenue of treatment

I oppose the closure of Murray Center. The closure will affect the economy in Centralia. The individuals who live at Murray Center shop in Centralia. Their clothing needs and toiletry items are purchased at local stores. Christmas, birthday gifts etc. are purchased at the

local stores. Individuals who are able dine at local restaurants.

I oppose the closure of Murray Center All staff at Murray Center live in the surrounding area. The closure will raise the unemployment in the area. There is already 11% unemployment in the area. This economy needs no more unemployed people.

I oppose the closure of Murray Center Why close a facility that is one of the newest facilities in the state and one that has well trained staff who care deeply for the individuals who live at Murray Center. The individuals who live at Murray Center are part of this community. Most of the individuals who live at Murray Center will not understand why they are being moved. The know Murray Center as their home and their staff as family.

Sincerely

Mary Miller
610 South Maple
Centralia, Il 62801

October 8, 2013

Mike Constantino, Supervisor
Project Review Section Illinois Health Facilities & Services
Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino, Re: Project #13-058

I wanted to voice my opposition to closing Murray Center in Centralia Illinois. The closure of this facility will have a terrible effect on the many residents that have severe and moderately severe disabilities. Many of these residents have thrived only because of the care received at Murray.

Not only will it be life threatening to the residents the economy in this area cannot withstand another closure of this magnitude. The governor wants to create jobs in Southern Illinois and this will displace hundreds and put them most likely on public assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul P. Ponski

October 8, 2013

Mike Constantino, Supervisor
Project Review Section Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino, Re: Project #13-058

I wanted to voice my opposition to closing Murray Center in Centralia Illinois. The closure of this facility will have a terrible effect on the many residents that have severe and moderately severe disabilities. Many of these residents have thrived only because of the care received at Murray. I am guardian of a 52 year old cousin that has spent most of his life there and has been sent to other facilities with a negative outcome.

Not only will it be life threatening to the residents the economy in this area cannot withstand another closure of this magnitude. The governor wants to create jobs in Southern Illinois and this will displace hundreds and put them most likely on public assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Hardy

October 8, 2013

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

RE: OPPOSED To Project 13-058; OPPOSED To Closing Murray Center

I am opposed to the closure of Murray Center. This campus in Centralia, Illinois is one of the best facilities in the entire state when it comes to providing care to our disabled citizens.

Murray Center is a home and a community to people who cannot live and work like we do. These people need our support and caring. I've seen the impact this has had on the families of the residents. The family has finally found a place for their loved one that is safe and meets their needs. Now they have to fear the closing of Murray.

We have heard the truths about the CILAs and some who were moved out of Murray have already been sent to other state facilities because they can't live in a CILA. Please don't let this happen to other residents. Keep their home and them safe from harm.

For these families in south central Illinois, the loss of Murray Center will present incredible hardships.

I urge you to deny the DHS application for project 13-058.

Sincerely,

Diane Rakers

Diane Rakers
2208 Motel Road
Highland, Il 62249
618-604-4377

Mike Constantino, Supervisior,

I feel that I need to write a letter to you so that you will understand what it mean 's to have a son with severe disabilities. Not just a son with a handicap.

My son Jeffrey Lee Sanders has Severe Disabilities...He was born a Rh baby in 1963 before they had the shot that protected babies with Rh incompatibilities. My son's jaundice count climbed so high that he nearly died. His pediatrician was gone on a golfing weekend. By the time he got back the damage was done. A doctor at Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis later got Jeff's records and said there is no reason in the world for this to have happened to him . It is what it is. He is damaged and I had to deal with it. Jeff is a deaf mute. He was at age 3 tested at Jacksonville School for the deaf and they said he was "To Deaf to be Deaf!" that he suffers severe brain damage and will never advance beyond the age of 2

At age 7 the Department of Crippled Children's recommended that he be placed at W. G. Murray Center in Centralia, il. Their reasoning was that when he was a grown man he would be hard for me to manage. Now that he is 50 and looking back on it I certainly see that they were correct in their assessment of Jeff. He is a grown man with a mind of a baby . I want to tell you Mr. Constantino , that was the most difficult

day of my life to walk off and leave my 7 year old baby at the center. Now I know that Murray Development Center was God sent.

Using common sense Mr. Constantino, I would like for you to put yourself my place. What if you had a son . Damaged from pure doctor neglect. You know that this grown man has the capacities of a 2 year old. Wouldn't you want the best place in the state of Illinois for him to live out the remainder of his life. He has no concept of how to dress himself, no concept that things out there can hurt him. When he was placed at Murray Center he was the first deaf person that was placed there and the staff knew that he would need extra care and I can tell you they gave it to him. They are treated him like he was their baby. A 7 year old baby . They knew that they would have to look out for him if there was any kind of emergency. Like a tornado or something like that. They made special effort to keep him safe as they do all the residents of Murray Center. Not just Jeff.

Mr. Constantino , I hope that when you make your decision about the closing of Murray Center that you will put yourself in the place of the parents of a disabled loved one. Not just a handicapped person. We have no place to put our loved ones that could compare to W.G. Murray Center. I wake up at night thinking what if they move Jeff some place that he wouldn't

be as cared for as he has been. They make his food, make sure he eats it. They clean him up after he messes on himself. He wears Depends like a baby wears diapers.

This past December I had a care plan meeting for Jeff at Murray and present at the meeting was a lady that took care of Jeff when he was first admitted to the center. 43 years ago now is that dedication or what. 43 years of taking care of the people with disabilities. They sure don't do it for the money. When I met her I thanked her for all she had done for my son all these years. She said "He was my Baby".

Jeff entered Murray Center in Aug. and at Christmas we tried to take him home for a visit with his grandparents. He screamed and cried all night. My mother told me. Judy take him home....So that's what I did. And when we got to his cottage he took off running as best he could run and he stopped screaming. I never again tried to take him home. Murray Center had become his home. When I left *Murray Center that day I cried myself. I know other people feel the same way. Murray Center is their loved one's home....*

Mr. Constantino , I know I have gone on but from my heart I hope you can understand where I am coming from. It's not easy I know.....Thank you so much for you time.

Judy Kempf , mother/ guardian of Jeffrey Lee Sanders resident of Daisy cottage Murray Center.

Judy Kempf

421 North 1 st. st

Lenzburg , IL. 62255

I am a "OPPONENT" of this project.
I do not support this closure project
and I urge you to turn down the application
please for the sake of all the disabled
at Murray Center.

October 8, 2013

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

Re: Project #13-058
Opposed to closure of Murray Developmental Center, Centralia, IL

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am writing to express why it is essential to the residents and community of Centralia, Illinois, that Warren G. Murray Developmental Center remain open.

Not only does the Murray Center provide employment to over 550 men and women, it also serves as the home to more than 275 severely developmentally disabled individuals, many of whom cannot function on their own or without intensive round the clock care which the devoted and reliable employees have provided for over 45 years. The families of the residents depend on Murray Center to care for their loved ones because they are incapable and/or unequipped to do so themselves. If there were sufficient community-based resources for these developmentally disabled residents, many Murray residents would already be using them.

For most, if not all of these residents, it takes a very long time to become comfortable and develop trust for their caretakers (the employees) and surroundings due to their disabilities. I am familiar with this because my employer has a son that has lived at Murray Center for 25 years and he seems so happy to see her when she picks him up for an outing; however, he is even happier to return to Murray Center because that is home to him. It doesn't make any sense to take away everything these residents have known because of a budget crisis.

Please keep Murray Center open.
Thank you,

Sharon Timmermann
Aviston, IL

1554 W McCord
Centralia Il 62801
10-8-13

Dear Mr Constantino

We are against the project of the Closure of Murray Center.

For many years Murray Center has been a beacon for the residents. This facility has given employment, hope, and usefulness to so very many people.

Centralia is proud of Murray Center and all that it stands for.

Centralia Needs Murray Center!

Thank you.

Sincerely

Mr & Mrs John Arend

Please save Murray Center

October 7, 2013

Mr. Mike Constantino,
Supervisor
Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities
and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Gentlemen,

We are opposed to the decision to close Murray Center. We are also in opposition to the action the review board is undertaking. Please turn that application project down.

The closing of Murray Center would adversely affect not only the patients but the entire region.

We are strongly against the closing of Murray Center.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kay P. Guy
Ralph R. Guy
(Retired teachers Centralia High School)

October 8, 2013

Mike Constantino, Supervisor
Project Review Section Illinois Health Facilities & Services
Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino, Re: Project #13-058

I wanted to voice my opposition to closing Murray Center in Centralia Illinois. The closure of this facility will have a terrible effect on the many residents that have severe and moderately severe disabilities. Many of these residents have thrived only because of the care received at Murray.

Not only will it be life threatening to the residents the economy in this area cannot withstand another closure of this magnitude. The governor wants to create jobs in Southern Illinois and this will displace hundreds and put them most likely on public assistance.

Sincerely,

1128 Myers Road
Centralia, Il 62801
10/7/2013

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

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am writing to express my opposition to closing Murray Center in Centralia. Having been employed at Murray in the past, I KNOW that the residents CANNOT be cared for in the community. My cousin's adult child is a lifelong resident of Murray and moving her would be devastating. Please do not close Murray Center or support any action that leads to such closing.
I wish to emphasize that closing Murray Center will result in improper care and death of the residents. I am opposed to any action leading to the closing of Murray Center.

Sincerely,

Kay Crooks

Kay Crooks

Centralia Township

148 S Poplar St
Centralia, IL 62801
Phone: (618) 532-5000
Fax: (618) 532-5400
www.centwp.illinois.gov

Friday, October 4, 2013

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

RE: OPPOSED To Project 13-058; OPPOSED To Closing Murray Center

Greetings Mr. Constantino:

I am opposed to the closure of Murray Center. This campus in Centralia, Illinois is one of the best facilities in the entire state when it comes to providing care to our disabled citizens.

Closure of Murray Center will negatively impact the resident's access to necessary and appropriate services. Many center residents absolutely need the level of care provided by the state operated developmental centers.

For these families in south central Illinois, the loss of Murray Center will present incredible hardships. It has been stated that the job loss alone would be comparable to the loss of over 100,000 jobs in Cook County, which I am sure would get the "needed attention"

I urge you to deny the DHS application for project 13-058.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Young

Michael J. Young
Supervisor :Centralia Township LGU
Board Member: Township Officials of Illinois
Vice-President : Township Supervisors of Illinois (over 850 strong state-wide)

CC: Governor Patrick Quinn
House Chairman Michael Madigan