13-058

The Arc.
Illinois

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OCT 10 2013
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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Members of the Commission 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 (I/DD).

Everyone can live a full life in the community with proper supports.

The Arc and other advocates have been calling for the rebalancing of the disability system for many years. We are committed to working with families at the Murray Developmental Center and other state institutions to ensure a safe and meaningful transition into community living.

Since Illinois Governor Pat Quinn took office in 2009, he has been a champion for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and has had a strong working relationship with advocates to rebalance the disability system. He has championed community living at every level. He is now implementing a Rebalancing Initiative that is completely redesigning the disability system in Illinois by closing state institutions and moving people with I/DD into the community. This is a first for Illinois, and there is no other state in the nation with a stronger community initiative.

Illinois is truly at a tipping point in the delivery of support and services for people with I/DD. Not only has the Governor implemented a major shift in public policy, but also he has engaged the disability community and has called on The Arc and other disability advocates to help develop and implement his Rebalancing Initiative.

The policies of this administration are helping to move the Illinois disability system into best practices, bringing in national experts to counsel and advise in this effort. This is the largest expansion of community services in my career.

Consider the following:

1. In this past year alone, 1,300 individuals have moved off the PUNS Waiting List into community services.
2. Within weeks, another 500 individuals will be notified they will also move off the PUNS Waiting List.
3. In this past year, 500 individuals have moved out of community institutions (intermediate care facilities) into small group homes, close to family and friends.
4. In this past year, about 235 individuals have moved out of state institutions. The vast majority of those individuals are now living in small group homes, receiving community services.

When Governor Quinn's Rebalancing Initiative is complete:

1. 3,000 individuals will have been moved off the PUNS Waiting List into community services.
2. 1,000 individuals will have moved out of community institutions into small group homes.
3. 1,000 individuals will have moved out of state institutions into community living.
4. Four State Institutions will have been closed.

Institutional living is becoming a thing of the past throughout the United States.

Consider the following facts from the 2013 State of the States in Developmental Disabilities, University of Colorado & University of Illinois at Chicago:

1. There are now 14 states without any state institutions (page 5)
2. There are 12 states very close to closing their state institutions with 200 people or less living in them
3. By the year 2033 there will be no state institutions in the United States (page 4)

Ask yourself, "Is this where we as public servants should be investing scarce resources for our state?"

People live better lives in the community. Families express greater satisfaction.

The national research of outcomes of closures and deinstitutionalization is extensive dating back to 1982 through 2011. The findings are quite conclusive on outcomes regarding quality of life, adaptive behaviors, and health of individuals and satisfaction of families:

1) Improved quality of life, including more choice-making opportunities, more friends, greater community participation, and greater residential satisfaction.
2) Improved adaptive behaviors, including social skills, self-care, and domestic skills and inconsistent results regarding challenging behaviors.
3) Similar or improved health status and health care access, with some difficulty in accessing some types of health care such as dental services, and less polypharmacy.
4) Greater satisfaction of families with community placement versus the previous institutions, despite the fact that many families initially opposed deinstitutionalization.

Governor Quinn's Rebalancing Initiative is moving the Illinois Disability System out of the dark ages. This initiative is a model for the nation. Nowhere in the United States has a Governor supported community more than Governor Quinn. His leadership has been

recognized by The Arc of the United States with their highest award, The Arc's Advocacy Matters Award. He is also the recipient of the prestigious President's Award from The Arc of Illinois.

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.

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 Commission should vote to support the closing of Murray because the administration has developed a comprehensive and progressive plan for closing Murray.

Respectfully,

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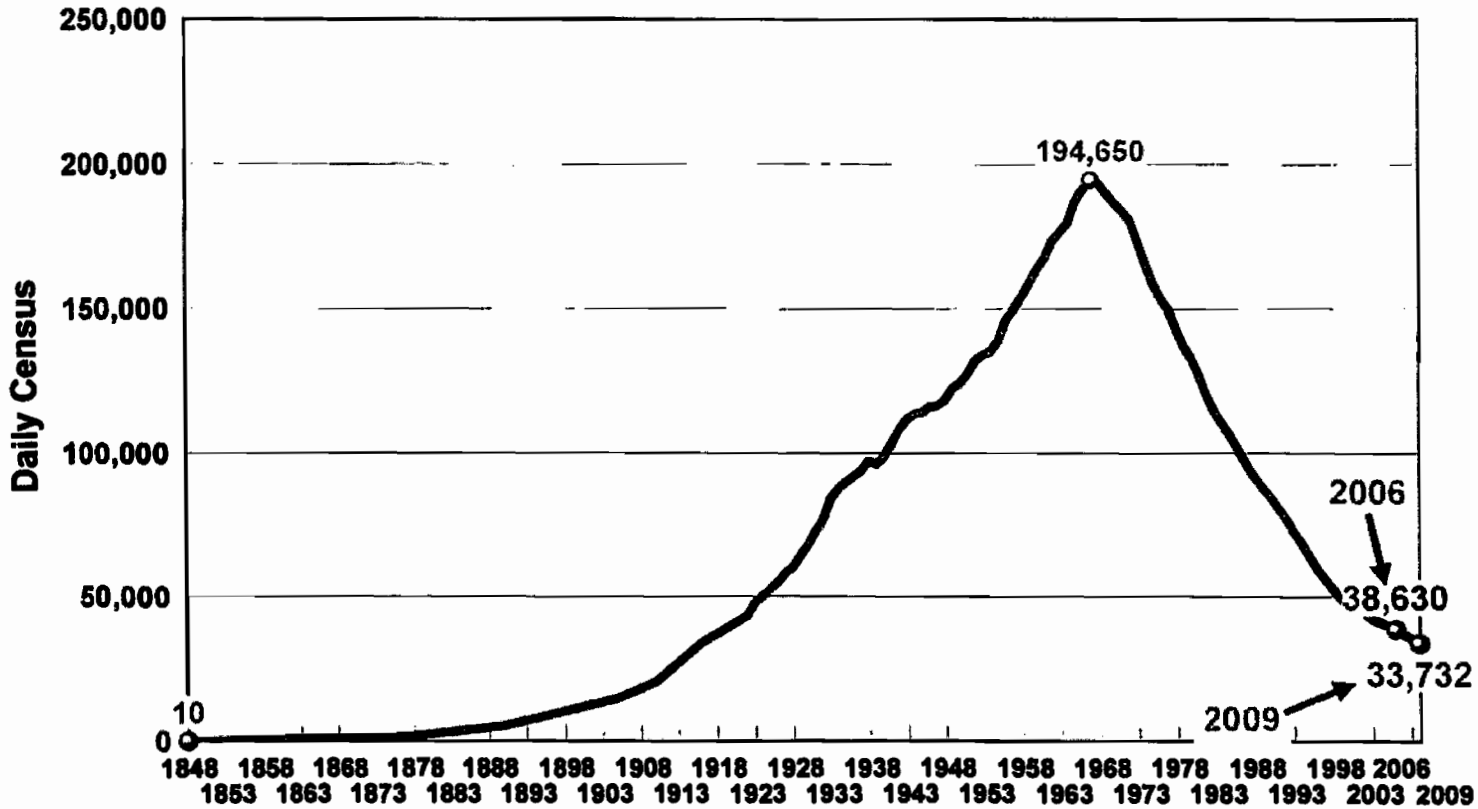
INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENTS WITH I/DD IN THE U.S.: 1848-2009

coleman institute
for Cognitive Disabilities
University of Colorado System



Source: Braddock, D., State of the States in Developmental Disabilities, 2011.

****Excludes nursing facilities [32,469 persons in 2009].***

There are Now14 States Without State-Operated Institutions*

1. District of Columbia (1991)
2. New Hampshire (1991)
3. Vermont (1993)
4. Rhode Island (1994)
5. Alaska (1997)
6. New Mexico (1997)
7. West Virginia (1998)
8. Hawaii (1999)
9. Maine (1999)
10. Minnesota (2000)
11. Indiana (2007)
12. Michigan (2009)
13. Oregon (2009)
14. Alabama (2012)

*Challenges in Developmental Disabilities: State of the States, State of the Nation, 2011, D. Braddock, Ph.D., Arc US Convention.