COMMUNITYRENEWALSOCIETY

13-058

October 8, 2013

RECEIVED

OCT 15 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:

The Community Renewal Society (CRS) submits this letter of support for the closure of Murray Developmental Center in Centralia, Illinois.

Founded in 1882, the Community Renewal Society strives to achieve its vision of a just community where racism and poverty no longer limit people's full participation in society by working with a powerful faith-based organizing and advocacy network for the common good and by publishing two highly regarded investigative journals on matters of social justice. We are uniquely positioned to identify problems, convene key leadership, engage them in discussions about a variety of pressing issues and, in partnership, develop solutions for change.

We urge the Illinois Health Facilities Review Board to support closure, first and foremost, because of the great need in Illinois to expand home and community based services for people with developmental disabilities, as well as the importance of complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act in ensuring that Medicaid long term care services are provided in the most integrated setting possible in the community.

We recognize the difficulty that the closure of a State Operated Developmental Center presents to families and guardians. Nonetheless the reality is that the SODC system is a holdover from decades ago. National spending on state-run facilities for people with developmental disabilities peaked in 1992 and has been on the decline in favor of community-based settings, preferably of fours beds or less, since that time. (Go to http://www.stateofthestates.org/ for the publication, *State of the States in Developmental Disabilities.*)

The reality is that Illinois must expand and strengthen its system of home- and community-based services to provide rich opportunities, integration, and stability to people with developmental disabilities. This effort must happen at the same time as the process to close state run developmental centers, not before. The time to close Murray is now, so that not only the people living at Murray have a decent chance to live in community based settings, but also so that Illinois can better fund services for the 30,000 people with developmental disabilities in our state on the PUNS list, who have no services whatsoever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Dean F. Friedrich

Laura Dean F. Friedrich, Director of Policy

KNOWLEDGE > ACTION > CHANGE

332 s. michigan avenue suite 500 chicago, illinois 60604 www.communityrenewalsociety.org

42-L