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OCT 18 2013
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

From: Patrick O'Connor

Subject: Testimony in support of closure of the Murray Developmental Center

Date: 10/10/2013

I am writing in support of the closure Murray Developmental Center in Centralia, Illinois. I implore the Illinois Health Facilities Review Board to support closure. The closure is paramount for people with developmental disabilities all over Illinois, not just the residents of the Murray Developmental Center. The closure of the center, will support the effort to help those with developmental disabilities live more independently, rather than force them to live in institutions, and will help ensure that Medicaid long term care services are given in the most integrated setting possible in the community.

I can only imagine how difficult this transition might seem for the residents of the Murray Center and their families. Yet, in the long term I am confident that the residents, and the disability community as a whole will find this closure helpful. The closure of Murray is not a new or radical idea, 14 states have already rightfully closed all their state run institutions for people with disabilities. After this, the states were able to provide more community based, integrated living opportunities for people with disabilities. When states integrate their communities, everyone benefits, from locals without any disability down to those with very severe disabilities. Communities can provide all the services that institutions can. Murray residents all deserve to be freed from the Center and live in integrated community-based settings.

Now is the time to close the Murray Developmental Center. Closure will benefit current residents of the Center and will enable Illinois to better fund services for the 30,000 people with developmental disabilities who are on the waiting list for support services.

I strongly urge you to vote in support of closure.

Sincerely, Patrick O'Connor

Patrick O'Connor

16 October 2013

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am writing in support of closure of the Murray Developmental Center in Centralia, Illinois. The closure is important not just for the residents of the Murray Developmental Center, but for people with developmental disabilities around Illinois. The closure will support Illinois' commitment to expand home and community based services for people with developmental disabilities, and will help ensure that Medicaid long term care services are provided in the most integrated setting possible in the community.

I understand that many people now call the Murray Developmental Center their home. For those residents, for their family members, and for their guardians, the institution closure would understandably be a difficult process. Yet, it is a process that will strengthen Illinois and the entire disability community in the long term. Fourteen states have already closed all of their state run institutions for people with disabilities. By doing so, the states were able to provide more community based, integrated living opportunities for people with disabilities.

When states integrate their communities, people with and without disabilities benefit. This includes people with severe disabilities. All services that are provided in an institution can also be provided in the community. Murray residents, no matter the type or severity of disability, should have the opportunity to live in integrated community-based settings. Now is the time to close the Murray Developmental Center. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities Review Board to support closure. Closure will benefit current residents and will enable Illinois to better fund services for the 30,000 people with developmental disabilities who are on the waiting list for support services.

I urge you to vote in support of closure.

Sincerely,

16 October 2013

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am writing in support of closure of the Murray Developmental Center in Centralia, Illinois. The closure is important not just for the residents of the Murray Developmental Center, but for people with developmental disabilities around Illinois. The closure will support Illinois' commitment to expand home and community based services for people with developmental disabilities, and will help ensure that Medicaid long term care services are provided in the most integrated setting possible in the community.

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I urge you to vote in support of closure.

Sincerely, Scott J. [illegible] 10/15/13

E. Woodson
M. Carson
Wednesday October 9 2013

To Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities + Service Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Ill. 62761

We are in support of the Health Facilities Review Board vote for Closure of the Murray Developmental Center at Centralia Illinois

We understant that the residents there now call Murray there home, but they will be more comfortable living in the community among other people, positive people, and the freedom to experience unrestricted ~~free time of~~ (supervised and/or un-supervised) free time of choice.

October 15, 2013

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,

Access Living urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to vote to close the Murray Developmental Center in Centralia, Illinois. As a Center of Independent Living, Access Living equips people with disabilities with the tools live independently in integrated communities. Access Living offers direct services and advocates on a municipal, regional, and national level on policy that impacts the rights and independence of people with disabilities. A significant disability policy issue in Illinois is the institutionalization of people with disabilities. For generations Illinois has relied on institutions to warehouse thousands of people with disabilities. Institutions segregate people with disabilities, hurting residents by robbing them of independence and community participation. Institutionalization also hurts the broader community because when individuals are shunted away, the isolation perpetuates disability stereotypes and robs communities of the contributions of people with disabilities. In many cases, institutionalization is also unwise economically because in most cases community-based services are less expensive than institutional services. Though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that services should be provided in the least restricted setting, Illinois continued to rely on institutions in the decades following passage of the ADA.

The closure of the Murray Developmental Center is part of a broader process to balance Illinois' system of long-term care and rely less on institutions than in the past. As the process moves forward, the Murray closure will not only impact Centralia. The closure will strengthen Illinois' statewide system of community-based services, and will strengthen communities in to which former institution residents move.

Understandably, many residents, family members of residents, and guardians harbor concerns and questions about the upcoming closure. No matter the situation, change typically presents challenges. To address the challenges, the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities is working diligently with each resident, their families, and their guardians, to addresses all service needs. A transition will be developed for every resident to ensure that all residents, no matter the type and severity of disability, will be safe and well served in the community place.

For too long, Illinois has relied on institutional services for people with disabilities. It's time for Illinois to join other states across the country and phase out State Operated

ACCESS **LIVING** | Center for Service, Advocacy and Social Change for People with Disabilities.
115 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60654
tel: 312.640.2100 | fax: 312.640.2101 | tty: 312.640.2102 | www.accessliving.org

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Developmental Centers. It's time for Illinois to ensure that all people with disabilities have the option of community-based services. It's time for Illinois to stop segregating people because of disability. In order for Illinois to take a step forward, it is imperative that the Murray Developmental Center Close.

Sincerely,

Gary Arnold
Access Living

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Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
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Now is the time to close the Murray Developmental Center. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities Review Board to support closure. Closure will benefit current residents and will enable Illinois to better fund services for the 30,000 people with developmental disabilities who are on the waiting list for support services.
I urge you to vote in support of closure.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dyer

10-9-13

Dear Mr. Constantino our names are Gloria Gray & Donna K. Shaw. We are writing you to inform you of our concerns regarding the closing of the closure of the murray D.C. Center &

Donna K Shaw & myself Gloria Gray
We support it completely

Gloria Gray
Donna K Shaw

16 October 2013

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I urge you to vote in support of closure.

Sincerely, Rodney Fossell

16 October 2013

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