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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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, Michael Olsen

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,

Henrietta Madison

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

From: Abraham Perez
Subject: Testimony in support of closure of the Murray Developmental Center
Date: Oct 14, 2013

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities Review Board to support closure. The closure is important not just for the residents of the Murray Developmental Center, but for people with developmental disabilities around Illinois. Fourteen states have already closed all of their state run institutions for people with disabilities. 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 you to vote in support of closure.

Sincerely,
Abraham Perez.

October 15, 2013

TO whom it may concern : I am writing in support of the Murray Developmental Center in Centralia Illinois. The closure is Important not just for the residents but also for the people with Developmental Disabilities in Illinois. It is important to people in Illinois Because people with a Disabilities DO NOT net to be Institutions. So I urge you to VOTE in SUPPORT of Closure.

Betty Taylor

16 October 2013

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I'm Scott Nance with Chicago ADAPT, a disability rights organization. We have helped paved the path to accessible public transportation, funding for in-home services and personal attendants, the signing of the ADA and are currently pushing for community choice living options and defending against Medicaid cuts. I am a member of this organization because I believe in the rights afforded by the Constitution, something I defended as a soldier in the United States Army and something I continue to defend through non-violent direct action. We don't bear arms; we instead bear truth and justice.

I am also here to represent my brother Devin, a person with cerebral palsy, developmental delays, cognitive disabilities, gross and fine motor skill disabilities and growth disabilities. He was the first person in his high school with a disability to be accepted into an exclusive acting group as well as a multiple participant in disability leadership conferences in Springfield, Illinois. As a small child, my brother, with help from our mother, took on the Department of Defense to demand equal access to military community services. My brother is someone described as having multiple and severe disabilities and he was a leader in his community dedicated to the service of others. He simply did not know any other way.

The business of profiting from the institutionalization of people with disabilities is in part to blame. I know there is a genuine fear of people losing jobs but the jobs will be available in the community and with greater intrinsic value and monetary value, not just to the state but perhaps to the worker as well. I know family fear for their loved ones but consistency can occur as the loved one maintains their relationship with their typical worker in the institution and a possible difficult transition can be offset by the realization of the person with the disability knowing they have more choice in their life and pride in having their own space and home. I know there is a fear of lack of money to fund enough services and supports in the community and while there's plenty of money, it is being used to institutionalize citizens instead of supporting home-based services. Family members have been conditioned to know only on way.

You may argue my brother might be protected living in an institution; I disagree. My brother has had a great deal of difficulty finding candidates to work for him in his home because workers interested in the service of others and human services are only aware of opportunities in nursing facilities and institutional settings. They too have been conditioned to know only one way.

Every day, I meet people living in institutions trying so vainly and so desperately to move into the community. Every one of them eyes haggard, faces worn and shoulders burdened by efforts to maintain hope of one day living their life the way they want and managing their own lives. There are countless stories of abuse and neglect in institutions across the country and many of them occurring here in Illinois. Howe Developmental Center and Mabley Developmental Center are both haunted by dozens of deceased people with disabilities who died under miserable conditions. What if there was another way?

The right to live in the community is legally protected but not yet completely enforced. If these rights were to be enforced, what would happen to the employees who have come to depend on the benefits of this job? What happens to our beloved family members and how do they live outside the walls of Murray? There is an answer. Work in the community. Work for the consumer in their home. Use the dollars spent keeping Murray open to instead fund independent living supports. My multiply and severely disabled brother has his own apartment with a job, family and friends and does so successfully with in-home supports. I hope his example inspires another way of thinking.

There are other ways.

16 October 2013

Dear Mr. Constantino:

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I urge you to vote in support of closure.

Sincerely,

Carlene Cameron

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, Dominequa Cooper

10/9/2013, TAmekia Edwa

Dear: Mike constantino, I'm writing To support Health Facilties Review Board to support closure people with Development Disabilities Around Illinois. The closure why that the close the Murray. People with Disabitie need Help. Testimony is support of closure of the Murray Developmental Center.

people need to Buy coat And Cthes. For the Holiday.

I think that should Help people with Disabilities And give us Job's And Help us And they should support the Bill And keep people with Disabilities And Keep the Benefit on Some people should not make or sad ot Disabilty ~~to~~ you have some people get mad About they Disabilty. So support people with Disabilities they need Help And give us, more Benefit Before And suppor people with Disabity And help they like Homeless some people Disabity can have or Buy cothes or they need Help. Ta

I Richard Henry Support the Closure of the Murray Developmental Center, because the People have a right to be in the Independence Is their right.
We are very Concern about there well being and what's best of them I want their life to be better than the way It is now so Please help them better themself and Close the Center Please for their Sake

Close the Center

Sincerely
Richard Henry

Dear Mr. Constantino,

My name is Michael Grice, and I reside in a nursing home in Chicago, Soon to be, transitioning back into the Community. It is very important that people with developmental disabilities have the appropriate services that they require including personal care assistant to live in their home, It is also financially cheaper to keep them in the community as shown in research.
I support the closing of Murray Developmental Center in Centralia, Illinois. For the residents and family members the closure might be a difficult process. Yet it is a process that will strengthen Illinois and the disability community long term. Fourteen states have opted to close their state run institutions for people with developmental disablities. Illinois too should do the right thing.
I look forward to working with you to make the closure a success. I am a very strong self-advocate in the developmental disabilty movement in Illinois. So I urge you to support the closures of any developmental centers in Illinois.

Sincerely
Michael Grice

10-9-13

Chris Watts
Valerie Doll

I am writing in support of the Murray Developmental center in Centralia, Illinois.
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