

**COVID 19 RESPONSE**

Confronting the COVID 19 virus has been the main focus of the Missouri Department of Mental Health during the last year. It is tragic that anyone died from the virus. Deaths from the virus have been kept to very few residents living in intermediate care facilities (habilitation centers in Missouri). This has been due to quick and comprehensive measures taken to keep residents and staff safe. Families kept in touch with their family members and staff by phone, Facetime, and Skype. Staff are to be commended for their creative ideas of how to provide programs while abiding by strict COVID 19 protocols for the health and safety of staff and residents. Personal visitation was restricted until March 2021. Every week there is progress with a return to more normal times.

**MISSOURI ADVOCACY TO RETAIN 14C CERTIFICATES of the FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT**

There are U.S. bills that would eliminate 14c certificates that allow paying wages based upon productivity. Eliminating these special wages would put many sheltered workshops out of business. Missouri has a vibrant system of workshops. Websites concerning Missouri workshops advocacy include:

- Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshops:  
<https://moworkshops.org/newsFolder/board-5-10-21.html>
- Missouri HB 432, Section 178.935, lines 1-30  
<https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills211/hlrbillspdf/1150S.06T.pdf>

**NO NEW ADMISSIONS POLICY IN MISSOURI**

Missouri has had a policy of no new admissions to state run ICFs/IID (called habilitation centers in Missouri) since 2008.

Families, hospitals, and other social agencies do call habilitation centers for assistance with placement, but have to be directed to our Regional Office that only place persons in the community.

The current habilitation centers are: Bellefontaine, Higginsville, South County, St. Charles, and Southeast Missouri Resident Services at Poplar Bluff/Sikeston.

Family organizations have met with the Missouri Department of Mental Health about opening up admissions, especially for older people with severe intellectual disabilities that may need more services as they age.

**ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP PROMOTED IN MISSOURI**

In 2018, Missouri guardianship law revisions were signed into law. Included in the updated law is the consideration of alternatives to guardianship, including supported decision making agreements. The Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed SB806 updated guardianship law can be found at:  
<https://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/pdf-bill/tat/SB806.pdf>

To promote Supported Decision Making (SDM) the Missouri Supported Decision Making Consortium began on March 31, 2019. The Missouri Consortium will be led by the University of Missouri on behalf of UMKC (UCEDD), and will include Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, Missouri Protection and Advocacy, older adults, people with I/DD, families, judges, legislators, and professionals. **SDM may work for some individuals, but there are individuals who do not have the capacity to make their own decisions.**

Some websites concerning SDM in Missouri are:

<https://moddcouncil.org/resources/supported-decision-making/>

<https://publications.ici.umn.edu/impact/32-1/supported-decision-making-consensus-and-action-the-missouri-approach>