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VOR Illinois State Report
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In Illinois, there are 10,000 residents in 24 hour CILAs (Community Integrated Living Arrangements-group homes). As of May, 2019, there are 1672 residents in SODCs (State Operated Developmental Centers-Intermediate Care Facilities). There are 20,000 people (including children) with an emergency or critical need for services. The average wait is 7 years. Illinois ranks 47 among the states for spending commitment for people with disabilities.

There is actually a bit of good news coming from Illinois. Legislators just passed a budget that started with \$122 million dollars in funding for intellectual and developmental disability services but was increased to \$170 million dollars This is about half of what was recommended for FY22 by the Guidehouse Rates Study. The state says that the funding will be held until January 1, 2022 due to pending federal approval. We don't know how the money will be allocated. Hopefully, it will be spent wisely and they won't forget our loved ones with severe disabilities, and the caregivers.

The ARC of Illinois. with their Going Home Coalition program. remains involved in advocating moving everyone out of institutions and into CILAs.. They have a strong presence with legislators. They say that most people that move out of institutions are happy in their group home situations, even those with severe disabilities. Since 2016 , the Division of Developmental Disabilities has operated Short Term Stabilization Homes, short-term (up to 90 days) CILAs for those with a dual diagnosis, serving individuals with behavioral challenges that have not been able to be stabilized in the community. They claim a 93% success rate back to the regular CILAs. Despite this, Rita Winkeler is constantly receiving calls from desperate parents who are seeking admission of their children to the Murray Center, including 5 calls just this past week. Also, all seven state centers continue to receive new admissions; sometimes as many as four a month. Most of the admissions are from failed CILA placements. Most are young adults between 20 and 30 years of age with severe autism and behavioral issues. Two of the state centers are at full capacity.

Covid-19 positivity rate was 1.8% May 26-June 1. Most of us were not able to visit our loved ones during the past year due to the covid restrictions. Illinois Caregivers for Compromise worked hard to pass a bill that would allow us to visit our relatives in long-term facilities during a state of emergency. This was important because we could see how detrimental it was to our relatives to be so isolated.

There is a 54.5% turnover rate of DSPS in Illinois. Two of the largest provider agencies in Illinois has a 30% DSP vacancy rate. The state provided temporary wage increase during the pandemic.

Effective January 1, 2020, CMS approved the hourly wage increase for DSPs to \$0.62 in Illinois and \$0.58 in Chicago.

At the state level, a bill has been filed to phase out the sub-minimum wage by 2024. The Chicago City Council in their FY2020 budget, as part of their budget package, will phase out during the next 4 years the use of sub-minimum wages paid to those with disabilities by workplaces who hold a 14C certificate.